



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 Special Meeting, February 15, 2017 7:00 PM @ 31 Arbor Way

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shay Drake, Tom Boscarino, Gordon Oliver, Cynthia Costanzo, Chris Weitz

OTHERS PRESENT: Julia Connor, Administrative Secretary, Parks and Rec  
Robert Tedford, Director, Parks and Rec  
Dave Giordano, Ellington Resident, Lacrosse Coach (arrived 7:32 pm)

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Oliver called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM
- II. CORRESPONDENCE: In lieu of the scheduled presentation by Cheri Murphy and Tara Kozik, as they were unable to attend the meeting, a written presentation was presented by Bob Tedford. They are interested in selling apparel promoting the town, especially the sports programs their children have been involved with over the years. They have set up at high school basketball games in town and stated that many parents at those games have requested their presence at youth recreation events as well. Tom's concern is that allowing one business to promote at recreation events will create many other similar requests, and there needs to be a way to create a fair and balanced process.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 18, 2017 Regular Meeting  

MOVED (WEITZ), SECONDED (BOSCARINO), AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE  
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2017 REGULAR MEETING
- IV. PUBLIC FORUM
  - A. Presentation by Cheri Murphy and Tara Kozik: They were unable to attend this meeting due to the date change, so they presented a written presentation, as discussed under Correspondence above.
- V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None
- VI. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  - A. Spring Brochure: No update
  - B. New Website: No update
  - C. Winter Programs: No Update
  - D. Summer of 2017 Usage of Public Schools: No Update
  - E. Approval of Health Department Grant-Community Garden Project: The department received a grant related to the Batz Property Community Garden. In addition, Troop 96 has

been instrumental in improving the existing land for the continued enjoyment of the residents.

F. Cultural Arts Commission Revival: No Update

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance – 2017-18 Budget Proposal: Budget is to be presented to the Board of Finance on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Various line items were discussed by the Commission.

MOVED (BOSCARINO, SECONDED (WEITZ), AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2017-18

B. Maintenance: None

C. Outdoor Facilities: None

D. Operations: None

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review request from Ms. Tabrard regarding placement of choice student in the youth lacrosse program: Due to the low enrollment in the Girls' Bantam program, the Commission agreed that allowing this choice student to participate, for the 2017 season only, would benefit the child as well as the program as a whole.

MOVED (COSTANZO), SECONDED (WEITZ), AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE DECISION TO ALLOW THE CHOICE STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN BANTAM GIRLS LACROSSE FOR THE 2017 SEASON ONLY

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review request to approve a one-year policy roster adjustment for Senior Boys Lacrosse: Dave Giordano has a 7th grade player from Enfield interested in joining the Ellington lacrosse program, and, due to the low numbers at this level this year, he expressed his suggestion that the child be allowed to play with the Ellington boys' team, for this year alone. The parents of the player have been made aware that an exception granted for the 2017 season would have no bearing on any following seasons. Tom asked for a signed document expressing this parental understanding that the player would not be grandfathered into the program for any future season.

MOVED (BOSCARINO), SECONDED (DRAKE) AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE DECISION TO ALLOW THE NON-RESIDENT ENFIELD PLAYER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SENIOR BOYS LACROSSE PROGRAM FOR THE 2017 SEASON ONLY, DUE TO ENROLLMENT AND THE FACILITATION OF THE BETTERMENT OF THE PROGRAM

B. Boys Lacrosse age cutoff/waiver process: The CVYL, in conjunction with US Lacrosse, has changed the team groupings from a grade-based procedure to an age group with an August 31st cutoff. In addition, the Bantam program is being changed from a 9-v-9 format to a 6-v-6 format. CVYL does not have a prohibition against players playing "up" an age group, as, in the past, the teams have been based on grade levels. In other sports within the recreation umbrella, there are strict rules that preclude players from deviating from their appropriate age group. However, there is no lacrosse-specific rule in this regard. A request was made for a particular player, who has already completed two years

of Bantam boys lacrosse, to “play up”, due to his birthdate not falling within the new Juniors parameters. There was a general consensus that due to the absence of a rule that would not allow this, and if this decision would be for the benefit of both the player, the team, and the program in general, then it shouldn’t be a problem. Cyndi brought up the possibility that if, after two years at Juniors, this player wants to once again “play up” in Seniors, this issue would need to be revisited; she therefore suggested making this an isolated decision, predicated on the CVYL change affecting the upcoming season so directly. Lacrosse is different than other sports, also, in that the rosters are not strictly limited, and therefore this player moving up to Juniors would not be taking a spot from another child.

MOVED (COSTANZO), SECONDED (WEITZ), AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE DECISION THAT, DUE TO THIS BEING A TRANSITION YEAR FOR THE PROGRAM, THE PLAYER IN QUESTION IS ALLOWED TO PLAY UP IN THE JUNIORS LACROSSE DIVISION

- C. Review the CVYL team structure guidelines for lacrosse: It was brought up that due to high enrollment in certain levels this year, there has been discussion of having two teams, which would be split based on an evaluation. If this alternative, multiple-team format is adopted moving forward, Dave discussed a scenario with rotating rosters, ensuring that every child receives the necessary playing time. This would also create the most balanced teams possible, while maintaining and fostering a competitive program. Once the game schedule has been set, the individual rosters would be assigned to their respective games. The Commission was in agreement that this model had many benefits and were supportive of it being considered going forward.

#### X. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (BOSCARINO), SECONDED (WEITZ) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:40 PM.

/jec

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