

**COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Coventry Parks & Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 13,, 2021 via virtual platform, ZOOM. Marie Gallo-Hall called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Alternate Member Ashlee Pascarelli was seated for regular member Beverly Carlson and Alternate Matt Kyer was seated for regular member Bob Martin.

**Members Present:** Marie Gallo-Hall, Jillian Miner, Jennifer Rodgers, and Matthew Kyer.

**Members Absent:** Bob Martin, Beverly Carlson

**Others Present:** Wendy Rubin, Director of Parks & Recreation

**Audience of Citizens:**

- Scott Warren of the Presbyterian Church of Coventry withdrew his application to hold a concert at Patriots park band shell due to band member scheduling conflicts. He hopes there will be another opportunity in the future.
- Follow up to email from Christina Kevorkian, Woodmont Drive regarding after hours cars & foot traffic at Laidlaw Park was placed on hold due to Ms. Kevorkian's inability to attend tonight.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

**Matt Kyer moved to accept the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Jillian Miner seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Jennifer Rodgers, and Matt Kyer. Motion carried.**

**Correspondence:**

- John Thayer – Pickleball request for more courts as surrounding communities have been very responsive to the rapidly growing popularity of this sport. ATTACH EMAIL Wendy Rubin stated that there is a growing need, and our high school courts are in rough shape due to cracking, and the court at Patriots Park needs safety netting to keep balls from ending up in the lake. Marie Gall-Hall mentioned that this may not be the year to request funding since Covid 19 has impacted our budget greatly. Matt Kyer suggested we line basketball court at Lisicke to accommodate use, as many Pickleball players would play earlier in the day than the typical basketball players. Wendy will investigate if the high school has any restrictions for adding Pickleball lines to their tennis courts. She added that we will be hosting a Pickleball Social and we will be listing our courts in a scheduling app that is being used by players.

**Chair's Remarks: none**

**Staff Report:**

Written staff report for the month of April was sent electronically to the membership for their review. Ms. Rubin highlighted the following items:

- **Camp:**  
Registrations are coming in pretty steadily, earliest sessions filling first. Camp is limited in its numbers this summer with Covid 19 restrictions, and as things loosen up in the state it still is not feasible to take on more campers as we will not be able to get staff. Camp ends August 16, so we have put together several specialty camps for the last 2 weeks before the children return to school.
- **Aquatics:**  
Beaches open May 29, staff are training this coming week. We have 9 returning guards, and we are losing 5, but with Lisicke not guarded on weekdays we should be ok. When beach is not staffed, the

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No Lifeguard on Duty signs are up as well as new signs for Call 911 in case of emergency, watch your children, and there will be a throw ring buoy available for people to grab if needed.

- **Position Vacancy**

Wendy stated that the seasonal office staff are helping her organize and clean out the office so the new Director won't think we are disorganized or messy! She is also trying to leave files and records in good order to assist. Marie Gallo-Hall mentioned that the interviews are being conducted on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Bob Martin will represent the Recreation Commission on the interview panel. There will be 2 other Parks & Recreation directors also on the panel. Closing date was yesterday and there is a pool of 25+/- applicants to pick from.

**Old Business:**

- **Softball Field Committee Update:**

Ms. Rodgers said that the Committee met with Finance Committee with update. They are working on mosquito issues, baseball parking lot impact. They are also looking at reducing the size of one field to reduce need to cut into the hill. Next steps include on-site study for the mosquito hazard when the season begins. Council member Richard Williams offered to join them. This is just one more obstacle to get us one step closer to our final goal. Matt Kyer heard that the members of Jen's her committee were not treated kindly by the Finance Committee, and asked Jen to verify. Jen Rodgers explained what occurred, a specific incident did occur and was unfortunate. Matt Kyer provide the analogy that the mosquito issue is no different than saying we can't run camp because a camper that may get poison ivy or a tick. Jillian Miner mentioned that all the youth sports are made aware of any health related concerns etc. from our Health District. In the past, teams had to stop practicing after 5:30 pm last time it was a concern for EEE.

- **Budget:**

Ms. Rubin said that the American Relief Fund process will be very detailed and complicated, and we may not be able to get what we need to reduce our deficit for the current fiscal year and possibly this upcoming year. The Finance Committee is not going to make any changes to our budget this fiscal year. Marie would like Wendy to share all the information to continue with our approach to our funding sources with her replacement.

**New Business:**

- Alternate Member, Ashlee Pascarelli logged on to the meeting late as she was attending her Creaser Park Golf Course volunteer meeting. Marie Gallo-Hall welcomed her and asked members to introduce themselves to her, and for her to give the commission a brief introduction.
- **Disc Golf Update**  
Ashlee Pascarelli has offered to take charge of the Disc Golf volunteers and their activities. They are looking to run a tournament and ribbon cutting soon. Footbridges being installed this week. She created a Disc Golf Facebook Group and has been enlisting volunteers to help maintain the course. Although she wanted to try to organize this prior to Wendy's departure, it was agreed that they should schedule this for the best possible attendance by the Town Council and Recreation Commission members.
- **Football** – Ashlee is serving on the Board of Directors for Youth Football. Wendy provided a synopsis of the football field conditions at Miller Richardson. The work slated to be done will not allow play in time for the upcoming fall season, and the organization is sharing facilities with neighboring towns. Jen Rodgers suggested that Youth Football should be represented to avoid being left out of town wide sports field discussions.

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**Consideration to limit prohibition of dogs at town beaches in off season.**

Follow up of the discussion that was tabled at last month's meeting to allow dogs on beaches in the off season, with park rule signs: "No Pets from Memorial Day to Labor Day, leash Law applies at all times" for Patriots Park and Lisicke Beach. It would not need to be an ordinance change, just a park rule. Matt Kyer suggested we install Dog Waste stations at each location concurrently with the rule change. This is something that can be purchased in time for the post Labor Day "Off Season". Marie Gallo-Hall motioned to amend the park rules with respect to dogs on town beaches, to align with our other park rules only on a seasonal basis. Second by Jen Rodgers. Approved unanimously.

**Adjourn:** With no other business to discuss, Marie Gallo-Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Rubin  
Director of Parks & Recreation

**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.