



GORDON OLIVER
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Parks and Recreation Commission

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THOMAS BOSCARINO
CYNTHIA COSTANZO
KEVIN HAYES
SHERRY KRAUS
SHAY DRAKE
CHRISTOPHER WEITZ
CHERI MURPHY
TARA KOZIK

Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes: February 12, 2020
7:00 PM at Ellington Public Works Department, 21 Main Street

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Oliver, Thomas Boscarino, Cynthia Costanzo, Kevin Hayes, Sherry Kraus, Shay Drake, Christopher Weitz, Cheri Murphy, Tara Kozik

OTHERS PRESENT: Dustin Huguenin, Director of Recreation; Mary Bartley, Assistant Director of Recreation; Karen Dwyer, Ellington Girls Softball (left 7:15PM); Stephanie Mather, Recording Secretary

AGENDA:

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Gordon Oliver, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
- II. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES : Jan 8, 2020 regular meeting**

MOVED (WEITZ) SECONDED (DRAKE) AND PASSED, WITH MURPHY AND KOZIK ABSTAINING, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2020 REGULAR MEETING.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

- A. **Ellington Girls Softball:** Karen Dwyer from the Ellington Girls Softball League discussed that they received excellent feedback from the temporary fencing at Brookside that was installed last year. This year they are purchasing equipment and asking for field improvements. The first item is to put in new bleachers with a concrete base on the back field because this is a safety issue. The ones currently there are dated, old, and wobbly. Public Works would need to put in the concrete slabs. This issue was brought up before, but was never addressed, so that is why they are bringing it up again. The second item is to install new bat and hat racks. The old ones got lifted. The equipment is already purchased. They just need help with the install. It would need to be attached to the concrete or they would need to build a new base inside the dugout. The third item is to put in pitching lanes in Lisa's Field. They are currently pitching into the stands. The Ellington Girls Softball League provided quotes to Dustin and are willing to purchase what is needed to have these pitching lanes on the first and third baseline. The fences would need to be raised. They need permits from Public Works. The Ellington Girls Softball League has the full support of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Ellington Girls Softball League made a donation in Bob's memory.

- V. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Gordon Oliver discussed the member assignments and went over program liaisons. Members reviewed what program they were assigned to and discussed what their roles were as program liaisons.

VI. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- A. Welcome: New commission members Tara Kozik & Cheri Murphy:** The Parks and Recreation Commission welcome Tara and Cheri. They are both very involved with a variety of programs.
- B. Winter program update:** We have had a mild and very good winter so far. The travel teams are well positioned and finish within the next two weeks.
- C. Hunter Giroux Basketball Tournament review:** The Hunter Giroux Basketball Tournament went really well. Enfield won. There were eight sponsors from local businesses.
- D. Eagle Scout projects update:** Drew Ellis would like to build a small pavilion at Pinney Street Field. He worked on landscaping at the field in the past, and now is looking to build something permanent. Another Eagle Scout would like to build picnic tables for Robert Tedford Memorial Park.
- E. Spring recreational programs review:** Lacrosse has just under 200 individuals registered.
- F. Youth Lacrosse update:** Erin Orvis is working on assigning coaches. Discussion on changes to the boys division and how their teams are set-up and assigned. Cheri Murphy mentioned that in the past the Girls team assigned three squads, A, B, and C. Everyone got to play and this assignment seemed to work for them. Discussion on making sure coaches abide by participation and attendance policies. There should be no pulling players. The coaches meeting is March 14. Discussion of Dustin, Gordon, and Shay having a meeting with the Lacrosse President to make sure the same issues from 2019 do not happen this year.
- G. Youth Soccer update:** The district might be dissolving. There are not enough teams. There is a discussion about combining different districts. This would increase travel and competition. Tomorrow they are having a meeting, so Dustin will know more after that. If we need to have an evaluation we will, but right now registration is low. Discussion about potential coaches.
- H. Upcoming Special Event (Earth Day):** Ellington is celebrating Earth Day on April 25, 2020. It will be on the Town Green. This is also opening day for Softball.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Finance: FY 2020 – 2021 Budget Proposal:** The Finance Subcommittee for Parks and Recreation met at 6:00 PM. They made adjustments to the budget. Parks and Recreation generate sixty percent revenue for the budget. There are modest increases. One item includes having a full-time recreation staff member since Ellington is growing. This person would help take over Saturday assignments. This is for the safety of the children and so Dustin and Mary would be able to take off some weekends and not be working well over their hours. Another item is to have extra gym time on Sundays in the winter, which leads to an increase in custodial fees.
- B. Maintenance: Field usage:** None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discuss: Disc Golf course:** Dustin talked to Tim Webb and Lisa Houlihan and they discussed the parking for disc golf on Stein Road. Tim would need to apply for a permit for the parking. The property is currently zoned as open space and they would need to reclassify it. This could go to a public hearing. The public would need to be educated on what disc golf is and what the plans are for the Stein Road property.
- B. Discuss: Donated Lights:** Chris Weitz discussed that the two lights are in and are bright. If the budget is approved, the other two lights will be put in.
- C. Tedford Tribute Ad Hoc Committee:** Tom Boscarino discussed that the term of the committee is April 30. There will be three tributes. One was the renaming of the park, another is the purchase of a metal bench in Bob and Nick's memory, and the third tribute would be to have three plaques in three schools. There will be a meeting on February 26th and another meeting in March to vote on these. The leftover money will stay in a fund within Parks and Recreation. The money will be used for items such as playground equipment and so forth. They are no longer doing markers in the ground. Cynthia Costanzo discussed having Bob Tedford added to the Wall of Honor. She will look into the application

requirements and report back to Dustin with her findings. The Commission was all in favor of having Cindy go forth with reviewing this matter and with having Bob Tedford added to the Wall of Honor.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

X. **ADJOURN**

MOTION (BOSCARINO) SECONDED (WEITZ) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:23 PM.

Submitted By:

X *Stephanie Mather*

Stephanie Mather