

Wallingford Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 10, 2024 @ 5:30 PM
6 Fairfield Blvd. Wallingford
Room 4 Conference Room

- **Call Meeting to Order:** John Sullivan called the meeting to order @ 5:30 pm
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call**

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman John Sullivan, Vice Chairman Don Crouch, Lori Cooke-Marra, Lars Edeen, Steve Rossacci

Commissioners Absent: none

Recreation Department Staff Present: Kenny Michaels, Director of Parks & Recreation, Shawn Keogh, Recreation Program Specialist

- **Approval of prior meeting(s) minutes (December 13, 2023)**

A motion was made by Steve Rossacci and seconded by Lori Cooke-Marra to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2023 meeting. Vote: Unanimous

- **Public Comment (10 minutes) – Concetta Misiti:** A Wallingford resident for 29 years and she currently resides in Rocky Hill. She attends the Parks & Rec health fitness classes. She recently participated in a Zumba class this past fall on Tuesday nights. It was decided to not offer that particular Zumba class on Tuesdays going forward due to noise complaints. The established classes that were in the rooms next door, were complaining that the noise level was too high. Concetta asked if there were any other areas in the building that this Tuesday night Zumba class can meet so it would not disturb any other classes, or any other places in town that this class be offered. Kenny stated that we have designated rooms in the Parks & Rec building that are designed for health and fitness classes, and the schools are not used as an alternative for fitness classes. Lori Cooke-Marra wanted to know why was the class assigned to a room that was next to classes that are typically quieter. Shawn mentioned that it was moved to another room after there was a complaint, to see if the new room would solve the problem, but it did not. Lars Edeen asked if the classes can be staggered so there is not an issue. Kenny said that the instructors are available at certain times of the day to teach classes and we have to schedule around their availability. Concetta was wondering if there are any rules for the building that certain noise level is unacceptable. Kenny said that there are no rules. The Zumba class was a new class and the time slot didn't work due to the other established classes being disturbed. Concetta was wondering if other programs were getting complaints on Tuesday nights due to noise complaints. Shawn stated he has not received any complaints for any other classes or programs. The instructor was offered an alternate night to teach that Zumba class, but she was

unavailable. John Sullivan asked how many Zumba classes are being offered. Shawn stated we have five Zumba classes being offered, just not on Tuesday nights. Concetta asked if in the future sound proofing would be considered. Kenny said its not in the plans for the near future.

- **Porta Potties Harrison Park** - Lori Cooke-Marra spoke with someone who utilizes the Pickleball courts, and they expressed the need to have the Porta Potties left out at Harrison Park because the Pickleball courts are being used into the winter months. Kenny stated that the Porta Potties are usually removed from most parks in mid-November. The Harrison Park Porta Potties remained at the park for an extra six weeks. They will be put back in around mid-March.
- **Pickleball** – John Sullivan stated that Pickleball is a well participated sport in town. He thought it would be beneficial to increase the Pickleball programs because the courts are being used regularly. Kenny stated that we already are offering many Pickleball lessons and they fill up quickly.
- **Director Updates** – Kenny Michaels (See attached)

Next Parks & Recreation Meeting Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Motion to adjourn made by: Don Crouch and Seconded by Steve Rossacci Vote: Unanimous

Adjourned @ 6:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Loriann Ouellette
Wallingford Parks & Recreation

Recreation Commission Director's Report January 9, 2024

Programs/Events:

- Fall Program Numbers

186 Total

22 Canceled

164 Activities Ran

88% running Rate

2860 participants

- Seasons of Celebrations and the Holiday Stroll events were very successful. Even with the rain on Friday night for stroll the event was very well attended. Saturday Frosty Parade/Tree Lighting and Visits with Santa was also well attended with estimated 2500 people coming through the event.
- Summer Playground, Pop Shot / Tiny Bubbles and Summer Sizzlers Registration will take place beginning in March. Dates TBD.

Projects/Facilities:

- Recently had fence repairs completed at Kendrick Park to repair damaged poles and fabric at the entrance of the park.
- Met with the Town's fencing contractor to received pricing on fence fabric and pole repairs on the softball fields at Pragemann Park (Awaiting on Quotes)
- In the process of soliciting quotes on a new playground slide for Pire Park
- Received quotes on the shoreline land clearing at community lake. Weather has not been cooperative to schedule the work for completion.
- Working with Wallingford Little League on the installation of (2) scoreboards at Vietnam Veterans Park. Funded through ARPA money received by the league.

Upcoming –

- Look to extend dugouts at Prag Fields 1-4 using Prag Endowment
- Discuss Potential Landscape Design Project for Dutton
- Discuss Lufbury Pavilion and Playground upgrades in current 2023-2024 budget
- Begin discussion and budget prep for the 2024-2025 budget
- 2024 Spring Summer Field Users Meetings with Various Leagues