Board of Recreation Meeting

Monday, July 22, 2019

Community Center

6:00pm

1. Call to Order: M. Phillips called the meeting to order @ 6:01PM .
2. Roll Call: Present: M. Phillips, T. Mason- Recreation Director, M. Calorio- town Manager, M. Johndrow, F. Beriau Council Liaison: Lynn LaBerge,

Absent without notification: C. Dunn, J. Milliard Absent w/notification:

H. Flexer

1. Citizen’s Participation: N/A
2. Correspondence:
   1. T. Mason reported Anthony Eisley, Asst. Director, received a plaque for helping the last two years with the *Run for Ryan* scholarship foundation. Anthony has been instrumental in helping the family with the race. The French family has become strong supporters and helpers of the recreation department.
3. Adoption of Minutes: L. LaBerge made the motion to accept the minutes for the April 22, 2019 meeting M. Johndrow seconds. No further discussion passes unanimously.
4. Unfinished Business:
   1. Community Center: T. Mason reports discussion between the town staff and board of education have taken place. This time there was much more movement towards an agreeable option of space for use of the Community Center at the Westfield Ave. site. M. Calorio also reports progress is moving along with a company that will do an assessment on costs of the move. This will be kept separate from another cost the town will have to incur for the building itself regardless of the whether or not the Community Center moves. M. Phillips asks about the advisory committee that once had been brought up. M. Calorio explains this is something she believes is best worked through between the two entities of town and school departments prior to any input. The board would then be informed of progress rather than having too many outside suggestions/thoughts brought into the equation.
   2. Field Locations/usage fees: M. Phillips shares this has been on the agenda and recent evaluations and discussions with T. Mason have taken place: soccer paying $500 per season (2x/year for a total of $1,000)this is not unreasonable to charge a nominal fee to help recover some cost with both the Legion and Little League programs. Legion has been doing a banner/sponsor program which the board instituted several years ago to help with recovering cost at 15% of the money collected for banners. There was a motion made by M. Johndrow to request Legion continue to work with this agreement but to add a minimum of $500 be collected should the 15% not cover the cost, with the option of the board to re-evaluate after 3 years’ time, seconded by F. Beriau no further discussion and passed unanimously. M. Phillips and T. Mason will work on language to be put into an official letter to legion. Similar thoughts were discussed regarding the Little League program as well. The board discussed using the soccer program as a base to set a fee of $1000 per year. A motion is made by L. LaBerge to charge the Killingly Little League program $1,000 which will continue to include the fertilization mowing, and weed whacking of the fields in Danielson and Dayville. This agreement will be reviewed after 3 years. Seconded by M. Johndrow, no further discussion and passed unanimously. M. Phillips and T. Mason will work with language for an official letter to be sent to little league regarding this.
   3. Outside league/organizations w/sponsors/fundraising: T. Mason explains depending on the percentage of rostered players for a team residing in Killingly the department has been charging a resident or non-resident fees to cover the cost of employees. Update only, no other discussion.
   4. Public parks smoking ordinance: discussion ensues regarding the amount of questions/comments from the public regarding smoking. While it’s the town’s policy there is no smoking, there are no consequences for someone smoking. M. Calorio also reports the town’s legal counsel feels going with an ordinance is not the best practice as it can lead to further issues. M. Calorio will be bring this forward to the ordinance committee as the town’s liaison to that board. She will also be researching examples of signage that may encourage no smoking in certain areas.
5. New Business:
   1. Hygeia: T. Mason has received some reports/comments/complaints in regards to Hygeia, items such as smoking on the beach, dogs without leashes, out of town vehicles, fishing in the swimming area, foul language, people walking on nature areas instead of sand or paths. The department/town recognizes these reports, there currently is certain signage regarding these items. It is not feasible to have it monitored by a person. This comes from both a fiscal standpoint as well as a liability stand point being a swim at your own risk facility. M. Calorio has also received a couple comments/complaints but assures the board it is not specific to Hygeia. The problem exists with a number of water areas around the town, some of which are state operated. The park staff, at this point, have not had issues with the maintenance which includes garbage etc. at the swimming area. Also the area is raked and checks to make sure existing structures are safe. L. LaBerge addresses in the past we to paid lifeguards etc. but cannot see how we would be able to maintain keeping Hygeia open if we had to go back to this.
   2. Updates :
      1. Completed programs: Basketball, theater first session and golf all had good numbers and great reviews. Red, White and Blue was a success with good comments for the band and fireworks display. All seemed to enjoy the evening.
      2. Our Camp program is completely full and is now half way through the summer program. Football camp, one of our new programs has good attendance and starting tonight, theater’s second session is in its final week. Our fitness programs are also running, we have two concerts remaining, with the end of summer event of Bike Night on August 15th.
6. Director’s Report: Alex Mercier, Recreation Supervisor, has submitted his resignation effective August 9, 2019. Alex is leaving to pursue other areas of his life and the department wishes him well. With the position becoming available it is the intent to find someone who will fill the position for the upcoming basketball season as well as summer camp director position. It has been helpful to have that Recreation Supervisor serve as camp director. It gives more oversight prior to camp and affords the ability to work closely with staff. Gabby LaRose and Gunner (Josh) Lyon have been placed as assistants this year. We feel they have done a nice job. Going forward if they remain with camp next year we are assured to have some consistency with whomever we bring in.
7. Other: NA.
8. Liaison Report: At a June town meeting the taxpayers approved transferring $293,662 to the BOE non-lapsing account. At the July town meeting the taxpayers approved selling the armory and the last parcel of land in the industrial park. The town council reviewed the draft report from the charter revision commission. The council voted not to accept the first change about town wide voting for the chair. The council asked for two small changes on two others-one about citizens being able to serve on more than one board or commission - only one regulatory position and one regular board or commission, and increase the number of signatures needed for a petition from 150 to 250. At the August town council meeting we will discuss and vote on a question concerning adding a question pertaining to term limits. The question is about extending the length of term served to 4 years. Terms would be staggered where the districts seats would be voted on and then the at-large members would be voted on. A presentation was given to the town council by Titan Energy for solar energy opportunities on school and municipal buildings. There are different areas panels can be placed-rooftop, ground and carport. Greenskies will cover all costs. The council voted to add a question to the November ballot concerning town wide curb side trash, recycling, and bulky waste pick-up. Should the Town transition to a town-wide curbside trash disposal service for residential households? There will be three public informational meetings held in September.
9. Adjourned: Motioned made by L. LaBerge to adjourn. M. Johndrow seconds, no further discussion, meeting adjourned @ 7:16PM.