

**COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021**

The Coventry Parks & Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 10,, 2021 at the Lodge at Patriots Park. Marie Gallo-Hall called the meeting to order at 6:21pm.

Members Present: Marie Gallo-Hall, Jillian Miner, Jennifer Rodgers, Matthew Kyer, Bob Martin, and Beverly Carlson

Members Absent: Ashlee Pascarelli

Others Present: Wendy Rubin, Director of Parks & Recreation, Karl Molitoris, Disc Gold Course Designer, Craig Jordan, President of Youth Basketball, and Joyce Bonney, Sr. Seasonal Staff member

Audience of Citizens:

- Karl Molitoris provided status update of the Creaser Disc Golf Course. He has drafted the back 9 holes for future development, and provided maps. The front 9 is almost done in time for the ribbon cutting June 25th. He is also meeting Bill Watkins to develop a relationship with DPW re: on-going maintenance needs and some tree removal issues. He also mentioned that DEEP support will be instrumental for us to move forward. Course designed for 8 to 80- year olds. Parks & Rec will have loaner discs available. Future fund raising easily done with tee and basket sponsors.
- Craig Jordan provided us with an update on the summer clinic program which is now a definite go since the schools are letting us use the gyms. He also discussed changes being made in the fall/ winter program to improve the registration process and try-outs. All players will sign up for the rec program and will have player assessments conducted to help draft the teams. Players that show promise will be offered the opportunity to play travel ball, and if they want to they would then pay the extra travel fee. This streamlines the work for the office staff and is less confusing to the parents. He also stated that the team uniforms and fan gear are being sold via Squad Locker with a percentage of the proceeds going back to Parks & Rec. Marie Gall-Hall questioned the process for kids who may not be able to afford to buy the uniforms. The price is around \$40 so it is more affordable, but we also have a scholarship fund with Human Services in cases of need. Wendy thanked Craig and the Board members, coaches and other volunteers for all the help they have provided to her over the past few years.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Jen Rodgers moved to accept the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes. Jillian Miner seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Jillian Miner, Jennifer Rodgers, Matthew Kyer, Bob Martin, and Beverly Carlson. Motion carried.

Correspondence: none

Chair's Remarks:

Marie already provided comments at the last meeting regarding Wendy's retirement, and then the Recreation Commission took some time to celebrate with her presenting flowers, a gift and a cake for all to enjoy. Wendy thanked everyone and wanted to go on record as stating that this group was the most productive and success Recreation Commission she has ever worked with in all 5 communities she had served.

• **Position Vacancy**

Marie Gallo-Hall mentioned that the interviews were conducted on May 25th. Bob Martin represented the Recreation Commission on the interview panel. Bob said that there were 2 other Parks & Recreation directors and an Assistant Town Manager also on the panel. They interviewed 9 and presented the top 4 to the Town Manager with 1 candidate unanimously as the top choice. The position was offered but the applicant withdrew her application, so it will be offered to the next in line.

COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

Staff Report:

Written staff report for the month of May 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. We were able to increase the group numbers by 2 per group, per session. Camp starts June 21, and Cat Merriam will return from leave on that date as well.
- **Aquatics:**
Opening weekend was a rain out, following weekend was very busy. Lots of trash. So far Lisicke not being guarded on weekdays is working out well. We posted to social media to remind people that when beach is not staffed, the 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. We hired a few more gate and maintainer staff and are training them now.
- Creaser Park Building 1 not worth fixing – need DEEP approval to demolish buildings
- Gym approval for all summer sports camps was given
- Rec Daze will happen in fall but details will not come through until mid-august.

Old Business:

- Softball Field Committee Update:
The Softball Committee final recommendation was for 1 full sized field in the pit with a second field to be added later. Ms. Rodgers said they are waiting on price estimates for reducing the size of one field to reduce need to cut into the hill and the mosquito study. Jillian Miner offered to be part of the study.
- Budget:
Ms. Rubin said that the American Relief Fund looks very promising as a means to recoup the revenues lost for parks and recreation. Finance Director, Amanda Backhaus is working in the paperwork on our behalf.
- Laidlaw Park gates – Just as a point of information should it come up in the future, Wendy did speak with Police Department who have no issues with us adding gates at parks as long as they have key or combination access.
- **Marie Gallo-Hall motioned to rescind the amendment to the park rules with respect to dogs on town beaches that was approved at the May meeting, as it was found to be in conflict with existing town ordinances. Second by Jen Rodgers. Approved unanimously.**

New Business:

- Writing the Land proposal: Agreed to invite John Stanizzi and Lis McLoughlin to the October meeting to discuss their proposal.

Adjourn: With no other business to discuss, Marie Gallo-Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:25 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.