**Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 3, 2024**

**Call to Order**: Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Armory.

**Roll Call:** In attendance were commissioners, Jim Pescatore, Mike Fritch, Casey McKenna and Recreation Director, Bobby Pentino.

**Adoption of Previous Month’s Minutes**: On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 6, 2024 commission meeting.

**Correspondence**: Director Pentino received a letter from Brooklyn Koch with a request to improve and add on to Oxbow Park.

**Citizen’s Comments**: None

On a motion by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to change the order of the agenda and go into **New Business.**

Sage Mann, Mayor’s Committee on Youth and Mayor Elinor Carbone presented a proposal to build raised garden beds at the Teen Center. Vegetables will be raised for the community and provide an educational resource for the teens. After much discussion, Bobby Pentino will check into the sun exposure at the Teen Center to see if there is a suitable growing spot. Commissioner Fritch suggested they enter into discussion with the Senior Center for cooperative activities. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Mike Fritch, the commission voted unanimously to approve the project.

**Committee Updates**

**Facility Requests**

**Armory**

1. Chris Smedick, PAL, Mondays only for basketball from April 8, 2024 until June 3, 2024. Motion to approve with fees to cover attendants cost by Casey McKenna seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.
2. Chris Smedick, PAL, July 20, 2024, 3 on 3 basketball. Motion to approve with a $180 flat fee by Casey McKenna, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.
3. Erik Idrovo, TPLS, October 2024 – April 2025 for indoor mini soccer. Pre-approved by Bobby Pentino at $100 a night.
4. Lion’s Club, November 8, 2024, for annual craft fair. Motion to approve with no fees by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous approval.

**Coe Park**

1. Dean Dziedzic, Torrington Road Race, August 11, 2024. Motion to approve pending the receiving of an insurance certificate by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.
2. Nate Nardi-Cyrus, Earth Day Cleanup. April 20, 2024. Motion to approve with no fees by Mike Fritch, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous approval.
3. Chris Smedick, July 20, 2024, Back Pack Giveaway. Motion to approve with$120 flat fee by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.

**Programs**

Director Pentino reported:

1. There will be a separate Christmas Village meeting to discuss the opening of the village for 2024.
2. There will be food trucks at the summer concerts at Coe Park.
3. Possible Music Bingo at Coe Park.
4. Possible Movie Night at Fuessenich Park featuring “The Sandlot”.
5. The Youth Running program will begin on April 24th.
6. The playground at Ruwet Park is progressing.
7. The pickle ball courts in Fuessenich are still waiting to be painted. Waiting for approval.
8. Summer concerts have been booked.
9. Lindsay will contact Miss Connecticut for Northwest Showcase. She is working with Casey.
10. We are partnering with Club 24 for Zumba classes at Coe Park.
11. Softball will begin on April 22. There are 32 teams.
12. Bobby shared the new design plans for the skate park with a half court for basketball. As this was not the design voted on by the commission, there was much discussion and concern.
13. On a motion by Mike Fritch, seconded by Casey McKenna, the commission voted to disapprove the new plan.

**Capital/Budg**et: No Report

**Facility Operations**: No Report

**Coe Memorial Park**: Minutes from the Coe Memorial Park Committee for the March 20, 2024 meeting were accepted by the commission.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Business**: None

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Mike Fritch and seconded by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Patricia Fairchild, Chairperson.