



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Recreation Commission

815 Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 899
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
Phone: 860-923-9440
E-MAIL: recreationdirector@thompsonct.org
www.thompsonrec.org

Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes October 27, 2021, 2021 6:30pm via Zoom

View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ulPRsgB0oBoRpZlQI-DhWr_7eoQarPFj3vp3Rw7H0c8_5eLnok0-IIpSwpamPfE.G_7P_ErxkZaStlFU

Passcode: VD=ae0.V

1. Call to order/Record – The meeting was called to order by B. Lievense at 6:38pm.
2. Roll Call – Brian Lievense (Recreation Director), Cynthia Antos, Wayne Barber, Thomas Jourdan (late), Diane Keefe, Donna Poitras, Renee Waldron, Amy St. Onge (Selectmen), Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois (Recording Secretary)
Absent: Robbie L'Heureux; Renee Waldron
3. Minutes Review:
 - Minutes from July 7/29/2021 Meeting. **Motion was made by R. Waldron to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by W. Barber. No objections from committee members. Motion passed.**
 - Minutes from August 08/25/2021 Meeting discussed. **Motion was made by C. Antos to approve the minutes with a correction to the Halloween Light Parade, we are not “selling” tickets, participants are encouraged to reserve seats via tickets. Motion was seconded by R. Waldron. No objections from committee members. Motion passes.**
 - Minutes from September 09/22/2021 were reviewed. Three minor grammatical corrections; #4.C there is a spelling error “eth” should be “the”; #5.B under Halloween Light Parade there is a spelling error “vender” should be “vendor”, and #6.B there is a spelling error “There are drainage issues are the fields” should read as “There are drainage issues at the fields”. **Motion was made by C. Antos to accept the minute with the grammatical correction outlined above. Motion seconded by D. Keefe. No objections from committee members. Motion passes.**
4. Financial Reports (given by Director B. Lievense)
 - A. General Fund Budget Report – Balance has about 32.5% usage through the first four-months. We are still on track for the current year. We still have invoices to pay for Community Day.
 - B. Fund Balance – Balance is still at \$49,394. Potentially to do some repairs at Riverside Park with these funds.
 - C. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report – Current balance is \$48,619.25. OEC payments of about \$33,000 were deposited into this account, The total amount

of the grant was \$44,000. Staff payments for Purely Recreation paid about \$6,500 to date.

**We need to start looking at ways to use these funds before 2023 aside from just salary (R. Waldron).*

5. Director's Report (given by B. Lievense)

A. Purely Recreation – New session starts on 11/1. October had 24 am and 28 after-school participants. November is expected to be similar plus or minus a few registrations. Flyers will be placed in treat bags given out at the Halloween Laser Light Parade.

B. Special Events

- Summer Concert Series. Concluded on 9/12.
- Community Day. Was well received by community members. There was a total of 72 booths (45 business; 27 civic). Preliminary numbers show the event was profitable; booth sales were \$1515 and fence banners \$510.

**Where does the money earned from community day go? (C. Antos) *These numbers are not final as we still have to pay some invoices and split the profits between recreation and Thompson Together. I would guess that even after that the event will be profitable but in a smaller amount. I think that Orla typically rolls over the balance at the end of the year into the fund balance. (R. Waldron)*

- Train Wreck Park Dedication. A dedication was done 10/3. Tyra Penn-Gesek is working on grants to continue improving this park. There is a competitive trash clean-up program "Litter League" that T. Penn Gesek is looking to start in April.
- Halloween Light Show. Scheduled for tomorrow. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 200 people. The vendor will be doing 2 shows; one at 5:30 pm which has 85 registrations and one show at 7:00 pm which has 135 registrations. The VFW Ladies Auxiliary was in yesterday and made up about 200 treat bags for the Halloween laser light show and trunk or treat. Thank you cards will be sent to the ladies for their hard work.
- Trunk or Treat. This is being put on by the fire departments on October 31st from 4 pm to 6pm at the Thompson Speedway. Flyers for the event will be given out in the Halloween laser light show treat bags.
- Turkey Trot. Scheduled for Sunday, November 14th. Corporate sponsorships total \$10,275, Turkey Trot record! We have 66 runners and 22 walkers registered, participation on track for previous years. Flyers for the event will be given out in the Halloween laser light show treat bags.

C. Adult Program

- Yoga. Virtual – Meeting on Saturday, new session starts November 6th. In-person session starts December 1st.

D. Senior Programs

- Senior Strength and Balance. The new session begins 11/2 meeting every Tuesday & Thursday morning.
- Senior Line Dance. The new session begins 11/10, every Wednesday.
- Senior Craft. Monthly on Tuesdays. Next class is November 9th has 10 registrations, there is a 12-capability limit.
- Senior Discussion/Lecture. New program. Lecture on November 8th and 22nd.

