



GORDON OLIVER
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Parks and Recreation Commission

31 ARBOR WAY P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

THOMAS BOSCARINO
CYNTHIA COSTANZO
KEVIN HAYES
ROBERT LAREW
THOMAS STAUFFER
SHAY DRAKE
CHRISTOPHER WEITZ
JENNIFER MULLIN

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the Meeting, January 18, 2017 7:00 PM @ 31 Arbor Way

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Oliver, Shay Drake, Jennifer Mullin, Cynthia Costanzo, Christopher Weitz, Robert Larew, Thomas Boscarino, Thomas Stauffer (arrived 7:20)

OTHERS PRESENT: Julia Connor, Administrative Secretary, Parks and Rec
Robert Tedford, Director, Parks and Rec
Donna Tabrard, parent of Ellington choice student (Summer)
Summer Tabrard, Hartford resident, choice student at Center School

- I. **CALLED TO ORDER:** Gordon Oliver called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM
- II. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 13, 2016 Special Meeting

MOVED (WEITZ), SECONDED (DRAKE), AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

A. A request was made regarding eligibility for youth travel lacrosse for the spring of 2017. Summer, a Hartford resident currently attending 4th grade classes at Center School in town, expressed interest to her mother, Donna, that she would be interested in playing lacrosse in town with friends from school. Current policy states that combined Recreation-Board of Education programs include “choice” students; however, travel sports programs that are solely associated with the Recreation Department do not allow participation from out of town individuals, as travel rosters have a fixed number of spots and Ellington residents are given precedence for those spots. Town travel programs have a minimum playing time requirement. Upon initial development of the lacrosse program, there were out-of-town players who were allowed to participate, as, at that time, it was a recreational program and the desire was to bolster initial interest and registration. Any of these out-of-town players who were participating when the transition was made to become a travel program were grandfathered into the program, as long as they maintained annual registration. Current policy states that no other non-residents are allowed inclusion on travel lacrosse rosters. Donna asked that if there was a travel program that did not have enough residents registered, would her daughter be eligible to participate as she would not be taking the place of a resident. Bob Tedford stated that it would be feasible, and Tom reiterated that the purpose of the policy is to not displace any Ellington residents to participate in town recreation activities. Jenn believes that if such a scenario did present

itself, this request would have to be revisited after registration closes on January 25th. The Commission agreed that any decision made in a particular season would be applicable only to that season, as there may be more resident individuals registered in years that follow, filling the available roster spots. Tom asked if there would be any transportation issues getting Summer to practices and games, and Donna said she would have no problems getting her back to town as needed. Donna was advised to contact Bob Tedford after the deadline to inquire about the registration numbers to see if another conversation would be appropriate. She thanked the Commission for their time and she and Summer left the meeting. A question was raised about what numerical limitations there were in regards to choice students allowed per school or town. Chris found a general article that stated that 3% of a school population should be open to choice students, but there was no breakdown or specifics. Once a student is accepted into the Ellington Schools system, they are allowed to remain. Cynthia wants to do some further research into the program and revisit it for the purpose of either making this particular decision or looking into the policy in the future.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None

VI. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Winter Program Update: Inclement weather has affected a few dates,
- B. Pinney Athletic Fields-Scoreboard Update: Chris will join Bob in meeting with the Giroux family to go over a few details prior to the scoreboard project being completed.
- C. Spring Programs Brochure Update: The Ellington Events magazine is scheduled to hit mailboxes the week of February 6th.
- D. New Hiring Forms/Guidelines/State Law on Information that can be Requested: A new law prohibits agencies from inquiring about a criminal record upon initial application. Any related questions must be held back until the interview process begins.
- E. 2017 Triathlon: Late June or early July is the probable time for the triathlon.
- F. Update on Trails/Property Maintenance-Hockanum and Batz: The North Central Health Department received a document regarding potential property maintenance, as they will be designating a number of grants relating to these types of projects. A "Grand Opening" is tentatively scheduled for some time in April.
- G. Cultural Arts/Summer Production/Committee Update: Bob sent the Commission an overview of the 2017 Summer Production plan, going over sponsors, budgets, and the typical inclusion of approximately 75 individuals.
- H. Review Request for Cricket Program: No update at this time.
- I. Review Request from Friends of Tennis for a Gazebo at Schwartz Park: No update at this time.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Vacancies in the Committees will be evaluated and addressed at the next meeting.

- A. Finance: None
- B. Outdoor Facilities: None
- C. Operations: None
- D. Maintenance: None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. State Bond Update/Turf/Lights Projects at EHS and Schwartz Park: Bob provided meeting schedules for the Commissions and Committees that need to be addressed. Due to a potential cost factor, the Fuss & O'Neill representative may not be in attendance at these

meetings, but that concern will be looked into further. Aaron Foster, a member of the Board of Selectmen, invited Cynthia and Chris to the Democratic Committee Meeting on January 19th to address questions on the project, and they plan to attend. The Commission tentatively plans to attend the February Board of Selectmen meeting, if appropriate in terms of the agenda, and then decide on which order to schedule the next Commission and Committee meetings to present the project.

IX. NEW BUSINESS: None

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (BOSCARINO), SECONDED (MULLIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:25 PM.

/jec

Submitted by: Julia Connor, Administrative Secretary, Parks and Rec