



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Recreation Commission

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Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes August 25, 2021 6:30pm

Zoom

1. Call to order/Record - The meeting was called to order by Temporary Chairperson for the Recreation Commission, Renee Waldron, at 6:38pm. This will be as a "conversation only" as not enough members are present for a quorum at this time.
2. Roll Call - Renee Waldron (Town Clerk/Temporary Chair), Brian Lievense (Recreation Director), Cynthia Antos, Thomas Jourdan, Diane Keefe (late), Donna Poitras, Ken Beausoleil, Dotti Durst, Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois (Recording Secretary)
Absent: Wayne Barber, Robbie L'Heureux

Introduction made by R. Walden to the committee introducing H. Gauthier-Bourgeois as the recording secretary and B. Lievense as the Recreation Director.

3. Minutes Review: Special Meeting 7/29/2021. Minutes were reviewed, no motion to approve minutes as not enough members for quorum.
4. Financial Reports (given by Director B. Lievense and R. Waldron)
 - A. General Fund Budget Report - Grants were paid out for little League, NECCOG Soccer and Senior Citizens. No revenue was available on the report.
 - B. Fund Balance - As of 8/25 there was a surplus of \$6734.00 in the account.
 - C. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report - as of 8/25 there was a surplus of \$6846.00

****D. Keefe joined zoom meeting. The Commission was now at quorum status as of 6:41pm.*

5. Director's Report (given by B. Lievense)
 - A. Purely Recreation - The program started today. There were 27 registered kids for afterschool and 22 registered for before school. We expect this number to increase as late registrations are coming in.
***This is the first year we have all staff over the age of 18 who are experienced and mature (R. Waldron)*
 - B. Special Events
 - Summer Concert Series. Three (3) concerts have been held with the 4th being rescheduled to 9/12.
 - Community Day. On schedule for October 2nd. Volunteers are needed for the recreation booth.

- Train Wreck Park Dedication. Scheduled for October 3rd at the park (East Thompson; R. Waldron will provide park address)
- Centerville Bank Turkey Trot. Scheduled for Sunday November 14th.
- C. Adult Program – Yoga will be moving to virtual platform. Line Dancing is schedule to resume soon.
- D. Senior Programs – Senior Strength class will be going virtual.
- E. Youth Programs – Purely Recreation has started.
- F. Summer Camp – This program has ended. There was an average of 20-25 campers per week.

6. New Business (given by Director B. Lievens and R. Waldron)

- A. Aide to the Recreation Director – The position has been posted. This is a part-time 16-hour week position. There is (1) applicant to date, possible interview to be scheduled with Marie Mongeau in attendance.
****We would like to get this position filled as soon as possible (R. Waldron)**
- B. OEC Fund distribution – This grant was applied for by the previous recreation director, Lesley Munshower, for keeping the before and after-school running from January 2020 to June 2021 during the COVID pandemic. The recreation department received \$44,000 from the grant. As part of the grant requirements a portion of this money needs to be used for past and/or present salaries of the program. Funds need to be disbursed before 2023. B. Lievens presented a spreadsheet (via zoom screenshare) on the bonus proposal for (8) staff who worked throughout the pandemic.
Motion was made C. Antos, seconded by D. Keefe, to use \$4978.50 and pay the (8) employees a \$2.00 bonus for every hour they worked during January 2020 and June 2021; all were in favor.

Additional ideas to use the funds were briefly talked about (paying 1/2 part-time staff member for the next (2) years). Further discussion and a full proposal for use of the funds will be presented at the next meeting.

Last discussion on the OEC funds was to provide (3) additional hours per week to the new aid to the recreation director position. R. Waldron advise we are in a unique position with this grant and that the 3 hours added to position would be eligible as there is more than (3) hours' time the individual would be working on purely recreation related activities.

Motion was made by T. Jourdan, seconded D. Keefe, to use OEC funds to provide 3 additional hours to the open position for the aid to recreation director for the next 2 years.

- C. UCONN Engineering. Tara Penn-Gesek, Town Planner, provided several projects to be considered for engineering by the UCONN Engineering students. The students only showed interest in (1) project that involved evaluating Riverside Park to have a permanent sound stage. This project is no cost to the town and would provide the town with plans if they decided to move forward with the project. Currently concerts are held on the softball field to provide more space and a better environment for the attendees.

*****When I am at the concerts, I know the traffic on route 12 can be an issue as well as traffic coming in and out of the park is a safety issue (R. Waldron)***

7. Old Business. None

8. Other comments from the commission.

R. Waldron – Halloween Lasor Light Show. L. Munshower had booked the laser show before her resignation. The recreation committee provides treats bags assembled by the VFW ladies auxiliary to those that attend. Traditionally we have accepted donations for the food bank during the show. I have reached out the East Thompson Fire Department member who assisted with the Halloween Trunk or Treat at the speedway last year to see if the departments were interested in doing Halloween this year. The town and recreation department are following the COVID guidelines we may have to limit the number of attendees or sell advanced tickets to ensure safety measures are followed. The recreation department is looking for volunteers, D. Poitras advised she would like to volunteer.

9. Correspondence. None

10. Citizen's Comments

Ken Beausoleil – Great to hear that Tara was able to submit several projects and they were reviewed by UCONN. Thompson has worked with UCONN on various projects throughout the years designed by students and this a good way to keep our town fresh on their minds. While I am not active in the recreation department, the department is doing a great job.

11. Announcements

A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 @ 6:30 PM by zoom. Meeting will be held via zoom through December 2021.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by C. Antos, seconded by R. Waldron; all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25p.

Respectfully Submitted 08/27/2021

Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois

Recording Secretary

****This meeting was not recorded via zoom due to a technical error.**

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.