

**COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

The Coventry Parks & Recreation Commission held a special meeting on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 via ZOOM virtual platform. Marie Gallo-Hall called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

**Member Present:** Marie Gallo-Hall, Beverly Carlson, Bob Martin (on ZOOM), Jillian Miner, and Ashlee Pascarelli (on ZOOM).

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Rodgers and Pam Miller.

**Also Present:** Lesley Munshower, Director of Parks & Recreation and Caterina Merriam, Recreation Supervisor.

**Audience of Citizens:** None.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

**Beverly Carlson moved to accept the meeting minutes from April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Jillian Miner seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Bob Martin, Jillian Miner and Beverly Carlson. Motion carried.**

**Jillian Miner moved to seat Ashlee Pascarelli as a regular member. Beverly Carlson seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Jillian Miner, Bob Martin & Beverly Carlson. Motion carried.**

**Correspondence:** None.

**Chair's Remarks:**

- Ms. Gallo-Hall noted that at the April meeting the Commission discussed the land purchase on South River Road. She noted that there was a vote at the Town Meeting a couple of weeks ago, and it did pass. She extended her thanks to the citizens of Coventry for voting in favor of that purchase, and Town Staff for their work in making that happen.
- Ms. Gallo-Hall also shared that she saw a piece on local news about the UCONN Women's Crew Team and Title 9, and said that it looked that they were shown rowing on Coventry Lake which was fun to see.

**Staff Report:**

A written staff report was distributed to the Commission for their review (attached). Ms. Munshower & Ms. Merriam reviewed certain important items:

- Softball & Baseball Opening Days:
  - Ms. Munshower noted that she attended both Softball & Baseball opening day ceremonies, and that Jennifer Rodgers and Mackenzie Rivers (softball) and Jeff Longo (baseball) did a great job with their respective opening day ceremonies.
- Trails Camp:
  - Ms. Munshower noted that she, alongside the Last Green Valley and Thompson Rec., went on to WINY radio show to promote the Explore the Trails Camp.

- Hiring:
  - Ms. Munshower said that we are working on hiring summer staff. We currently have 7 returning lifeguards and are hiring 1 new. With the current roster of guards, we are anticipating providing full coverage at Patriots Park, however if anyone needs a day off, we do not have adequate staffing to provide subs. Ms. Munshower added that we are continuing to recruit; 2-3 additional guards on staff would be helpful. Lisicke Beach will continue to be unstaffed this summer.
- Miller Richardson:
  - Blake Foundation:
    - The Burrows Family, who are long-time residents in town with ties to Parks & Recreation and Youth Baseball, tragically lost their son in a car accident this past fall. They have founded a foundation in his name to provide scholarships for kids who would like to play baseball. Blake was an avid baseball player and Miller Richardson was a special place to him and his family. Ms. Munshower added a thank you to the Burrows Family and the Blake Foundation for their contribution of landscape & drainage work by the dugouts. The Foundation is also looking to donate picnic tables.
  - Venting Project:
    - The project has begun and is expected to take 4-6 weeks. The field will then sit for two growing seasons, before it will be deemed playable in the fall of 2023.
- Laidlaw Park:
  - The upper field will be closed in the fall, as crews work on seeding and fertilizing.
- Creaser Park:
  - Community Gardeners have begun working on their plots.
  - Calls are up for use of the pavilion, as summer approaches.
- Patriots Park:
  - Ms. Munshower said that since several trees have been cleared by the bandshell & boat house, there have been increased security concerns as the frequency of cars being parked down there is increasing. Staff are looking into installing a gate to keep unauthorized vehicles out of that area.
  - Ms. Munshower also noted that the police boat dock is being moved to Patriots Park.
  - Girl Scout Troop 65447 planted two donated dogwood trees, with the help of Town Tree Warden Mark Owens. The story was reported by the Journal Inquirer.
- Protected Spaces:
  - Ms. Munshower attended their most recent meeting. She said that while they oversee trails, there is a lot of overlap with Parks & Rec., Department of Public Works, Land Use and Wetlands. She has offered use of our online registration software for volunteer sign ups so they can better track involvement, waivers and communications.
- Summer Enrichment Grant:
  - Ms. Munshower said that we are applying for grant funding through the State of CT Department of Education. It is a matching grant, so Ms. Munshower attended a Town Council meeting to request a \$9,000 match which was approved. The application is due on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and awards will be announced on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Congressman Courtney Visit:
  - Ms. Munshower said that Congressman Joe Courtney visited Coventry to discuss American Rescue Plan funded projects, including the roofing project at the Library and the transfer station relocation project. He also spoke with Art Guild members about the

arts funding, went to the schools to see how the funding is being used there, and spoke with the staff at Bidwell Tavern about the licensing fee waiver.

- Financial Report:
  - Ms. Munshower said that revenues are up, and we are currently approximately \$13,000 in the positive. However, as the fiscal year comes to a close and programs like summer camp start up for the season in June, expenses will also increase, so we expect that number to fluctuate.

**Old Business:**

- Softball Field Committee:
  - Reported under Staff Report (attached).
- Miller Richardson Football Field Update:
  - Reported under Staff Report (attached).
- Military Discount:
  - Tabled.

**New Business:**

- Summer Camp Enrichment Grant:
  - Reported under Staff Report (attached).

**Adjourn:** With no other business to discuss, Marie Gallo-Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caterina Merriam,  
Recreation Supervisor

**Please note:** These minutes are not official until approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission at the next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting. Please see the next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for approval or changes to these minutes.