



815 Riverside Drive • Thompson, Connecticut

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2021; 6:30pm
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

1. Call to Order/Record – The call to order was by Recreation Director Lesley Munshower at 6:35pm.
2. Roll Call – Lesley Munshower (Recreation Director), Steve Bordua (Chairman), Robert Monahan, Cynthia Antos, Rob L’Heureux, Wayne Barber, Thomas Jourdan, Amy St Onge (First Selectman), Ashley Pomes (Recording Secretary)
3. Minutes Review: December 9, 2020 – **Motion made by C. Antos, seconded by R. Monahan, to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020. All in favor.**
4. Financial Reports
 - a. General Fund Budget Report – There was not much to report on, the grants that were requested were awarded and money was shifted from cancelled events to be used for events that will be able to go on. On track with spending so far.
 - b. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report – This account currently sits at \$5,687.68; it is always changing with income and expenses.
 - c. Fund Balance – The online software annual charge bill was received; it was anticipated to come in around \$4,000 and was actually only \$2,995 due to a discount given by the software company. Current fund balance sits at \$6,764.
5. Director’s Report
 - a. Purely Recreation – The elementary school is currently remote learning. Permission has been given from the school to use one of the REC rooms to offer remote learning care and there are a few kids that are participating in that. Numbers are running near full for the morning and afternoon care, afternoon had been running in two rooms with extra staff members but may soon be consolidating into one room. The half day program is still running on Fridays. The federal requirement for the Department of Labor to pay staff for quarantining expired on December 31st so currently there is no obligation to pay staff that is required to quarantine. This causes a concern that staff may come in if they’re sick if they cannot afford to go without pay. L. Munshower asks how the Commission feels about continuing to pay staff regular hours at their regular rate of pay if they need to quarantine? Amy St Onge agrees you want to follow best practices, and the staff should continue to be paid regularly if it is necessary for them to quarantine. There Commission agrees the policy should be continued until the vaccine is available to the majority of the public. The policy should be extended until April 1st and if at that time there is still a need for it, it can be extended further then. **Motion by C. Antos, seconded by S. Bordua, to extend the policy to April 1st due to Covid19. All in favor.**

- b. Special Events – Holiday Light Contest, Family Trivia Night, Easter Egg Hunt, Art Show, Maker Fair – Holiday light contest was a great event and there are already ideas for next year on how to do voting to include more people and different categories for voting such as most colorful, classic, etc. Family Trivia Night will be Feb 6th, there are 8 families registered so far with a goal of a dozen or more. Egg Hunt will take place tentatively on March 27th with rain date of April 3rd. There are multiple plans/options for the egg hunt due to Covid restrictions, there will most likely be no in person egg hunt with the most likely option being the fire department passing out the eggs with the Easter Bunny riding on the fire truck. W. Barber suggests doing the egg hunt the way the Halloween drive thru event was held, L. Munshower will look into that possibility. There was a discussion over possible locations of the Speedway or at the high school. The REC Dept is helping the EDC with registration for the Community Garden. The Maker Fair will be the first weekend in May, registration is open and there are already 27 vendors registered. The final decision will be made 4 weeks out if it can go forward or not. The Art Show is going digital. The application will be coming out soon, participants will take pictures of their artwork and submit those pictures and it will be turned into a slideshow. An artist in the community will be a new added feature.
- c. Adult Programs – Offering two yoga classes that are filling. Free tryout class was in January with 18 people that participated. The yoga classes will be Thursday and Saturday mornings.
- d. Senior Programs – There is a senior strength and balance class that is free for Thompson and Woodstock residents. There are 14 people registered so far and it starts next week. L. Munshower mentions partnering with Woodstock is great to share the cost and to get more people interested and involved.
- e. Youth Programs – Basketball may go on in February/March, to finish the last 3 weeks of the class that got shut down in December. It will be offered to the families that were already participating in it and if they are not interested, they can request a refund. An in person babysitting course will run at the town hall in March and there are 6 registered for that already.
- f. Summer Camp – L. Munshower reached out to the Park Ranger at Quaddick and he didn't have any real answers yet on whether swimming will be available this summer, he said to call back in a month and he should hopefully have some answers then. L. Munshower is moving forward as if camp will be going on, she is working on getting out a bus bid and job descriptions now. Jobs will be posted within the next week or two, reaching out to returning staff first. If Quaddick is not available for camp, plan b would be at the school. C. Antos asks about the pay increasing. L. Munshower says staff pay will increase on August 1st and that will go to \$13/hr. They are thinking of creating junior counselor positions coming in at minimum wage and returning counselors as head counselors coming in at a slightly higher rate. The plan is to create a budget anticipating 50-60 campers.

6. New Business

- a. Review of Commission member terms and contact information – Tom Jourdan and Renee Waldron have terms that are expiring in April and will need to let L. Munshower know if they are going to continue.
 - b. MyRec – Credit card storage – Parents will now be able to store their credit cards on their MyRec account, there is a possibility of staff being able to charge those cards on the account when necessary but L. Munshower will be working with Amy St Onge and the Town attorney to look over the user agreements before doing that for sure. There was a brief discussion between L. Munshower and S. Bordua about the different credit card processors and being able to use checks for payments also, she says they are not promoting checking options as much as they could be. L. Munshower mentions REC is the only department that absorbs credit card fees, every other department charges the fees to the user.
 - c. 2021/2022 Budget – There were not many changes made to the budget, there was a total increase of \$700. The grant requests are all the same as last year except for senior citizens, they usually ask for \$1000 and this year they asked for \$1500. There is a discussion between L. Munshower and W. Barber about a capital request from the Little League, but he does not believe they are going to be making a request this year. **A motion was made by S. Bordua, seconded by C. Antos, to send the budget to the Board of Selectmen. All in favor.**
7. Other Comments from the Commission – C. Antos asked about the Parks and Rec section of the PoCD, L. Munshower said she can send it out to everyone or maybe take a look at it at the first in person meeting that is able to be had.
S. Bordua says hearts go out to Renee Waldron for the passing of her husband. He would like to see something done in Joe's name, maybe a camp scholarship or something like that, maybe involve Renee so she can help choose something to have his name on it that has meaning to her. This will be further discussed with Renee.
8. Correspondence - None
9. Citizens' Comments - None
10. Announcements:
Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 @ 6:30pm via Zoom – There is a Town Hall Meeting on this date so this meeting will be rescheduled, and a new date posted.
- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm was made by S. Bordua, seconded by C. Antos. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Pomes; Recording Secretary

Share recording with viewers:

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