

ASHFORD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL RECREATION OFFICE
TUESDAY, 1/8/24 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 Leslie Bizilj. Steve Galinat was seated for Dan Kehoe, Dave Roston was seated for Neil Gordon, and Amanda Holden was seated for Garth Bean. Andrew Doering joined the meeting at 7:28 p.m.
 - A. **Public to be Heard:** No members of the public were present to be heard.
 - i. Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations for the Baseball and Softball Field Maintenance shared at a previous meeting. There were concerns shared about the condition of the fields and the home plate of the softball field. A M-ALL representative was absent to discuss this and a message was left with a board member of M-ALL. Field Maintenance will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - B. **Financial Report:** The fiscal year-to-date budget looks good. Two items are over budget: mowing and program expenses. The mowing for the parks has changed to a new individual therefore the cost has increased.
 - i. Leslie Bizilj motioned to accept the financial report for the fiscal year-to-date. Dave Roston seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - C. **Minutes from October:** Minutes from the November 2023 meeting were reviewed by the commissioners.
 - i. Leslie Bizilj motioned to approve the minutes from the November 2023 minutes. Andrew Doering seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

2. **Old Business**
 - A. **December program updates**
 - i. A bus trip to NYC occurred and 8 Ashford residents participated.
 - ii. The Carol Sing went well with about 85 people attending even with rainy weather. The soup was well received and Santa came to take pictures.
 - iii. Basketball is going strong. Unfortunately, the JV-level (9th & 10th grade) team is having difficulty finding enough players. 1st and 2nd grade instructional basketball started on Saturday with 22 kids. Smaller hoops that adapt the normal height of the basketball hoops are used. These were purchased in 2008 and are still in good condition.
 - iv. Ice Skating occurred on Sunday. Even in the snowstorm, 13 people attended this event.

3. New Business:

A. Reviewing proposed budget and capital improvements to Ashford Recreation

- i.** Sherry reviewed the Annual Report. A discussion occurred regarding the start of a community theater.
- ii.** Dave Roston reviewed the Ashford Recreation proposed budget by each line item. A line item titled: Rec-Grant Funded Program was added for received grants. There is a requested increase to the Recreation Director's salary, a projected port-a-let cost increase, and an increase in contracted services.
- iii.** Discussion occurred over the proposed budget. The APRC reviewed the numbers and agreed to accept the proposed budget with amendments as discussed.
- iv.** Sherry is getting bids for the following projects to submit for Capital Improvements. These would include the Ashford Memorial Park Basketball court resurfacing, cameras for Ashford Memorial Park, and repair of the wooden overlook and bridges at Pompey Hollow Park.

B. Spring Programs

- i.** Ashford Parks and Recreation will be asked to participate in the Ashford School Jamboree in the spring.
- ii.** Tiny Tumblers is in the works, as well as a Pickleball 101 class.

4. Closing- adjourn

- i.** Amanda Holden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Galinat seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting ended at 9:34 p.m.