Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024

**Call to Order**: Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Armory.

**Roll Call:** In attendance: Vice Chairman, Fran Ducotey, Commissioners Jim Pescatore, Casey McKenna, and Recreation Director Bobby Pentino.

**Adoption of Previous Month’s Minutes**: On a motion by Fran Ducotey with a second by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 7, 2024 commission meeting.

**Correspondence**: None

**Citizen’s Comments**: None

**Committee Updates**

**Facility Requests**

**Coe Park**

1. Alicia Peterson, Trails to Wellness, July 25. Motion to approve with fees by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Jim Pescatore and unanimous approval.
2. Alicia Peterson, Overdose Awareness Vigil, August 29. Motion to approve with fees by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous approval.
3. Eve Forrester, American Red Cross, Blood Drive on May 29. Motion to approve by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Fran Ducotey and unanimous approval.
4. Jeff Seiser, Boy Scouts of America, Veterans Tribute Ceremony, May 4. Motion to approve without fees by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Jim Pescatore and unanimous approval.
5. Matt Pagano, Tour of Litchfield Hills, August 4. Motion to approve by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Jim Pescatore and unanimous approval. Discussion occurred about the charging of fees. Some commissioners remembered a fee compromise initiated many years ago by former superintendent Brett Simmons.

**Babe Ruth Field (Romaniello Field)**

1. Mike McKenna, Torrington High School, for practice and games. Motion to approve by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Jim Pescatore and unanimous approval.

**Major Besse field**

1. Pastor Steve Darr, First Congregational Church, Easter Egg Hunt, March 30. Motion to approve with no fees by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous approval.

**Fuessenich Park**

1. RJ Poniatoski, American Legion, for various dates in June and July. Referred to field scheduling meeting next week.

**Programs**

Director Pentino reported:

1. Easter Egg Hunt, March 16 at Christmas Village. Fees have been removed.
2. Field Scheduling meeting on March 11.
3. Two sites for Summer Camp Program.
4. There is interest in a Zumba Program.
5. Very little interest in Meditation Program.
6. Commissioner McKenna reported that the NW Vocal Showcase is in the planning stages.

**Sports**

Director Pentino reported:

1. Softball registration is in progress.
2. Race at Major Besse Park is being planned.
3. He has met with Shannon regarding plans for the pool opening. The pool will be opened for one more week and the hours are tentatively planned for 12:00 to 6:00.
4. A volleyball court will be constructed at Bannon St. Park.
5. He is in zoom meetings in the planning for the skate board park. Commissioners reiterated that the basketball court needs to remain in the plans.

**Capital/Budget**

Director Pentino shared the Coe Memorial Capital Budget, the Coe Memorial Park Operational Budget, and the Recreation Budget with commissioners. Discussion occurred along with the explanations.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to approve all the presented budgets.

**Facility Operations** – no report

**Coe Memorial Park**: Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the February 21, 2024 Coe Memorial Park committee meeting.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Other Business** – None

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Patricia Fairchild, Chairperson.