

**COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2022**

The Coventry Parks & Recreation Commission held a special meeting on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 via ZOOM virtual platform. Marie Gallo-Hall called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

**Member Present:** Marie Gallo-Hall, Beverly Carlson, Bob Martin, Jillian Miner, Jennifer Rodgers (logged in virtually at 6:45pm; in person at 7:22pm), and Pam Miller (arrived at 7:10pm).

**Members Absent:** Ashlee Pascarelli.

**Also Present:** Lesley Munshower, Director of Parks & Recreation and Caterina Merriam, Recreation Supervisor.

**Audience of Citizens:** None.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

**Jillian Miner moved to accept the meeting minutes from February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Beverly Carlson seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Bob Martin, Jillian Miner and Beverly Carlson. Motion carried.**

**Bob Martin moved to accept the meeting minutes from March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Jillian Miner seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Bob Martin, Jillian Miner and Beverly Carlson. Motion carried.**

**Correspondence:**

- Letter from the American Legion Green – Chobot – Richardson Post 52 (attached)

**Chair's Remarks:**

- The Summer edition of the 06238 Program Brochure is out now. Ms. Gallo-Hall remarked that she thought it was wonderful, and is so impressed with the number of different types of camps, not just sports.
- Ms. Gallo-Hall also noted that she went to check in on the fields at Miller Richardson, but was surprised that she was not able to gain access to the football field at the landfill. Ms. Munshower noted that the main gate is locked, but there is another entrance to the side.

**Staff Report:**

A written staff report was distributed to the Commission for their review (attached). Ms. Munshower & Ms. Merriam reviewed certain important items:

- Camp Wangumbaug:
  - Ms. Merriam noted that we have increased capacity for the Explorers program from 75 to 80, which remains within State-recommended ratios while also accommodating the increase in demand.
- Financial Report:
  - Ms. Munshower reported on the Parks & Recreation budget presentation to Town Council in March. Our budget was put through to Town Council as we proposed, with no

changes. We are requesting one-third of the Rec. Supervisor's salary and \$11,000 to allocate to parks to cover utilities and regular expenses from the General Fund, in addition to our current funding. Ms. Gallo-Hall added that the Town Meeting is this Saturday, 4/23.

- Ms. Munshower added that at the upcoming referendum, a question is expected regarding the purchase of some land on South River Road which will be designated as open space.
- Ms. Munshower added that as of today, our budget is in the positive by approximately \$12,000. She added that this is a revolving account and will continue to change between now and the close of the fiscal year.
- Ms. Gallo-Hall noted that she heard from a Panthers Football volunteer who expressed concern regarding the Parks & Recreation-sponsored Flag Football program that is being offered now, through Skyhawks Sports. Ms. Munshower noted that the program is instructional, not a formal league. She added that staff reached out to the Panthers program back in December, prior to scheduling to let them know about the program and to encourage cross-promotion between the programs.

#### **Old Business:**

- Softball Field Committee:
  - Reported under Staff Report (attached).
  - Ms. Munshower announced that Water Wizards has committed to donating irrigation services to the proposed softball fields.
- Miller Richardson Football Field Update:
  - Reported under Staff Report (attached).

#### **New Business:**

- Creaser Park Update:
  - See staff report for Community Garden & DEEP updates.
  - Ms. Gallo-Hall added that it sounds like to install a back 9 for disc golf, we would have to remove a lot of trees. She wondered if this is something we want to do, or if we are happy with the first nine holes. Ms. Carlson asked if the course is popular. Ms. Munshower noted that the back nine is low on the current priority list (1. Tree Removal, 2. Building Demo/Renovation, 3. Pond Evaluation, 4. Pavilion Upgrades, 5. Community Garden, 6. Disc Golf).
  - Ms. Gallo-Hall added that when the time comes, she would like to review the trees to be removed, prior to moving forward on the project. Ms. Gallo-Hall expressed concern that it would be a much larger environmental impact. Ms. Carlson wondered if the current/potential use warrants that kind of project and the costs incurred.
- School Summer Camp Programs:
  - Ms. Munshower said that she had been contacted by a teacher at the Middle School, who has been tasked with planning this year's Board of Ed-sponsored Summer Enrichment Offerings. He wanted information on our programs in an effort to not compete; however we have learned that they may be offering several sports camps. The Commission agreed that those would be in direct competition with our offerings.
- Military Discount:

- Ms. Munshower said that we recently received an inquiry from a parent asking if there is a military discount for camp. She noted that a 10% discount is currently in place for beach stickers and rentals, but it does not appear to be advertised. She said that it would make sense that a discount like this be across the board, rather than for some programs but not others.
- Ms. Gallo-Hall asked about the financial impact, and how many families would be seeking this kind of discount. She asked for staff to conduct some research on local trends and the data on the financial impact.
- Issue tabled until the May regular meeting.
- STEAP Grant Projects:
  - Ms. Munshower said that the Governor has announced that the State has reinstated STEAP grants. A few Parks & Recreation-related projects are being considered, such as the second softball field, and the replacement of the playscape at Patriots Park.

**Adjourn:** With no other business to discuss, Marie Gallo-Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:13pm.

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.