

MINUTES

**Cromwell Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting**

February 4, 2016

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2-8 2016 at 11:16 A.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

L. Lamoreaux
TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Brenda Zeilor, William Konopka, Phillip Gregory, John Schmaltz, Paul Cordone, Al Waters/Town Council Liaison, Samantha Slade/Town Council Liaison, Recreation Supervisor Shelby Jones and Recreation Director Susan Schein.

Absent: Richard Nobile, Mark Carroll,

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Brenda Zeilor

Approve/Amend Agenda: Motion was made by Mr. Gregory to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: Motion made by Mr. Cordone to approve the minutes of the Recreation Commission's January 7, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Konopka. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments:

None

Councilmen's Comments:

None

Correspondence:

None

Program Report

Director Schein informed the Commission that the registration for the Lacrosse program was very disappointing. Due to the low numbers Cromwell will not be able to join a Lacrosse League. The Recreation Department will continue to build this program as an intramural and hopefully will increase the numbers to join a league next year.

In the meantime the department will run an intramural program concentrating on teaching skills and familiarizing players with the game. The High School Boys Lacrosse team will be assisting the recreation department and hope to get the Girls High School Lacrosse Club to join in.

Program Report (continued)

Director Schein has been in touch with the President of the Rocky Hill Soccer League regarding arranging a scrimmage at the end of the Recreation Program to allow participants in the intramural program a chance to play a game. The Rocky Hill President is very receptive.

Commission Members asked if the Cromwell players who are on teams in other towns gave a reason as to why they did not sign up in Cromwell. The main reason given was that they felt it would be going backwards to join a team where first time players would be in comparison to playing on a team that has already been established. It is important to begin/establish the Lacrosse Program with younger players so that they will carry throughout. The only other reason may be the cost of the program. Most Recreation Programs costs are around \$35. The Lacrosse Program is \$150. At this point Director Schein is not sure if cost is an issue.

The Recreation Department will continue to push the program during the intramurals and at other Recreation Programs. Lacrosse is played in the Spring in the same time frame as track and baseball/softball. A brief discussion was held.

Director Schein advised members that the basketball program is approximately half way through. There haven't been any major issues to date with the exception when some confusion occurred during Storm Anna.

All other programs are running fine. The Valentine's Dance will be held this Saturday in the Town Hall Gym from 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Registration is presently at 70. Director Schein hopes to hit 100 by dance time.

Committee Report:

None

New Business:

Committee for Pierson Park Improvement Project: Director Schein reminded members that at their last meeting a discussion was held regarding setting up committees for the purpose of looking into the possibility of a synthetic field facility at Pierson Park. Having a synthetic field would make it a more viable facility with less maintenance.

Director Schein has been researching types of synthetic fields, reading articles regarding pros & cons and has contacted the Athletic Director at Xavier who recently had a synthetic field to discuss several aspects of putting in a synthetic field. In addition, she will check with surrounding towns that presently have synthetic fields for their input.

New Business (continued):

Committee for Pierson Park Improvement Project (continued):

Mr. Schmaltz will look into having a sales representative of synthetic fields attend a meeting to discuss installation, maintenance, etc. In turn, the commission can show him where the field will be going. Once this is done committees can be formed.

Prior to the next meeting Director Schein will contact Portland regarding the new park they are putting in and inquiry if a synthetic field is included.

Mr. Cordone offered his assistance wherever needed.

Old Business:

Splashpad: Director Schein advised Commission Members that the splashpad has been ordered and that Cromwell is first on the contractor's schedule for the spring. To date the exact location is yet to be determined, however, there are two potential areas. In discussions with the Town Manager he expressed that the tennis court location was not visible enough. Director Schein indicated the alternate locations and will keep the commission advised once a decision has been made.

The goal is to get the splashpad installed and up and running as quickly as possible. The installation process is pending weather conditions.

~~Brief discussion held regarding possible expansions at a later date. Location will be a factor~~
whether or not an expansion is possible. However, additional pieces can be added.

The major concern is possible overcrowding during very hot days. After speaking with other towns Director Schein has found that this is a concern at every splashpad location due to the fact funding does not allow for the hiring of staff to supervise. Director Schein will address this when the problem arises.

Budget 2016-17: Director Schein met with the Town Manager on the budget. The only cuts that were made had to do with maintenance items under other capital (repair to tennis court cracks-\$7,000 & mulch to go under/around park playground apparatus) which he moved into the Public Works/Park Maintenance Department. In the past these items were included under Recreation to assist their funding. These two items are important to help insure the safety of residents using the facilities. Director Schein is concerned that as the budget moves on the various boards may look at the increase in Park Maintenance and cut those items. She will be attending meetings to support their funding.

Old Business (continued):

Budget 2016-17 (continued):

The budget has not increased from last year. In fact it went down. This is due to the three accounts now used within the Recreation Department (Town, Revolving & Clearing Accounts). With the new Revolving & Clearing Accounts, the department has been able to increase the number of programs dramatically for the residents.

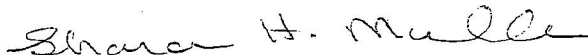
Commissioners Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Mr. Schmaltz made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Recreation Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. Gregory. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon H. Muller
Clerk