

**COVENTRY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 2023**

The Coventry Parks & Recreation Commission held a meeting on Thursday, February 9th, 2023 in Town Hall Conference Room B & on ZOOM Virtual Application. Marie Gallo-Hall called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Members Present In Person: Jennifer Rodgers (arrived at 6:35pm), Pam Miller (arrived at 6:45pm)

Members Present Virtually: Marie Gallo-Hall, Bob Martin, Beverly Carlson, Ashlee Pascarelli (arrived at 6:34pm)

Members Absent: Jillian Miner

Also Present: Lesley Munshower, Director of Parks & Recreation and Caterina Merriam, Recreation Supervisor (arrived at 7:15pm)

Audience of Citizens: None.

Jennifer Rodgers moved to seat Ashlee Pascarelli for regular member Jillian Miner. Beverly Carlson seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Jennifer Rodgers, Beverly Carlson and Bob Martin. Motion carried.

Beverly Carlson moved to amend the agenda, under Acceptance of Minutes, to approve minutes from January 12th, 2023. Bob Martin seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Bob Martin, Beverly Carlson, Jennifer Rodgers and Ashlee Pascarelli. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Beverly Carlson moved to accept the meeting minutes from January 12th, 2023 with correction of Acceptance of Minutes: minutes accepted should read November 17th, 2022. Ashlee Pascarelli seconded. Motion voted in the affirmative by Marie Gallo-Hall, Jennifer Rodgers, Beverly Carlson, Bob Martin and Ashlee Pascarelli. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Email from John Thayer re: Pickleball Courts in Coventry (attached)

Chair's Remarks:

- Marie Gallo-Hall thanked Ms. Munshower for her written testimony on HB 6574 on February 7th, 2023 to the CT Committee on Children.

Staff Report:

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

- Main Street Partners ZOOM: Outdoor Spaces:
 - Ms. Gallo-Hall asked Ms. Munshower to expand on training. Ms. Munshower reported that the group is mostly focused on sports fields & accessibility.

- **Budget:**
 - Ms. Munshower reported that the Recreation Budget Presentation to the Town Council will be on Monday, March 20th at 7:30pm.
- **Facilities:**
 - Miller Richardson:
 - Ms. Pascarelli reported that the Northeast Panther Football & Cheer club is currently recruiting board members.
 - Patriots Park:
 - Ms. Munshower reported that the installation of internet at the park may be eligible for ARPA funds through the “Community Wellness Phase 2” with CEN service provider for schools, libraries & municipalities. Ms. Miller noted that it is also needed for police boat security.
 - Mill Brook Place:
 - Ms. Munshower reported that there were issues with the heat in the building on 2/4 & 2/5. She reported that while we did not have any rentals booked in the building that weekend, it had the potential of being a huge problem.
- **Basketball:**
 - Ms. Munshower reported that Coventry is the host site for several rec & travel tournament games in the coming weeks. Ms. Gallo-Hall asked for the tournament dates & times so Commission members could attend.
- **Special Events/Other News:**
 - Ms. Munshower reported that Booth & Dimock Library will be using Mill Brook Place, Wednesday-Friday in the month of March while their building is closed due to construction (free of charge). Ms. Gallo-Hall asked if this will impact rentals at all. Ms. Munshower noted that it will not; Library staff will break down for weekend rentals.
- **Programs:**
 - Ms. Munshower noted that Ms. Merriam is spending approximately 5-10 hours per week at the Afterschool program, for daily check ins.
 - Someone Special Dance:
 - Ms. Munshower noted that a few youth attendees are attending the dance with families other than their own, which is seemingly turning the event into a “youth dance.” Ms. Miller suggested restricting registration to 1 child per 1 adult to curb this.

Old Business:

- Miller Richardson Park Update:
 - Reported under Staff Report.
- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training:
 - Staff will resend the link to the Commission members for their completion of the training.

New Business:

- HB 6574 – An Act Concerning Municipal Youth Camps
 - Ms. Munshower noted that the Public Hearing was held on February 7th. Ms. Munshower submitted testimony, along with several other Parks & Recreation professionals. The State of CT Office of Early Childhood also submitted testimony.

Adjourn: With no other business to discuss, Jennifer Rodgers adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm.

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.