

MINUTES

**Cromwell Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting**

January 7, 2016

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.


TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Brenda Zeilor, William Konopka, Richard Nobile, John Schmaltz, Dan Brisson, Paul Cordone, Phil Gregory, Samantha Slade-T/C Liaison, Recreation Supervisor Shelby Jones and Recreation Director Susan Schein.

Absent: Mark Carroll, and Al Waters/Town Council Liaison,

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

December 3, 2015 Regular Meeting: Motion made by Mr. Nobile to approve the minutes of the Recreation Commission's December 3, 2015 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Konopka. Motion passed with Mr. Gregory, Mr. Cordone, Mr. Schmaltz and Mr. Brisson abstaining.

Citizens Comments:

None

Councilmen's Comments:

Director Schein introduced Town Council Liaison Samantha Slade to commission members. Mrs. Slade apologized for missing the December meeting and looks forward to working the Recreation Commission.

Correspondence:

None

Program Report

Director Schein passed out the brochure for the Lacrosse program for members to view. The brochure was delivered to the schools today and will be distributed to the students on Friday. Due to deadlines for the registering of teams it was important to get it out as soon as possible. Parents with children presently enrolled in another town will need to decide if their child will be remaining with the out of town team or switch to the Cromwell program. The Lacrosse program is the highest fee based program due to the purchasing of equipment and miscellaneous expenses incurred. The Recreation Department will own the goalie equipment for this program.

The Winter Program brochure is being finalized and will be distributed to the schools next week.

Committee Report:

None

New Business:

Election of Officers at January Meeting:

Chairman: After a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Nobile to nominate Mrs. Zeilor for the position of Chairman of the Recreation Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. Konopka. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Zeilor will continue as Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

Vice-Chairman: Motion was made by Mr. Konopka to nominate Mr. Gregory for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. Nobile. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget 2016-2017 Meeting: Director Schein advised Commission Members that a staff meeting was recently held in which all departments were advised that additional (new) paperwork will be needed to filled out and submitted with 2016-2017 budget requests by all departments for the various boards to review. This paperwork will standardize budget submittals in that all departments will be turning in the exact same paperwork.

Budget submittals are due to the Finance Department by Monday, January 25, 2016. It was the consensus of Commission Member to hold a Special Meeting to discuss FY 2016-2017 Budget on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Recreation Department Office.

Brief discussion held.

Old Business:

Splashpad: Director Schein advised Commission Members that she met with Director of Public Works, Louis Spina to discuss the Splashpad. The Splashpad will be located in Watrous Park. Exact location has not yet been determined. Director Schein has expressed her concerns and made her recommendations regarding proposed locations.

Presently purchase orders are being initiated for the work and purchase of the splashpad. The vendor has placed Cromwell first on their schedule for the spring.

Discussion held regarding possible parking issues with possible locations, especially during the summer when picnics and large events are being held in the park. Additional discussion held regarding the possibility of vandalism pending its location.

Commission Members inquired as to the hours the splashpad may be used. Director Schein explained that the splashpad will be on a timer. The splashpad will not continually run. In order to activate it a button will need to be pushed to initiate the water to flow. Should someone push the button outside of the set time of operation, water will not flow.

Director Schein will keep the Commission updated as the project moves forward.

Commissioners Comments:

Mr. Brisson inquired as to interest in the Lacrosse program. Director Schein advised that feedback has been good and calls inquiring on the program are constantly coming in. Calls being received for Lacrosse are indicating that participants from the Little League Program are looking for an alternative sport to switch to.

Mr. Nobile inquired as to the status of the lights for Pierson Park. At this time there is no update. Mr. Cordone asked is this at a stale mate. Director Schein advised that the proposal had been turned into the Town Manager and that she is waiting to hear back for his office. In the meantime, Director Schein will be including the lights in her budget under Capital Items.

Mr. Nobile inquired as to whether or not the new Indoor Baseball Facility on Alcap Ridge has reached out to her regarding their programs that may be available to the Recreation Department. To date she has not heard from them. The first chance she gets Director Schein will go out to the facility and see what may be available.

Mr. Nobile expressed whether or not lights should be installed and Pierson Park at this time. He feels the town is in dire need of a synthetic field that can be utilized seven days a week and by various programs/groups. Presently, Pierson Park is not be utilizing to its potential due to a real grass turf that is not able to withstand the multiple of activities/programs.

Recreation Commission
January 7, 2016-Regular Meeting

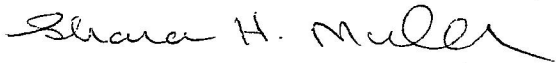
Commissioners Comments (continued):

Discussion held regarding pros and cons of a synthetic field. It was the consensus of the Commission Members that pursuing a synthetic field facility would be a benefit to the town and a project worth taking on. The Recreation Commission will work on gathering information (groundwork required, cost base, funding options, use of field/facility, etc.) for Fiscal Year Budget 2017/2018 so a presentation may be made to the Town Council and various boards. Director Schein will place this item on the next regular meeting of the Recreation Commission.

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 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon H. Muller
Clerk

