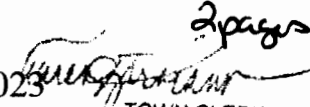


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STAFFORD RECREATION COMMISSION STAFFORD, CT

Regular Meeting
Zoom Video Conference Meeting
Meeting Minutes

2023 SEP 11 PM 3:59

Meeting Date: Wednesday September 6, 2023


TOWN CLERK

Members: Chairman - Dave Bachiochi, Secretary - open, Harold Blake Hatch, Tom Topping, Todd Levesque, Richard Deary, Bill Utermarck, Jose Scarpa, Matt Martel, Tyler Hanna

Members Present: Dave Bachiochi, Richard Deary, Tom Topping, Todd Levesque, Jose Scarpa

Members Absent: Harold Blake Hatch, Bill Utermarck, Matt Martel, Tyler Hanna

Recreation Director: (Open)

Athletic Director: Damian Frassinelli (not present)

Guests Present: Rich Smith, Judy

- 1.) **Call Meeting to Order** – Dave called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The number of commission members present 5 constitutes a quorum (5 of 9).
- 2.) **Review and Accept Minutes from previous meeting** – Minutes from the 4/5/2023 meeting were reviewed. A **MOTION** to accept the minutes with no noted changes was entered by Jose Scarpa – Second by Todd Levesque. Vote to accept minutes was unanimous.
- 3.) **Correspondence:** letters & email; visitors & public comment
 - a. Welcome New Members: Jose (Pepe) Scarpa, Matt Martel, Tyler Hanna.
 - b. Use of Staffordville School gymnasium.

Dave indicated that he has recently received a request from Maria Sierra regarding what it would take to enable the use of the Staffordville school building's gymnasium for adult women's basketball. The timeframe for use would be on a weekly basis from around November thru March. Questions raised included method of access to the building (assuming lead would get a FOB programmed for the weekly window of time), any cost (assuming no custodians needed on premise), any insurance coverage needed. Maria was not asking for any funding at this time. The commission is certainly in favor of this request. Dave indicated he would follow up with the next set of building stakeholders. Update: Devin Cowperthwaite from DPW is in favor. Bruce Davis from Building Facilities has indicated this is viable. Selectman need to approve access to the building before we can proceed.
- 4.) **Old Business**
 - a. **Budget and Priorities** feedback

The budget passed in the third referendum did not include a Recreation Director. The budget proposed in the first two didn't include one either. Dave reviewed the final ledger for the FY22-23 Recreation Commission actuals. Dave secured the youth sports stipends and got them distributed to the respective organizations prior to the FY22-23 books closing. Distribution was delayed through the year due to the lack of a Recreation Director reviewing the program's spending. In the end, Dave authorized release knowing that each of these programs are still operating with much the same personnel as the previous year. Dave also reviewed the current FY23-24 budget just passed. Changes

Schedule of Regular Meetings for CY 2023 (1st Wednesday except July and August):

Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6

from proposal include the removal of the Recreation Director, shift of the SHS track capital project to a new category for all capital projects, and some minor adjustments for where salaries and fringes are bookkept that were made to all town hall departments.

- b. **American Rescue Plan Act** commission update (Dave)
 - i. **AED Devices / Training (6/26)**
A series of training events were approved and the first session available to the general public at no charge to the residents was held on June 26. The training included an hour for CPR and AED instruction, and a half hour for Stop the Bleed. The next sessions will occur around the first week in December. This is very good and every resident should take advantage of this. AED devices have been procured, shipped, and remain in the installation process.
 - ii. **Summer Recreation Program** – was held and overall successful. A full report will be provided once available.
- c. **Plan of Conservation and Development** – No update yet. The zoning office remains staffed with an interim officer. PoCD implementation will begin after the position is filled on a permanent basis.
- d. **Olympic Field STEAP grant** activity update. Dave reported the newly installed playground has opened and looks really nice. Basketball courts are complete. Irrigation portion of the project remains targeted for the November timeframe to get the well drilled.

5.) New Business

- a. **State Historic Preservation Office Survey & Planning grant** – the public hearing was held. The survey will be completed by the end of the summer. No further update at this time.
- b. **Recreation Department Benchmark & Future State** – Dave has been interviewing the Recreation Directors from nearby towns to establish a regional benchmark for how their departments operate. The intent is to help form the strategy for Stafford if and when that becomes viable either in a full time capacity or some other distributed responsibility model. Interview reports are available from discussion with Vernon, Tolland, Ellington, Somers and Willington. Todd asked about the status of the lacrosse equipment we have stored, and we questioned whether we should be actively looking to find a home for it with a program that can use it before it becomes unusable. Rich Smith mentioned cases of increased vandalism at Kealy Field.
- c. **Report from Recreation Director** – No report. No Recreation Director has been appointed yet. This item will be tabled until it becomes appropriate again.

6. Adjourn – MOTION: Dick moved to adjourn meeting. Tom seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday October 4, 2023 at 7:00pm. We will be reviewing any updates from the youth sports programs as we consider next year's stipends.

Respectfully Submitted

Dave Bachiochi, Acting Recording Secretary

9/11/2023 David Bachiochi
Date Signature