

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
December 13, 2021

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Present: Chairman C.J. Kersten, Commissioners Joe Fredlund, Sheila Anson, Ray Reich, Greg Kraft.
Coordinator Connie Chapin; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

Call to Order: Chairman C.J. Kersten called the meeting to order at 5:34p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. By Ray Reich, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Connie Chapin reported on the following:

- **Holiday in the Depot:** All went well – great evening! The collaborative effort of Parks and Rec and the Washington Business Association went well and should continue. The various organizations that participated were all pleased. Santa did a wonderful job greeting the many children and listening to their wishes. The horse drawn wagon was smaller than in years past in an effort to have less people crowded together because of COVID but the route was shortened so the same number of riders could be accommodated - some folks had to wait a bit longer for their ride. Clean up went smoothly. Some thoughts for next year: volunteers to help decorate before the event, larger “truck parade”, consideration of improving parking in the Depot.
- **WPAL:** Program passed inspection. Policies and procedures are now up-do-date and staff meetings will be held monthly. Attendance is up – averaging 18 participants a day.
- **Morning Swim:** presently 30 swimmers are enrolled. There have been no complaints about the price increase.
- **Family Skate:** Program started on 11/28/21 at the Frederick Gunn School rink and the participation has started to increase. Cost is \$5/person per session; \$65/person for season or \$165/family for season. Rumsey Hall School has offered their rink (day and time to be determined) for both open skate and learn-to-skate. Rumsey hockey players willing to teach. Free. Rumsey has also offered use of their “snow gun” for winter festivities.
- **Karate:** Connie will invite Fran Caco to the next meeting of the Commission to discuss the program and Parks and Rec sponsorship.
- **Pavilion Stalls-options:** Connie has received an estimate for purchasing and installing new stalls in both bathrooms. It was decided to purchase (through Buildings and Properties budget funds) and have installed by Larry Cable.
- **Porta-a-Pottie:** Installed for the winter.
- **Pavilion Rental Fees:** It has been customary to waive the use fee for non-profits renting the Pavilion. However, the deposit still has been collected but at a minimal rate. There was discussion of use of the facility for numerous days has created more than usual clean-up, some repairs, removal of spilled paint, etc. **Motion:** To increase the deposit to \$125 per day for the length of the rental (i.e.: if the facility is rented for 7 days the required deposit would be \$875). By Greg Kraft, seconded by Sheila Anson and unanimously approved. Joe Fredlund recommended the policy and rental form be reviewed and updated.

- **Tennis Courts:** plugs will be ordered for the holes that are present when the nets are removed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Golf Program through University of Hartford:** The golf coach from U of H has offered a golf program to be held at the Pavilion. As there is another program offered in Town, the Commissioners postponed a decision on this until they could evaluate the effect a new program would – or would not – have on the existing program.
- **Pickleball at WPS:** The Region has given permission to use the gym at WPS for pickleball. However, the space would not be available until 7:45p.m. As this may be a deterrent to participation, Connie recommended doing a survey to determine interest.
- **Wish list for capital projects at the Pavilion/River Walk Park:** new picnic tables; repairing woodpecker damage and repainting; resealing of the floor and construction of outdoor pickleball courts.

Chairman's Report: C.J. Kersten reported the following:

- **Good luck to all winter sport teams.**
- **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!**

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:36p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Clerk