



815 Riverside Drive • Thompson, Connecticut

Recreation Commission Special Meeting
Wednesday, September 23, 2020; 6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting Minutes

<< See Bottom of minutes for Zoom Video Link>>

1. Call to order was by Recreation Director Lesley Munshower at 6:30pm via Zoom.
2. Roll call – Present: Lesley Munshower; Recreation Director, Chairman Steve Bordua, Cynthia Antos, Renee Waldron, Diane Keefe, Rob L'Heureux, Tom Jourdan, First Selectman Amy St. Onge, Ashley Pomes; Recording Secretary
3. Minutes review: June 24, 2020 (No July or August Meeting) – **Motion made by S. Bordua seconded by C. Antos to accept the minutes as written. All in favor.**
4. Financial Reports
 - A. General Fund Budget Report – Not much to report on activity. About 25% of the way into fiscal year and around 21% of the budget. Slightly over in summer concerts but expected to be under in some other areas such as travel and REC supplies. Thompson little league is playing, youth soccer is as well. Project graduation is going forward, planning as best they can. There was a discussion about the money that needs to go to the organizations that are running such as little league and soccer. **R. Waldron made a motion to cut the checks and pay the organizations, seconded by S. Bordua. All in favor.**
 - B. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report 2019/2020 -Ended revolving account just \$373 in deficit.
 - C. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report 2020/2021 – Currently sits at +\$4,318.55. This is a working/changing document, current as of last Wednesday.
 - D. Fund Balance – Nothing to report, nothing has changed from where it closed last year.
5. Director's Report -
 - A. Purely Recreation – The before and after school program is running. There is between 15-20 kids in the morning and in the afternoon. The location of the program was moved to some rooms where the middle and elementary schools meet. They now have 2 designated rooms that are theirs only, nice for kids to be able to work on long term projects. COVID guidelines state there cannot be more than 16 kids in a room, so it takes at least 3 staff members to run the program. 1 for each room plus an extra to answer the door, run kids to the bathroom, etc. Attendance options of a 3-day or 5-day program is new for this year. Superintendent Smith reached out to L. Munshower, looking for childcare options for teachers' children who do not have care/school to go to, and for kids that are doing distance

- learning. It is running weekly Tuesday – Friday. Currently trying to figure out staffing for this teacher childcare, still so much uncertainty surrounding what could happen next with in person school, hybrid and distance learning.
- B. Special Events – Suffrage100 – July summer concert, T. Penn and the Snakes of Amazonia was a great suffrage event. In August there was No More Pink Teas Tea at Roseland Cottage. It was an in-person event following COVID guidelines, about 25-30 people attended. In September Proper Ladies performed at Lions Gazebo. Final events scheduled, October 8th, Susan B. Anthony presentation on Zoom, you can find info on REC website and also on Oct. 11th there is a walk with the Historical Society.
- Summer Concerts – 2 in July, 2 in August, 2 in September – lowest nights had around 60 people in attendance, highest nights around 90. Concerts ran back to back on Friday and Saturday nights, great new location in the ball field. Thompson Little League came out in September and sold some concessions. There was discussion among the Commission members, they love the Gazebo, but it is just not in the best spot for concerts. S. Bordua mentions possibly asking Lions Club about moving the Gazebo to a better location.
- Nips Collection – collected close to 50,000 Nip bottles, contacting those who participated and distributing gift cards at maker fair on October 3rd.
- Tag Sale – First weekend in August, great success. Sold 147 maps this year compared to 108 last year. 67 Households participated this year, last year only 48. Talking with Thompson Together about keeping this event at this date in August.
- Maker Fair – Coming up in place of Community Day. Almost 60 vendors have signed up. The event takes place on October 3rd from 11-4:30pm. Vendors will be selling items such as soaps, jams, pottery, crochet, baked goods, photography, etc. Hoping for a great event!
- Halloween – Laser light show not possible this year, Thompson Rec with all the Fire Departments and Congregational Church to host trunk or treat on Halloween night from 4-6pm at the Speedway. Limiting to Thompson residents only, thinking of handing out tickets in the schools for the event. Doing a collection for TEEG during this event as well. This is a drive through event, it should work well at the Speedway.
- Turkey Trot – On hold for now. Do not have a location as of now, the event is not able to be at the West Thompson Dam. Two potential locations, the track and trail behind the school, it has great parking and a wooded trail area. Concerns of being able to do it safely. How to maintain 6-foot distance on a trail, smaller groups of 50 at starting line. Trying to figure out all of the logistics and how to do it safely.
- Father/Daughter – In talks with Our Father's Table about moving dance to a dinner and then follow restaurant COVID guidelines. Talking about doing two seating's possibly due to not enough space for COVID capacity, half capacity. They serve dinner on Friday and Saturdays so it would need to be on a Sunday or Thursday possibly.
- C. Adult Programs – Outdoor Yoga that ran during the summer will be moving to Zoom.
- D. Senior Programs – Some senior programs will be starting back up in October.
- E. Youth Programs – L. Munshower recently got an email that a scaled down version of basketball might be able to run. Definitely not able to do full games but possible skills and drills during weekdays. Only half courts available right now as gyms are being used for storage. Babysitting course will run as well.

6. New Business

- A. Purely Recreation Staffing and Minimum Wage Increase – Increased from \$11 to \$12 in September. Any new staff to come in at that wage, all returning staff to bump up to that wage. Starting to become a challenge in REC budget, necessary to increase costs to parents to cover this increase in wages. Looking for ways to offset cost so every year not needing to increase attendance rates to cover minimum wage increase. Cost of childcare is skyrocketing, L. Munshower is looking for any grants they can get in response to these programs. Nutrition grant to cover costs of snacks. Social emotional learning grant to bring in councilor to help with the challenging time. There is assistance through the state, maybe put CT Care 4 Kids' info on back of REC program handouts. There's still trouble for people who earn too much to qualify for assistance but still don't make enough to afford care on their own.
 - B. PoCD – Recreation 10-year plan – Planning and Community Development document, used to apply for grants and to serve as the living document of goals for a 10-year plan. Last done in 2010 so it is being done again this year. L. Munshower asks is anyone interested in joining a smaller committee with her to work on a new draft for Parks and Rec section. R. Waldron says the document has never really been promoted to be used as it should be and hoping with this new document it will be used. There was a discussion among Commission members of possible items they would like to see included. C. Antos says she is interested in working with L. Munshower and asks if they can do it via a Zoom meeting. She also asks when it needs to be done by? It needs to be finished by the end of the calendar year, L. Munshower and C. Antos can get together via Zoom in next month to work on it, present what they have done at the Oct. meeting and final review at Nov meeting.
7. Other from the Commission/Staff – C. Antos says L. Munshower is doing a great job here! First Selectman Amy St. Onge writes in chat that Lesley is a great Recreation Director and Thompson is very lucky to have her! L. Munshower mentions it is great to be back with the kids again. There is a discussion about how hard this distance learning is on everyone.
8. Correspondence – None
9. Citizens' Comments – None
10. Announcements: Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 @ 6:30 PM Zoom
11. Adjourn – **Motion to adjourn the meeting made by C. Antos at 7:38pm. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Pomes

<< See below for link to the recorded Zoom meeting >>

Topic: Recreation Commission Special Meeting

Date: Sep 23, 2020 06:01 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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“Our mission is to enhance, promote and support quality recreation facilities and opportunities for all residents of the community.” www.thompsonrec.org