

**ASHFORD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL RECREATION OFFICE
TUESDAY, 11/13/23 7:00 PM**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. Director Sherry York was present. Members present were Neil Gordon, Andrew Doering, and Leslie Bizilj. Steve Galinat was seated for Dan Kehoe and Amanda Holden was seated for Garth Bean.
 - A. **Public to be Heard:** One member of the public was present to be heard.
 - i. Nora Galvin shared a website she created called AsfordCToutdoors.org. This website includes every public open space area in town from hiking trails to playgrounds. It is specific to the town of Ashford only. She is open to feedback on how to improve the site and welcomes emails at ashfordctoutdoors@gmail.com.
 - ii. A Recommendation for Baseball and Softball Field Maintenance was shared. A M-ALL representative was not present to discuss this. Field Maintenance will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - B. **Financial Report:** Currently, Ashford Parks and Recreation still maintains 65% of its projected budget. The projected budget was \$153,897.00 and we have only spent \$43,859.00. In addition, Ashford Parks and Recreation has taken in about \$14,000.00 since 7/1/2023.
 - C. **Minutes from October:** Minutes from the October 2023 meeting were reviewed by the commissioners.
 - i. Sherry York pointed out errors in the following sections of the minutes.
 - a. Amanda Holden made a motion to correct the spelling of “*Parkes and Recreation*” to “*Parks and Recreation*”, correct “*PMP*” to “*PHMP*”, and change the word “*corse*” to “*course*”. Andrew Doering seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Neil Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2023 minutes with the approved corrections. Leslie Bizilj seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.
2. **Old Business**
 - A. **Fall Program:**
 - i. **Halloween Party:** The Halloween Party occurred at Camp ConnRi. There were crafts, a trick-or-treat trail, and an apple slingshot.
 - ii. **Turkey Trot:** There were about 60 people. Lots of tasty Thanksgiving treats were raffled off. The Ashford Parks and Recreation spent \$73.00
 - iii. **Gymnastics:** no report
 - iv. **Start Smart Soccer:** no report
 - v. **Quiet Corner Challenge:** This event went very well and was quick.

- B. Upcoming Basketball Season:** Basketball money is coming in. All levels have at least one team. The boy's 5th & 6th-grade level has two teams. They are looking for more girls at the 7th and 8th grade level.
- C. Carol Sing-planning:** The Carol Sing will happen on the first Sunday in December. APRC will serve soup, bread, cookies, and cocoa. The Babcock Band will provide music. APRC members are responsible for bringing cookies.
- D. Ashford Memorial Park-fields and security:** Recently, a car was broken into in AMP. Additional events that have been noticed by APRC staff were shared. Ways to increase security were discussed.

3. New Business:

A. Meeting Schedule for 2024: Neil Gordon made a motion to have the Ashford Parks and Recreation Commission meet on the 2nd Monday of each month unless there is a legal holiday. If so, the commission will meet on the Tuesday following the holiday. Steve Galinat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Budget Request, Capital Improvements discussions: Currently, Sherry is getting bids for the following projects to submit for Capital Improvements.

- i. AMP Basketball Court Resurfacing:** discussion ensued regarding whether or not to include new basketball hoops. The commission decided to include these when looking for bids.
- ii. Cameras for AMP:** discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of installing cameras at AMP. Bids and more information will be sought out ASAP.
- iii. Other:** No other projects were discussed

C. Reminder no meeting in December. January budget meeting.

D. Miscellaneous: Sherry received a thank you note from the UConn AIAA Rocketry Team Project. They hope to continue to launch small rockets at the park.

- i. Andrew Doering** made a motion to allow the UConn AIAA Rocketry Team to continue to use AMP to launch their rockets. Neil Gordon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Closing- adjourn

- i. Amanda Holden** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Neil Gordon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.