

**COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH, 2016**

The Coventry Parks & Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 6th, 2016 in Town Hall Conference Room B. Jennifer Rodgers called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Alternate Member Jillian Miner was seated for regular member Todd Messier.

Members Present: Jennifer Rodgers, Antonia Conti, Marie Gallo-Hall and Jillian Miner (arrived at 7:44pm).

Members Absent: Todd Messier & Sean Butler

Others Present: Wendy Rubin, Director of Parks & Recreation and Caterina Merriam, Recreation Supervisor.

Audience of Citizens: None.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Marie Gallo-Hall moved to accept the meeting minutes from March 2nd, 2016. Jennifer Rodgers seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Jennifer Rodgers, Antonia Conti, and Marie Gallo-Hall. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Note from Brian Bowes, Youth Basketball Official re: basketball season
- Email from Customer re: Father Daughter Dance rescheduling
- Email from staff of Opportunity Works re: bathroom access at Patriots Park

Staff Report:

- Community Collaboration:
 - Ms. Rubin explained that Parks & Recreation is combining efforts with the Human Services/Youth Services Department, the Senior Center and Booth & Dimock Library to offer a community calendar for members of the public. Non-profit organizations and businesses will also have the chance to post their events as well, making the calendar a one-stop shop for folks in town looking for things to do with their family. We will also be researching the feasibility of sponsorships to pay for the service.
- DEEP Trails and Greenways Program Grant:
 - A \$57,560 grant has been awarded for the Mill Brook Greenway project, to assist with surfacing, parking, signage, a gazebo and clearing of the trail.
- Playful City Application & Video:
 - Our 2016 Playful City USA Application has been submitted. This year's application also required a short video, showcasing how playful Coventry is. Ms. Rubin thanked Ms. Rodgers and Ms. Miner for their involvement in getting the video completed!
 - Ms. Rubin also noted that we should hear if we are selected sometime in May.
- Summer Intern:
 - Ms. Rubin introduced our new Intern, Leah Whittaker, who will be joining the Parks & Rec. Office for the summer months. She is completing her internship for the Recreation

& Leisure Department at Southern CT State University. She also takes classes part-time at Manchester Community College and has extensive background in Parks & Rec., through her years working at Manchester Parks & Rec.

- Arts Guild:
 - Ms. Rubin and Town Planner Eric Trott are currently working on the final report for the “Arts as Catalyst” grant that we received last year, out of which the Coventry Arts Guild was formed. They have their final meeting with Consultant Barbara Ally, and are assisting the Guild in the planning of their “Arts in the Park” event in September.
- Community Garden:
 - There is a meeting with this year’s Garden participants on April 11th, to review plans and procedures. We have several new gardeners joining us this year.
- Budget Presentation:
 - Ms. Rubin reviewed our Budget Presentation to the Town Council that was held on March 28th. She thanked Commission Members Rodgers and Messier for their attendance and support. She also noted that the Council’s biggest concerns were building maintenance and revenue. As a result, the Council approved the allocation of \$10,000 in LoCIP funds to be earmarked for building maintenance at Patriots Park.

Old Business:

- Beach Operations:
 - Patriots Park Beach Schedule:
 - Ms. Rubin explained that after the March meeting, she met with our Aquatics Director, Carmina Valente regarding the Commission’s proposed beach schedule for this summer. It became apparent through further research and “number-crunching” that that plan just would not work for scheduling/lifeguard availability/cost-cutting. As a result, she proposed a new schedule for Patriots Park Monday-Friday, for summer 2016: Gatekeeper begins shift at 12pm, with public beach opening with lifeguard staff at 3pm. After much discussion on the interaction of public and Camp operations, and how to remind those at the beach earlier than 3pm that there is no swimming, Ms. Rubin also suggested bringing in 1 lifeguard to man the beach/assist Camp with free swim.

Jennifer Rodgers moved to reconsider the motion made by Todd Messier at the March 2nd meeting. She then moved to propose a new option based on the new information provided: Gatekeeper at 12pm with beach open at 3pm with full-staff. 1 additional lifeguard will be on-site at 1pm. Jillian Miner seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Jennifer Rodgers, Jillian Miner, Antonia Conti and Marie Gallo-Hall. Motion carried.

- Patriots Park - Organization Visit Rate:

Marie Gallo-Hall moved to accept the Patriots Park Organization Visit Rate of \$35 per van/\$75 per bus. Groups can bring their own lifeguards, or pay the regular lifeguard rate and Coventry Lifeguards may be provided. Arrangements must be made with the office in advance. Antonia Conti seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Jennifer Rodgers, Antonia Conti, Marie Gallo-Hall and Jillian Miner. Motion carried.

- Resident Beach Stickers:

Jennifer Rodgers moved to propose new rates of \$20 for the first vehicle, and \$10 for each additional vehicle (registered to the same household). Nanny Passes will also be made available for purchase by Coventry Residents, and will also be charged \$20 if it is the first pass purchased, or \$10 if it is additional. One-Day Visitor passes will also be made available for purchase by Coventry Residents, for \$5 per day. Marie Gallo-Hall seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Jennifer Rodgers, Antonia Conti, Marie Gallo-Hall, and Jillian Miner. Motion carried.

- Non-Resident Parking Passes at Patriots Park:

- Ms. Rubin reviewed the proposed fee structure discussed at the March meeting, of \$15 per car, Monday-Friday and \$30 per car Saturday/Sunday/Holidays. Ms. Conti noted that we can charge up to double what we charge residents, so why not increase the weekend fees to \$40 per car. Ms. Gallo-Hall noted that that may deter folks from coming to the beach, if it's that expensive.

Jennifer Rodgers moved to increase the Non-Resident Parking Fees at Patriots Park to \$15 per car Monday-Friday, and \$40 per car Saturday/Sunday/Holidays. Antonia Conti seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Jennifer Rodgers, Antonia Conti and Jillian Miner. Motion opposed by Marie Gallo-Hall. Motion carried.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caterina Merriam,
Recreation Supervisor

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.