



815 Riverside Drive • Thompson, Connecticut

Recreation Commission Special Meeting
Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 6:30pm
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

1. Call to Order/Record – The call to order was by Recreation Director Lesley Munshower at 6:39pm
2. Roll Call – Lesley Munshower (Recreation Director), Robert Monahan, Cynthia Antos, Renee Waldron, Diane Keefe, Wayne Barber, Ashley Pomes (Recording Secretary)
Absent: Steve Bordua (Chair), Tom Jourdan, Rob L’Heureux
3. Minutes Review: October 28th, 2020 – L. Munshower points out in the Director’s Report section, it should be OEC not OCE for the Office of Early Childhood. **Motion made by C. Antos, to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by R. Waldron. All in favor.**
4. Financial Reports
 - a. General Fund Budget Report – Not much activity to report on, there was some spending in Halloween for the Trunk or Treat event.
 - b. Miscellaneous Revolving Account Report – Sitting at a surplus of around \$1900, it is a revolving account, changing with payroll and expenses. There was a line item put in for the projected expense for the online registration system to see what that would look like. Typically, it comes out of the Fund Balance, but it is in Park Improvements just for now. When the bill comes in it will be moved to the Fund Balance, usually the bill comes in January or February.
 - c. Fund Balance – Nothing to report, no changes.
5. Director’s Report
 - a. Purely Recreation – Thompson Public Schools are closed until January 11th, there is no before or after school programs for now. Before the school closure, they had 16 out of 16 children enrolled in the morning and 20 out of 24 children in the afternoon. L. Munshower is waiting to hear from the superintendent to see if they have some space available to use for childcare for remote learning children of essential care workers, a backup space would be the library.
 - b. Special Events – Maker Fair, Halloween, Holiday Light Contest, Bon Fire – Halloween Trunk or Treat was a great success, 300-400 cars came through. It was a great town event, people were really appreciative, some waited over an hour in their cars. Next year it will be moved to Riverside Park to do it as a walk-through event but keep it as a yearly event. Holiday Light Contest - 36 homes are participating including D. Keefe and R. Waldron. The map will be available on December 14th. Prizes for first, second and third place, gift cards to local restaurants. L. Munshower asks for permission to use money left over from Halloween to fund the prizes. **Motion made by R. Monahan to use Halloween money for prizes, seconded by C. Antos. All in favor.** R. Monahan notes to make sure the restaurant choices are local to

Thompson. R. Waldron talks about the Art Show and how it is a great opportunity, suggests not to let it slip away now that Trails committee won't be continuing it, maybe REC could pick it up. L. Munshower says that would be in April, it would not be a main event but it is a big event so she will add it to the January meeting agenda. Father Daughter - looking at a potential February event, space is a challenge if not able to do it in the school. Planning on replacing Bonfire with another event, the company that does the laser light show is doing online family trivia/bingo, good winter activity, prizes for winners. C. Antos thinks it sounds like a good idea, something different to try. R. Waldron agrees it sounds good for this year, hopefully there can be an outdoor winter event next year, the bonfire or something else. **Motion by R. Waldron to spend some bonfire funds without going over the bonfire total of \$600 for online trivia/bingo/alternative event, seconded by C. Antos. All in favor.** Maker Fair was in October, plan to do it again the first Saturday in May. Easter Egg Hunt will be in the spring with some modifications, smaller crowds are necessary, possibly sign ups to keep smaller crowd size or multiple locations on different days. April clean-up will go on as well.

- c. Adult Programs – Online yoga is ongoing; it will move to outdoors once weather changes.
- d. Senior Programs – Senior crafts are taking place in person. There were 9 participants in November and 9 are scheduled for December. L. Munshower will speak to the instructor about the possibility of moving it to zoom with some pick up craft kits. There will also be an online senior strength and stretch program starting in January.
- e. Youth Programs – Ran basketball for 3 weeks, and then the state of CT shut down youth sports. The program had about 8 kids each night, Mon-Thurs in grades 1-4. Families were credited when the program shut down. Drop and Shop is scheduled for December 19th, there are currently 2 participants signed up for now, it needs at least 4 participants to run. Starting to plan for summer and being hopeful there will be a summer program. L. Munshower will begin conversations with multiple different plans. C. Antos asked about St. Joseph's, L. Munshower was not able to get down there the weekend of the auction but states they have gotten rid of a lot of their equipment, desks, chairs and things, that would all need to be brought in if that space was to be used.

6. New Business

- a. PoCD – Recreation 10 Year Plan – Still a working document, it is the Plan of Conservation and Development, a 10-year plan used as a guided document for goals and for investors thinking of building in Thompson. It is also a document that is needed to apply for certain grants. L. Munshower and C. Antos worked on this several months ago together. She would like to meet with R. Waldron to talk about the true background of the Recreation Department, when it was established, etc. The document includes bullet points of special events, youth programs, senior programs, mission statement, goals. C. Antos asks if they can put the Recreation Logo in it? There was discussion about challenges, negotiating shared space, maintenance needs and goals. L. Munshower asks if there is anything missing, anything that should be added? R. Waldron asks if there is a mention of the lack of resources as a challenge. L. Munshower talks about relying on program fees and the cost of minimum wage and the challenge between DPW and REC, recommends someone whose priority is Park Maintenance.
- b. Report on Facility Walk Through on 11/2 – L. Munshower went on the facility walkthrough with Amy St. Onge and Rich Benoit. She says it went fine, they mostly found things that are already on the list. They discussed summer concerts, short term or long term staging solutions, using

the ball field, lighting and maintenance needs. They went to Bull Hill; A. St. Onge was impressed with the space. Putting together a committee to get full background on Bull Hill and seeing what opportunities are up there.

- c. Branding Presentation – R. Waldron shares and explains the new Thompson CT logo and tagline of Find Your Way. There were quite a few different choices of logos, some simpler and some more detailed. She explained the significance of the map pinpoint as the O in Thompson to show that everything is right here, the Town is close to Boston, Hartford, Providence and Worcester. The logo is promoting outdoor recreation with the image of a biker, hiker and jogger. The iconic mill and barn are also part of the logo. There are over 20 working active farms in Town. L. Munshower mentions she loves the tagline, Find Your Way. She says she will be using the logo font for the Holiday Light Display Map. It will be the first document going out to the public since choosing this font/logo.
7. Other Comments from the Commission – R. Monahan says the library will be taking food donations in January. L. Munshower mentions that TEEG had a collection at Trunk or Treat, they filled up their van close to the amount that is usually collected at the laser light show.
8. Correspondence - None
9. Citizens' Comments - None
10. Announcements:

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 @ 6:30pm via Zoom

Motion C. Antos, seconded by D. Keefe, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Pomes; Recording Secretary

Topic: Recreation Commission - December Special Meeting

Date: Dec 9, 2020 06:22 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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