



TOWN OF LEDYARD

12 Van Tassel Drive
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06339

Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Chairman
Kenneth J. DiRico

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

7:00 PM

Parks & Recreation/Senior Citizens
Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman DiRico called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Ledyard Senior Center.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner Jessica Cobb
Commissioner Loretta Kent
Chairman Kenneth J. DiRico
Commissioner Norma Sokolski
Commissioner Margaret Anne Harding
Commissioner Paula Crocker
Commissioner Lucrezia Finegan
Non-voting Alternate Member Carol Ann Schneider

Alternate Commission Member Charles Gallagher was absent from the meeting.

In addition the following were present:

Scott Johnson, Director of Ledyard Parks, Recreation and Senior Center
Naomi Rodriquez, Chairman - Ledyard Town Council
Jessica Buhle, Ledyard Town Council

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Ms. Buhle stated that it was National Volunteer Appreciation Month and she and the Town Council appreciates all that the volunteers do.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Crocker asked the status of the street light. Mr. Johnson responded that that is still being worked and will take time. They do have a pole that can be used.

Ms. Crocker asked about raising the lunch and breakfast prices. Mr. Johnson stated that the prices will be raised after July 1st when the Events Magazine is out. Prices have not been raised since before the pandemic. They are also doing a breakdown of the regular menu prices

Ms. Crocker stated the need for new cabinets to hold the exercise equipment, the doors do not close and all of the weights do not fit inside. Mr. Johnson will look into new Cabinets.

Ms. Cobb asked if it was possible for a group to do some of the lunches. Mr. Johnson responded that since the pandemic the groups don't seem to have the personnel needed to do them. We do have some come in once in a while but it is very sparse.

The suggestion was made that a group could sponsor a luncheon and give the proceeds to charity.

Ms. Cobb asked what the hours were for the lunch and breakfast. Mr. Johnson responded breakfast is 8:30 - 10:30 and Wednesday lunch is 12:00 sharp and if there is a speaker, they speak at 12:30.

Ms. Cobb stated that last night was the budget meeting for the Town Council and our budget is very good and everyone should go out and vote for the budget. Mr. Johnson stated that the only thing changed was eliminated the full time van driver and added a part time driver and that money was moved to cover the cost of Schedules Plus which will save a tremendous amount of time scheduling the transportation.

Ms. Harding asked if the van could be used to take seniors to the celebration of life for Skip Quilter. Mr. Johnson responded that he does not want to set that precedent and that the service is on a Saturday during no-work hours.

Mr. Johnson stated that there were no Pickleball comments tonight and that the Gales Ferry Community has asked him to come to their next meeting

VI. REPORTS

Director's Report

The roof at the Senior Center is scheduled to be replaced. Materials have been delivered.

We held the Food Truck Festival this past weekend and had a great turn out even with the spotty weather.

We held our first ever fencing tournament and had over 50 participants. It was a success and we raised money to buy equipment for our fencing club.

Baseball, Softball and soccer have started practicing. Little League Opening Day is April 20th.

We are almost done with interviews for summer camp and have a strong candidate pool to select from this year.

Ms. Finegan asked if there is a League Commissioner meeting for spring sports planned.

Mr. Johnson responded that he would like to do it mid summer and then they could have all attend.

Ms. Finegan asked if the Parks and Recreation policies and procedures for town leagues are on the website. Mr. Johnson responded he is not sure and will look into it.

Ms. Cobb asked if the classification for summer camp had changed as discussed earlier in the year. Mr. Johnson responded it had not

MOTION to accept the Director's Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Finegan, seconded by Commissioner Cobb, that this be Approved and so declared. The motion carried by the following vote:

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Lucrezia Finegan

SECONDER: Jessica Cobb

AYE 7 Cobb Kent DiRico Sokolski Harding Crocker Finegan

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MOTION to approve Minutes from the March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Cobb

SECONDER: Loretta Kent

AYE 7 Cobb Kent DiRico Sokolski Harding Crocker Finegan

2. MOTION to approve the March 19, 2024 Admin Sub Committee Meeting Minutes

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Cobb

SECONDER: Loretta Kent

AYE 7 Cobb Kent DiRico Sokolski Harding Crocker Finegan

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Boy Scout Skate Park Project Proposal

Mr. DiRico stated that it seems there is still a lot on the table and we have not heard from the presenter in a while. Mr. Johnson stated he will reach out.

Ms. Finegan stated if the park is approved what would the plan be for liability and upkeep of the park?

Ms. Kent stated it was too big of a project that would be too much for the town.

Mr. DiRico stated that there does not seem to be an issue with skateboards in other areas of the town.

Will talk about alternative plans in the future.

RESULT: CONTINUE

2. Any Old Business proper to come before the Committee

None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION to approve uses for the Ledyard Senior Center ARPA Funds.

Discussion

Mr. Johnson will be sending in an application tomorrow. Suggestion was made that staff would need to be in the building for use in the exercise room. Discussion on which type of bike would be better for senior use. Suggestion that a camera be put in the exercise room so that it can be monitored by Staff. Ideally there would be at least two people in the room. Discussion on type of chairs to order for exercise class. Ms. Crocker stated she had already researched and would bring that to Mr. Johnson in the morning.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Cobb

SECONDER: Lucrezia Finegan

AYE 7 Cobb Kent DiRico Sokolski Harding Crocker Finegan

1. MOTION to approve the Garden Clubs installation of two Blue Bird Boxes at Highlands Lake.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Cobb

SECONDER: Lucrezia Finegan

AYE 7 Cobb Kent DiRico Sokolski Harding Crocker Finegan

3. Any other NEW BUSINESS proper to come before the Commission

Mr. Johnson brought up a plan for a LED Sign that the Town of Ledyard was planning to install in front of the Town Green.

4. MOTION to approve installation of LED lighted sign in front of the Town Green

Discussion

The Commission would like a better understanding of the size of the sign and the site plan. They would like the sign to be seen from better angles and not interfere with other signage. The

Motion will be amended to include the size and site plan and will be voted on in the next meeting.

RESULT: MOTION FAILED

AYE 2 Sokolski Crocker

NAY 5 Cobb Kent DiRico Harding Finegan

MOTION to amend the above to include size and site and vote at the next meeting

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Lucrezia Finegan

SECONDER: Jessica Cobb

AYE 7 Cobb Kent DiRico Sokolski Harding Crocker Finegan

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kent moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. DiRico.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

VOTE: 7-0 Approved and so declared