**Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 1, 2023**

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Armory. In attendance were Vice Chairman Fran Ducotey, commissioners Jim Pescatore, Casey McKenna, Recreation Director Bobby Pentino, and Public Works Director Ray Drew.

**Adoption of Previous Month’s Minutes:** On a motion by Fran Ducotey with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2023, commission meeting.

**Correspondence:** None

**Citizen’s Comments**: Seth Rubino, Civil Air Patrol, addressed the commission about the moldy smell from the floors in the Armory basement. Director Pentino said he would contact Jamie Sykora in regards to painting the floors. Seth also asked about the possibility of using Fuessenich Park for flying drones. Ray Drew suggested Bishop Donnelly field or the landfill as possible sites.

**Committee Updates**

**Facility Requests**

Oak Avenue

1. Jeff Gryniuk, Burlington Blue Sox, for baseball game on October 28, 2023. Preapproved.

Franklin Plaza

1. Heather Rems Korwin, Sanctuary Power Yoga, for Holiday Marketplace on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Motion to approve with large event fees and proof of insurance by Casey McKenna, seconded by Fran Ducotey and unanimous approval.

**Programs**

Director Pentino reported:

1. Fall softball leagues are completed.
2. Girls’ softball games were moved to Toro.
3. Indoor volleyball games going well at Middle School.
4. Bocce courts are opened. Vincenzo Visciarello will help with organizing leagues.
5. At Joe Ruwet field, the outfield fence has been moved back, deeper than usual. Drainage is being worked on. Franklin Fence to do fencing on Monday. Bobby has four quotes for the new playscape to be installed in the spring. On a motion by Jim Pescatore and seconded by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to accept the director’s recommendation for the new playscape.
6. Bobby has reviewed and established new field usage fees. On a motion by Fran Ducotey with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to accept the new field usage fees.
7. Nineteen applications have been received for the new office position. Jim Pescatore has volunteered to assist Bobby with the interviews.

Christmas Village:

Chairperson Fairchild reported:

1. The commission will have a booth at the Holiday Fair on Saturday to sell the 75th Anniversary ornaments.
2. The Altrusa Club will decorate Coe Memorial Park Civic Center on Tuesday, November 21st at 1:00.
3. Light Up Main will be held on Friday, November 24th. The commission will distribute popcorn and hot chocolate at Coe Memorial Park.
4. On December 8th, Bobby, Fran, and Pat will be on-air at WZBG to speak about the opening activities for Christmas Village.
5. On December 8th, The Annual Fund Drive for Christmas Village will take place at the Elks from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Jim Pescatore and Fran Ducotey will meet with the Elks for final arrangements. Casey McKenna will check with his brother for the music.
6. Volunteers will be utilized to help at the village. A list will be formulated and Tom from Public Works will make a list of suggested duties for the volunteers.
7. Fran Ducotey is continuing to contact Dunkin about providing cups and hot cocoa for the village.
8. Jim Pescatore will contact Reverend Steve Darr to do the opening day invocation.
9. Casey McKenna will find a singer for opening day.
10. Still River Gardens has found a tree for the center court of the village. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to purchase the 14ft. Norway Spruce.

**Sports:** Included in Program report.

**Capital/Budget**: Ray Drew handed out copies of the Budget Performance Report for Coe Godfrey and Recreation.

**Facility Operations**:

1. Color picks for the new pickle ball courts at Fuessenich were discussed. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to pick the green/blue scheme.
2. The wall abutting the pickle ball courts will be painted white with recreational themed paintings.

**Coe Memorial Park**: Minutes were received and recommendations will be considered by the appropriate personnel.

**Old Business**: None

**New Business**: On a motion by Fran Ducotey with a second by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to approve the meeting calendar for the 2024 year.

Other Business: None

**Adjournmen**t: On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:24 p.m.

Minutes written and submitted by Patricia Fairchild.