

Town of North Canaan
Recreation Commission
September 19, 2023

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT NORTH CANAAN, CT
ON 9.20.23 AT 8:00
ATTEST JEAN A. JACQUIER, TOWN CLERK

Present: Chairwoman Lindsay Crane, Tonya Rousiss, Tracy Allyn, Laura Bosio, Marilisa Camardi, Director Adam Bunce

Chairwoman Crane called the meeting to order at 7:36pm and established a quorum.

Ms. Allyn made a motion to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Ms. Rousiss seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Nikki Blass would like an update on the soccer program. What is going on in Canaan and other towns and to find out about the regional program. Ms. Blass stated there used to be a lot more kids. The programs don't seem as good. The regionalized basketball program was not as good as when it was in North Canaan. Stephanie Grant stated that last year the soccer program seemed very unorganized. Director Bunce explained that for this year there was a loss of the person that was directing the regional soccer program. The rec directors came together and tried to find someone else to direct the program but were not able to find anyone. It was decided this past week that North Canaan and Salisbury would do their own thing because of this, so that the kids would at least have a few weeks of a program. This will be 5 weeks beginning September 30 for skills and drills for the kids and will depend on who signs up. Mr. Bunce explained that regionalization came about because the numbers kept going down. The only way to do anything was to have a regional program centrally located and directed by one person. Last year was better than the first year. The number of kids playing continuously dropped. Some kids went to Northwest and a lot of kids simply weren't playing. All the towns faced the same issues. There was a discussion regarding rec sports vs competitive sports. Northwest kids cannot play rec sports. A lot of parents want their kids to play more competitive sports which led to them going to Northwest. The other issue is that there are no volunteers. Ms. Grant asked how people sign up to volunteer. There is a part on the registration form, or they can get in touch with Mr. Bunce. For the kids that signed up so far no one has offered to volunteer. Discussion ensued about how to get people to volunteer and how to get numbers up. There are also other sports and other things that kids do now – i.e., scouts, hockey.

Pool update: The pool has been drained down and picked up. Perotti's are coming this week to shut off the water and then will finalize the closing.

Adult Softball: Mr. Bunce has not heard anything. We will need a copy of their insurance. They would be using Lawrence field only. Keri's softball tournament is supposed to come back this year so maybe that will kickstart the adult league.

Baseball: fall ball is up and going. There is 1 majors' team and 1 minors' group. About 18 kids in the majors and 15 in the minors. There are only 2 other minors' teams in the area. Discussion of possible games/scrimmages.

An email was received from Stephanie Grant regarding fundraising opportunities with trivia nights at Great Falls. Ms. Grant explained that twice a month they host a trivia night which can be used as a

fundraising opportunity to a non-profit from the area. Chris Trippler does the trivia portion. The organization can do raffles. It is \$5 for each person to play which goes directly to the organization and a portion of sales goes back to them as well. It is on Sunday nights at 6:00pm. Ms. Grant does emails, social media, and flyers. Themed trivia can be done. They are booked for this year, but there are dates available in 2024. They may want to fundraise for a specific item vs just in general. The more word of mouth the more lucrative it becomes.

Finance report: payments submitted since the last meeting total \$459.00. The basketball court by the pavilion has been resurfaced. The hoop needs to be replaced. There is still \$500 in the account to go towards the hoop. Mr. Bunce will contact Stadium Systems to get pricing for hoops.

The tennis court sign needs to be done and a sign for the basketball court could be done to ensure fair play times.

Old Business:

Porta potty will be picked up at the end of October.

Movie theater marquis is up for this coming weekend. Sign-ups are open on their site for the movie at 2:00 – SHREK. There was a discussion of having someone welcome people who show up.

Participation in the Fall Festival will be the movie. Discussion of doing smores or something for parade of lights. This can be discussed at the October meeting. **Ms. Camardi made a motion to have the rec committee participate by making cookies or something like that, in the Parade of Lights in conjunction with the Events Committee. Ms. Bosio seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Eagle Scouts – no updates

Bylaws were submitted to the Selectmen for approval at their October 2nd meeting.

Swim for Win – no updates

Master Rec Event Calendar - To be discussed at the November meeting.

New Business:

NC Recreation sponsored group/family events – no updates (move to old business)

Chairwoman Crane read into record a letter from Thomas Bunce requesting to be a member of the committee. **Ms. Allyn made a motion to send the letter to the Selectmen for appointment approval. Ms. Camardi seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

Ms. Bosio mentioned it is time to start thinking about the holiday decorating contest.

Next month we will start meeting at the town hall until May.

Chairwoman Crane adjourned the meeting at 8:42pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary