

Town of Winchester/City of Winsted  
Recreation Department  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 5th, 2022, 7:00 pm  
Francis P Hicks Room

**Board Members**

Kurt Williams, Chairman	Allen Miller, Member
Diane Ransom, Vice Chairman	Joseph Lefkowski, Member
Jamie Duffy, Secretary,	Shayne Deschamps, Member
Tanya Risucci, Recreation Director	Timothy McGrane III, Member
Jonathan Morhardt, Selectman Liason	Bryan Sundie, Member
Kurt Root, Member	Elizabeth Whitney, Member
Brian Shaughnessy, Member	Claudia DeLaCruz, Member

- Call to Order: 7:01
- Welcome Angela Bardino to the board as the high school student liaison

Members in attendance: Kurt Williams, Shayne Deschamps, Joe Lefkowski, Tanya Risucci, Beth Daigle, Angela Bardino (student rep), Diane Ransom, Kurt Root

Guests in Attendance: John Morhardt (Selectman), Jim Welcome

- Approval of Meeting Minutes 9/7/22: Motion to approve by Joseph Lefkowski, 2nd by Diane Ransom to approve minutes
- Agenda Review: Motion by Shayne Deschamps, 2nd by Joseph Lefkowski to approve agenda
- Public comment: Two community members mentioned to Shayne Deschamps that it would be great to have more recreation programs for active senior citizens. One example from them was Pickleball. Shayne will get contact information from those community members of their instructor and provide it to Tanya.

Moved item 6. Recreation Board/Department Items till later in the meeting for the town manager to arrive

7. Lighting Subcommittee Report:

- Grant submitted for all the fields in the Community Challenge Grant using Musco's quote. Also included was the Sue Grossman Trail completion
- The current plan is to use local funding for one field with bids for this winter to plan for the Spring budget season. Walker or Rowley are being discussed by the subcommittee for recommendation to the full Recreation Board

- Quotes were received from three large companies; more information will come from the subcommittee for the November meeting.

#### 8. Recreation Activities Update & Director Report

- All fall programs are currently running smoothly and well attended
- There is a desire to have more kickball programs for Spring
- The basketball programs are being prepared for this fall/winter season
- Trunk or Treat candy donations are being collected by Tanya and Terri Hall
- Kurt Williams, Kurt Root and Beth will attend to help with line control and distributing candy
- Our Christmas programs need to be discussed at an upcoming meeting.
  - Do we want to use Little Red Barn again or return to the playground building?
  - The business that did the face painting at the Winsted 250th event has expressed interest in coming to this event.
  - Possible date could be December 10th
- There was discussion about Recreation dates to provide to Josh Kelly for the EDC calendar being sold
- Money needs to be transferred between accounts for the dugout; we had received no communication from the Board of Selectmen from their last meeting about this.

Brian Shaughnessy Arrived at 7:30

- The gym use at both Gilbert and Pearson was approved by both districts
- A key is needed for the coaches, and a contact list for Pearson is also needed

#### 9. Old Business

#### 10. New Business

- Discussion with Student Liason about what high school-age students want
  - A suggestion for a men's volleyball program was made
  - Discussion regarding the best way to communicate and advertise to students would be contacting school staff to use their methods to advertise
  - Another suggestion was made to use give community service hours for high school volleyball players to help with a recreation program
- Ted Shafer from EDC will be setting up a meeting with Tanya and NCCC about their possible gym use at Greenwoods Hall
- Tanya had passed out roles and job descriptions for our recreation positions. Those included the old/current descriptions and proposed updated descriptions
  - Kurt Williams had asked Jim Welcome what the most critical task he feels he does. Jim believes keeping the facilities clean and safe, along with keeping the facilities in use, helps to prevent vandalism. Also, the person who replaces him should be certified in spraying trees, weeds, etc.

Josh Kelly Arrived at 8:00 pm

Byan Sundie arrived at a8:01 pmpm

#### 6. Recreation Board/Department Items

- Recreation Officers will be discussed at November Meeting
- There was discussion about what makes an employee part-time, full time and seasonal

- More discussion followed regarding benefits and pay for those employees
- There is a plan for the town to have updated job descriptions for Recreation employees by the end of the month
- Tanya had asked Josh about the money movement that was requested to the Board of Selectman. This request was tabled until the next Board of Selectman meeting due to a lack of information. It was requested that in the future, issues like this be communicated back to the Recreation Director
- There was discussion about the connection between Economic Development growth being tied to Recreation, summarized that a robust Recreation program will bring more families
- Discussion was brought up about the “Give back money” that the Recreation Board gives money back to the town since it generates Revenue
  - a. Josh committed to attempting to get that amount reduced that is paid back to the town. This can foster more growth in our programs if there is more to spend. This does depend on the Board of Selectman support
- Sue Grossman Greenway project is underway, and there is a need from the Recreation Dept side to hire another maintenance person not only for the greenway but for the town as a whole. This will only be exacerbated if the Community Challenge Grant helps finish the Greenway.
- The mural on the playground building is approved; waiting for confirmation of where the money will be used from.
- It was asked what Winsted’s definition of Capital vs. expense was. More discussion happened without a definitive answer
- A special meeting will be scheduled to digest the information and to discuss the upcoming budget

#### 11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Shayne Deschamps and 2nd by Joseph Lefkowski at 9:15pm