



# 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](mailto:recreationdirector@thompsonct.org)  
[www.thompsonrec.org](http://www.thompsonrec.org)

### Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes September 28, 2022 6:30pm via Zoom

#### View the Zoom Recording

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VYrAM8hBp4hspYd64QO5wHYTxAcZ9qY\\_k30dJhBLaOyFp9QZnlZD9KI1CrD22te1.w80cA9iHvr\\_zEF7W4](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VYrAM8hBp4hspYd64QO5wHYTxAcZ9qY_k30dJhBLaOyFp9QZnlZD9KI1CrD22te1.w80cA9iHvr_zEF7W4)

Passcode: qdv8!!S&

1. Call to order/Record -The meeting was called to order by B. Lievense (Recreation Director) at 6:31 pm and the recording was started.
2. Roll Call -Brian Lievense (Recreation Director), Cynthia Antos, Dave Clark, Ashley Lewis, Donna Poitras, Wayne Barber, Michelle Giammarinaro (Thompson Human Resource Director), Duncan Forsyth (Attorney for Town of Thompson), Amanda Lincoln (Aide to the Recreation Director); Heather Gauthier (Recording Secretary), Amy St. Onge (First Selectman).  
Absent: Renee Waldron (Chair), Robbie L'Heureux
3. Minutes Review  
August 24, meeting minutes were reviewed. Corrections noted below by C. Antos
  1. Page 1 #3A (minutes review). Typographical error "spelt" should be "spelled"
  2. Directors report B. 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet. Typographical error "vender" should be spelled "vendor".**\*\*D. Clark made motion to accept the minutes with the correction above; seconded by D. Poitras. Motion passed 5-0-0.**
4. Correspondence
  1. UPSEU letter regarding new position for the assistant to the recreation director.  
Letter from UPSEU was provided to commission members. B. Lievense provided screen share including the UPSEU letter and a letter from R. Waldron. There was discussion regarding the position and if the position should be included in the town collective bargaining unit. The position should be included as a union position. No action is needed on behalf of the Recreation Commission.
5. Financial Reports (given by Director B. Lievense) - screen share
  - A. General Fund Budget Report - Total expenditures are about 20%.
  - B. Fund Balance - Balance is at \$49,149 at the end of fiscal year 2022, with \$3,000 encumbered for the work at the park gazebo (goal to be completed by Community Day) and up to \$10,000 allocated to work at the basketball/pickleball court. The fiscal year closeout has not been fully closed.
  - C. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report - At the end of fiscal year 2022, the report shows a positive balance of \$86, 097.84 in the budget. This account is still not closed out to allow the new finance director to meet with the previous director. The 2023 budget shows a deficit of \$50,855.33, which should be resolved when the previous fiscal year is closed out and funds are carried forward. (C. Antos) Questioned how the grants for the Little League and Soccer were being processed. (B. Lievense) The grant checks are being sent out this week.
6. New Business
  1. Assistant to the Recreation Director Hired  
Amanda Lincoln has been hired as 28 hours a week which would allow her to have benefits. Ten of those hours will be as a supervisor at Purely Recreation or Adventure Camp.
7. Director's Report (given by B. Lievense)
  - A. Purely Recreation -There are 18 morning and 43 afternoon registrations. This is an increase over the previous year. Registration has been changed to be for the full year instead of enrolling each month. There was a field trip to Dinosaur Place in early September.
  - B. Special Events

- American Foodie Festival, September 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 trucks, only about 7 sold food, other trucks sold ice cream, lemonade, and other items. There was a steady flow of customers at the trucks, many of whom expressed they would like to come back next week. The setup of the event could be improved to have the activities and the trucks in the same area.
- Community Day, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Vendor registration is open with about 70 registrations currently received (34 craft/business; 32 civic organizations; 4 "White Elephant" tables). Rain date is Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>; if rain is expected it would be better to start earlier and end earlier than changing the date. The "white Elephant" tables are an extension of the tag sale. A. Lincoln is promoting the event and registration on the FaceBook page. Last year had 67 registrations. Boy scouts are opening the ceremony color guard at noon followed by the high school band, Volunteer and Business of the Year award presentations, Thompson Public School music ensembles, Quest Marshal Arts, CT Canine Unit, and Roc-Kin-on concert. Activities includes kid Roaming Railroad, inflatables, hay maze, live animals, live band, strolling puppeteer, and food trucks will be available throughout the day. A sound system has been secured for the event.
- Halloween Laser Light Show, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 6pm with a costume parade. Only 1 show will be held with 600 registrations available, families are encouraged to pre-register (online registration is limited to 8 persons in a family, if more seats are needed, they can contact the recreation office).
- Turkey Trot 2022, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Currently there is \$8,775 in donations collected and several more in commitments. G-7 is the timing sponsor for this year, Centreville Bank is the title sponsor, bankHometown is the walk sponsor, many of the gold sponsors from last year have donated again this year. There are only about 11 registrations to race.

**\*\*PA System.** Recreation was approached by Trails Committee to assist in funding the cost of a portable PA system (cost \$1500). There was a discussion about the type of systems, needs of the system and what the system would be used for. **\*\*D. Poitras made motion to allot up to \$750 for the purchase of the PA system with the understanding that another vote will be needed in 30 days to approve keeping the system after the return policy; seconded by C. Antos. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

- Snowflake Bazaar, December 10<sup>th</sup>. New event in the high school auditorium outside the gym, profits from the table sales will go to senior program. Currently there are 5 booth registrations.
- Slimy Stories Event. This is an event in combination with the Thompson Library.

#### C. Adult Programs

- Yoga. Beginning on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Tai Chi. Ongoing with 11 registrations.
- Litter League/Spring Clean Up. There are 8 teams registered to participate. A total of 45 bags were collected in September; the September winner was Putnam Rotary with 15 bags collected.
- Finding Your Roots. Postponed to Spring 2023 due to low registration.
- Craft Night. This has a low registration. A. Lincoln has advertised this event over various platforms, but this is still low interest.
- FitForYou Studio. Adult exercise program starting in November.
- Self Defense. New program starting in November.
- Bus Trips. Turkey Train for October 18<sup>th</sup> is sold out, New York City for December 3<sup>rd</sup> has 39 registered and Newport Yuletide for December 6<sup>th</sup> has 26 registered. Only 1 trip has been cancelled (Salem). A. Lincoln has been working with the seniors to see what bus trips might interest them. B. Lievens has suggested an overnight trip be offered in 2023.

#### D. Senior Programs

- Senior Discussion/Lecture. Discussions happen about 1-2 per month. The October 3<sup>rd</sup> discussion will be on witches in Connecticut (CT Historical Society). Upcoming lectures include Catherine Hepburn Discussion (January by CT Historical Society), Native Americans in Mystic County (November by Mystic Historical Society), Christmas at the White House (December by Amanda Lincoln), Probate and Healthcare Needs (March by Probate Judge Leah Schad).
- Senior Craft. Ongoing 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Thompson Library (same location as the senior lunch).
- Ageless Grace. Program starting on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is in person strength and balance class done in a sitting position.
- Adopt a Gran. New program that is looking for senior volunteers to work with students at Purely Recreation and at the library. There are 4 seniors interested in the program. The program will match a senior to young students and give that child another adult to be there for them. The program is anticipated to start in November or December at Purely Recreation.

#### E. Youth Programs

- After-school Enrichment Programs. Art Club sold out with 12 registrations; the program started this week. The science club in October has been sold out. The Lego club for November has sold out. There is the possibility of adding a second class for the science and Lego enrichment programs.

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- Mini Soccer. The program started a couple of weeks ago with 33 registrations.
- Youth Basketball. Program registrations just opened up.

8. Old Business.

- A. Park/Playground Update. DPW will be removing the root from the Wilsonville Playground.
- B. Pickleball/Basketball Court Renovations. Work on the removal of the root and repaving of the court by Superior Paving begins tomorrow. The goal is still to have the court ready mid-Spring/May.

*\*\*Discussion returned to #7B/turkey Trot\*\**

9. Other comments from the commission. No Comments.

10. Correspondence. No correspondence.

11. Citizen's Comments. No Comments.

12. Announcements. No announcements.

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 @ 6:30 PM by zoom.

**13. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted 10/23/2022

Heather Gauthier

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.*