



815 Riverside Drive • Thompson, Connecticut

Recreation Commission Special Meeting Wednesday, March 10, 2021; 6:30 PM Zoom

1. Call to order/Record – The call to order was by Recreation Director Lesley Munshower at 6:32 pm
2. Roll Call – Lesley Munshower (Recreation Director), Renee Waldron (Town Clerk), Robert Monahan, Tom Jourdan, Wayne Barber, Cynthia Antos, Diane Keefe
Absent: Steve Bourdua (Chairman), Rob L'Heureux
3. Minutes Review: January 27, 2021 – **A motion is made by R. Monahan to approve the minutes, seconded by C. Antos.** All in favor.
4. Financial Reports
 - a. General Fund Budget Report – Recreation payroll is at 50%, a REC staff member who was not using all of their hours a week was asked to help out in the building office for 5 hours a week for 5 weeks. This was something that was agreed to by the Commission. There is a brief discussion between L. Munshower and R. Waldron about drafting a letter saying they are happy to help out now during Covid but when things open up and get busy again, they will need those 19 hours for the REC department. Money aside for the bonfire was used for a trivia night and a second trivia event will come out of those funds as well. The department is looking into the purchase of a plaque for Community Day that will hang in the Town Hall for the Volunteer of the Year and then name plates will just be changed out every year.
 - b. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report – Currently sits at \$7,541.49, it is a revolving account ever changing as revenue comes in and expenses go out.
 - c. Fund Balance – Nothing new to report.
 - d. BOS Proposed 2021/2022 Rec Budget – The Board of Selectmen put forward the budget almost 100% as presented by the Commission. Almost everything requested was included. There is a discussion between L. Munshower, R. Waldron and W. Barber regarding a Little League grant that was not put in the budget because a grant was not submitted but in conversations after the meeting with Orla, she said to put the grant back into the budget. There was discussion on whether or not the finance director had the right to add that grant amount in without REC's approval. W. Barber said he was not completely familiar with the grant process, he thought that a grant was not going to be done this year and they would just catch up this year with what was asked for in the past. This grant that was put in by Orla, he never had a conversation with her about the grant and he is not familiar with that system. W. Barber says he can talk with Orla and let her know how the Commission feels about this. R.

Waldron says the money requested for capital projects is not a grant and is not categorized as grant funding. The money that was in the grant program through the REC department was usually used towards paying the Little League insurance. There is a conversation about the grant process and how it was done. There is \$2000 in the budget for Little League now but that extra money that was hoped to be used for MyRec was not approved now so there is no extra money in the budget for MyRec. L. Munshower is going to draft a letter to go to Orla to get this all taken care of.

5. Director's Report

- a. Purely Recreation – Currently closed due to a Covid exposure from a student who attended both the before and after school program. Out of 24 students who attend, 21 are in quarantine and 5 of the 6 staff are in quarantine. So far, everyone L. Munshower has heard from has tested negative. The program will start back up next week for those who are not in quarantine. L. Munshower wanted to give thanks to Shannon Grauer, head nurse at Thompson Public Schools, for alerting her of the exposure and helping her to call all of the families and staff affected by the exposure even though it was after hours on the weekend. L. Munshower sent her a thank you and also drafted a letter for the Board of Education to read at their next meeting. R. Waldron suggested using \$25 from the office supplies budget to get her a Dunkin gift card, D. Keefe and C. Antos agree with that idea.
- b. Special Events – Family Trivia Night, Easter Egg Hunt, Art Show, April Clean Up, Maker Fair – Trivia night in February, partnered with Pomfret Rec, over 30 families participated. There will be another Trivia night on March 27th and there are 10 families registered so far. Digital art show has over 50 pieces of work. It will be a digital show on display on a monitor in the library lobby and online for viewing. There will be a few pieces in a display case as well. There will be an egg hunt of wooden eggs around town with clues to go on the hunt as well as bags of take home egg kits distributed at the library and Town Hall. There is no registration, it will be just first come first serve. April clean-up is happening, bags will be available in the Rec office starting March 29th. Tyra Penn-Gesek is looking for funding to do an art display using the 48,000 nips collected last year, she has written the grant already, she is working with the elementary school art teacher who has experience with public art installation to get ideas. The Maker Fair is scheduled for May 1st in Riverside park, there was a walk through today to map out the park. 60 vendors are registered already and an additional 17 vendors who are on the wait list will be added so there will be a total of 77 vendors. There will be a rain date of May 8th. REC is helping out with The Community Garden and Pop-up shop online registrations. The Community Garden is located at 65 main street, they are renting garden plots for this season. The 11th village is in Riverside Park, they are offering rentals to vendors for 2 or 4 weeks from May through October. EDC will be giving REC a portion of the revenue to cover the cost of online registration fees and charges.

- c. Adult Programs – There are two adult yoga classes online now, they will be going in person at the end of April. There has also been demand to start back up the Tuesday classes.
 - d. Senior Programs – Senior craft classes online will resume in person in April. Senior strength and balance on Tuesday and Thursday has 13 people participating, it is online for now. R. Waldron asks if there has been any thought to doing hybrid when the classes open back up. L. Munshower says yes, the instructor has said that she would offer both in person and online. There is further discussion about the benefit of virtual classes.
 - e. Youth Programs – Babysitting is full with 9 participants. That program will run March 18 and 25th. There will be a take and make craft class over April vacation, students can pick up supplies and log into zoom Monday through Friday, it will be a free program.
 - f. Summer Camp – L. Munshower has a meeting with Melinda Smith on Friday to discuss Summer Camp. Quaddick will run as it did in summer 2020 with the bathrooms and swimming not open. L. Munshower says she had a great preliminary conversation with Superintendent Smith, they are open to utilizing the school for summer camp programs. Using the school will also help save on busing costs as busses for summer school are already running. If Quaddick does end up allowing swimming, there is a possibility of taking field trips there once or twice a week. There has been a big movement for schools to partner with REC departments to put together programs that are both academic and recreational. It will run two weeks before schools starts and is open to anyone. It will be 3-hours of education in the morning followed by afternoon recreational activities. The school has the funds for a program like that and will cover some costs of REC staff, there will be more on that to come.
- 6. New Business - None
 - 7. Other comments from the Commission – none
 - 8. Correspondence – R. Waldron sent the REC commission a thank you card for the donation made in Joe's name to Day Kimball Hospital.
 - 9. Citizens' Comments – None
 - 10. Announcements:
 - Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30 will be postponed until April 28th.
 - Motion by C. Antos, seconded by T. Jourdan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm.** All in favor.

Respectfully Signed,

Ashley Pomes

Topic: Recreation Commission - March 2021 Meeting
Date: Mar 10, 2021 06:18 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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