E. Youth Programs

- Purely Recreation Before/Afterschool. Now enrolling for November. Registrations numbers are steady.
- Laser Light Show. Two shows taking place tomorrow night at the Auditorium.
- Trunk or Treat. Scheduled for October 31st at the Thompson Speedway.
- Youth Basketball. Registration is open, session starts November 30th and runs through mid-February. Evaluations are on November 18th, registrations would close the day before. Currently there are 25 participants registered across all age groups. Suggestions for increasing registrations include early-bird discounts, taking registrations on the day of evaluations, and increased advertising for the program.

**We had a policy that allowed for early bird discounts on all registrations. If the deadline was missed, there was a \$5 charge. (R. Waldron) *Currently that is not set up on any of the events. (B. Lievense)*

**How is youth basketball being marketed? (W. Barber) *There was an ad in the flyer in trick or treat bags, shoppers guide this week, Melinda Smith sent out an email flyer, recreation sent an email to all past participants, yard signs to be placed next week (B. Lievense). *Maybe a banner on the fence at Riverisde Park (W. Barber) *We could use the electronic signboard at the town hall. (B. Lievense)*

6. New Business (given by Director B. Lievense)

- A. 2022 Meeting Dates – Dates, times, and locations were discussed. The meetings will continue to be at 6:30 pm. The November & December meeting will be combined and take place on December 14th. **Motion was made by W. Barber to accept the meeting dates as presented. Motion was seconded by Diane Keefe. No objections from the commission. Motion passes.**

B. New Recreation Programs.

- Senior Discussion/Lecture. Discussion are being offered by Thompson Historical Society and Mohegan Tribe. These will be held at the community center at the library.
 - 11/8 Native American History in Thompson, Led by Joseph Iamartino of the Thompson Historical Society

- -11/22 Mohegan Reservation Culture, History & Artifacts - Led by Pamela "Screeching Hawk" Massey, Mohegan Outreach & Traditions Specialist
- Youth Craft & Pizza Night. Program for grades K-6. Monthly on Friday, scheduled for 11/12 & 12/17. This program will require registrations and has a \$10 registration fee.

7. Old Business.

- A. Park Donation/Memorial Policy. Tabled until later in the meeting.
- B. Riverside Park Gazebo Maintenance. The railings have been painted by the Lion's Club. Discussion about the needed repairs and maintenance were discussed (new electrical sockets, power box, fascia soffit, power wash, general maintenance). Park maintenance is under the facilities and recreation budget. **Motion was made by C. Antos to spend up to \$3,000 from the Fund Budget to be used for repairs and maintenance. Motion was seconded by R. Waldron. No objections from the commission, motion passes.**
- C. Capital Projects. Various ideas about some town projects were discussed at the September meeting. The consensus from the commission was to start on a smaller project and see how that goes.
 - Riverside Basketball Courts. Located behind the clubhouse, requires resurfacing. The fence should also be repaired. We are exploring the costs associated with this project.
 - **Thompson Recreation used to hold a men's recreations program at the courts (R. Waldron).*
 - **For the fence we should reach out to Killingly Fence to see about providing a quote. They are a small company, and they have a great reputation for quality work (W. Barber).*
- D. Aide to the Recreation Director. Amanda Lincoln started on September 27th. She is working out well, very organized.
- E. OEC Fund Distribution. Continues to pay one (1) purely recreation staff member for the 2021-2022 school year and 3 hours of the Aide to Recreation Director position. There will be a Purely Recreation Staff Development scheduled for 11/5 on behavior management, costs of this class (about \$150) will be covered by the OEC funds. Funds from OEC need to be used by 2023 for Purely Recreation salary, professional development, and enrichment. We are looking to do field trips for enrichment but that might not be feasible until 2022.
- F. UCONN Engineering. Students came out and did the initial assessment, however, the sound project was not selected.

****T. Jourdan joined the zoom meeting.*

Park Donation/Memorial Policy. A formal policy was presented to the committee. The policy was read by all members present. We would need the approval of the Board of Selectman for approval.

**The policy can be brought to the Board of Selectman at the November 3^d meeting (A. St. Onge - via Zoom chat)*

**The committee should have the right to modify this policy and all donations/memorials should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis (W. Barber).*

Motion was made by C. Antos to accept the policy with the notation that the commission can make changes as needed. Motion was seconded by W. Barber. No objections by the commission. Motion passes.

8. Other comments from the commission.

C.Antos. Brian is doing a great job. **Motion to nominate Renee Waldron as chair of the Recreation Commission as of January 1st. R. Waldron accepts the nomination. Nomination Motion was seconded by Diane Keefe. No objections from the commission, motion passes.**

R. Waldron. I would like to congratulate Brian. You have done a great job of expanding programs and adding more senior programs.

9. Correspondence. None

10. Citizen's Comments. No Comments presented

11. Announcements. None

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 6:30 PM by zoom. As of right now, we can return to meeting in person as of January 2022.

13. Adjourn. **Motion to adjourn was made by R. Waldron, seconded by C. Antos; all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39p.**

Respectfully Submitted 10/30/2021

Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois

Recording Secretary

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Recreation Commission. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.