**Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 4, 2023**

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the Armory. In attendance were commissioners Fran Ducotey, Jim Pescatore, Mike Fritch, Casey McKenna, and Public Works Director Ray Drew.

**Adoption of Previous Month’s Minutes**: On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Mike Fritch, the commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2022 commission meeting.

**Correspondence:** 1. The commission shared expressions of sympathy from many organizations and individuals on the passing of Superintendent Brett Simmons. 2. A copy of the check with a donation to Christmas Village in Brett’s memory from the City Clerk’s Office was included in the meeting packet. 3. A copy of the check for $500 to Christmas Village from the Torrington Area Parkinson’s Support Group was also included.

**Citizen’s Comments**: None

**Committee Updates**

**Facility Use:**

1. Coe Memorial Park: Matt Pagano, Cancer Care Fund, for Tour of Litchfield Hills race, August 6, 2023, 2a.m. to 6 p.m. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously in approval with agreed upon fees.
2. Coe Memorial Park: Katie Sterk-Grass, Susan B. Anthony for Sexual Assault Awareness Vigil, April 27, 2023. On a motion by Fran Ducotey with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously in favor.
3. Coe Memorial Park, Erin McCall, American Red Cross Blood Drive, December 30, 2022. Pre-approved.
4. Armory, Katie Pelletier, Thomaston basketball practice, January 5, 2023. Pre-approved.

**Programs:**

**Christmas Village**: Discussion and recap of the 2022 season.

* No totals yet on the contributions received. Everything still being tallied.
* Commissioner Fritch asked about the total attendance numbers. That is unknown at this time, but will be looked into.
* Cost of police for the village - $10,000.
* Thank you to the 75th Anniversary Committee and to the Public Works employees for their efforts throughout this trying and emotional season. Commissioner McKenna suggested that the committee be kept together for future planning.
* An SOP is needed for the future operation of the village.
* It was decided to reorder 250 more ornaments.
* Ed Cannata will be consulted as to the possibility of having a Department 56 building be created of Christmas Village.
* Commissioner Ducotey said it was necessary to check on when the chimneys were last inspected.
* Jim Pescatore and Fran Ducotey will meet with the Elks on next year’s Annual Pledge Drive.
* Commissioner McKenna stated that there are several renovations needed at the village. Ray Drew stated that there are plans to inspect all city buildings for needs, repairs, etc.

**Programming continued:**

* Ray spoke of the procedures followed in choosing a replacement for Brett on a temporary basis. He stated that Ed McCann will hopefully be hired in the next few weeks, working around 20 hours per week.
* Programs that need to be attended to soon include softball, Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Concert Series, pool, fireworks.
* Talent Show has been cancelled.
* Easter Egg Hunt will be April 1st and a rain date of April 2nd. Mike Fritch will check with the high school football field availability.

**Sports:**

* Ty Kittle will begin planning of men’s basketball program.
* Jim Pescatore will meet with Brian Latulipe and Ken Frizzo on planning for the next softball season.

**Capital/Budget**: Ray is working on the budgets.

**Facility Operations**:

* There have been issues with the boiler at the Teen Center. Facilities Director, Jaime Sykora, has been working on the problem.
* The scoreboard at Fuessenich has been repaired by Pete Battistoni so we are not inclined to replace it now.
* Ray will hold a zoom meeting with New Line Skate Park to develop language for the design of the new skate park.
* The new wiring of Coe Memorial Park has been put out to bid. Work should begin in the spring.
* With the acquiring of more land, Joe Ruwet Park will expand in size. The old playscape has been removed because of safety concerns and a new one is out to bid.

**Coe Memorial Park**: There was no meeting held.

**Old Business**: None

**New Business**: None

**Other Business**: Casey McKenna extended a thank you to Ray Drew for his efforts since Brett’s passing.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Mike Fritch with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Patricia Fairchild, Chairperson.