

**ASHFORD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN HALL RECREATION OFFICE  
TUESDAY, 6/12/23 7:00 PM**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. Director Sherry York was present. Members present were Andrew Doering, Neil Gordon, Dan Kehoe, Amanda Holden, and Leslie Bizilj. Steve Galian was the only member of the public present.
  - A. **Public to be Heard:** No public members volunteered for comment.
  - B. **Financial Report YTD:** The current financial report presented is for the period of 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023.
    - i. **Expenses:** Overall \$131,380 of the \$133,160 budget has been spent.
      1. \$28,000 was budgeted for Programs and \$28,678 were spent.
      2. \$54,000 was budgeted for Administration and \$62,000 was spent.
      3. \$13,600 was budgeted for Grounds Maintenance and \$6,000 was spent. However, the amount spent will soon change as the Recreational Department owes for the cost of mowing and money to the port-a-let company.
      4. \$1,262 was budgeted for Benefits and \$1,016 was spent.
      5. About \$3,000 is still needing to be paid by the end of the fiscal year.
    - ii. **Income:** Current income is \$29,293. Usually, the income from years before COVID was around \$35,000. Due to COVID, the budget has been set more conservatively at \$30,000 per year. The Parks and Recreation Department is anticipated to take in \$37,000 this fiscal year.
  - C. **Updates on Staffing:**
    - i. The public works director is retiring as of 7/1/23. There are currently interviews for a replacement.
    - ii. The Gate Keeper for AMP is no longer tending the gate. Currently, Sherry and her family are doing this job. She is in the process of finding someone who would lock and unlock the gate. This includes opening the park every morning before 8:30 a.m. and closing the gate every night before dusk (after checking to ensure no vehicles are left in the park before locking the gate).
    - iii. A swim instructor has broken her ankle and is still recovering.
  - D. **Minutes from the May Meeting:** There was no meeting for the month of May 2023 due to no quorum.
  - E. **Minutes from the April Meeting:** Minutes from the April 2023 meeting were reviewed by the commission.
    1. Sherry York pointed out that there was an error with the dates for Vinny's Bike Camp. Amanda Holden made a motion to correct the dates from "6/24/23-6/28/23" and change them to "7/24/23-7/28/23." The motion was seconded by Dan Kehoe and passed unanimously.

2. Leslie Bizilj made to approve the minutes from the April 2023 meeting. Amanda Holden seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

## 2. Old Business

### A. Program Update: Swimming

- i. This will be the last session of swimming lessons. The pool at the Evangelical Christian Center will be permanently closing.

### B. Summer Concert Series:

- i. Four bands have been lined up to play this summer. APRC is still looking for one more band to perform on 8/8
  1. 7/11-Center Line Band
  2. 7/18- North County Band
  3. 7/25- Still Kickin' and the Big City Horns
  4. 8/1- Bruce John and Peggy Ann
  5. 8/8- TBD

### C. Summer Concert Series Food Vendors:

- i. Four local organizations have been lined up as food vendors for the Summer Concerts in the park. APRC is still looking for one more food vendor for 7/11
- ii. Neil Gordon made a motion to have APRC host the BBQ on 7/25 using the same menu as last year. The cost would be \$10 for adults and \$7 for kids 12 and under. Amanda Holden seconded the motion. All members agreed and the motion passed unanimously.
  1. 7/11-Center Line Band- Food vendor TBD
  2. 7/18- North County Band- Food vendor Living Proof Church
  3. 7/25- Still Kickin' and The Big City Horns- Food vendor APRC
  4. 8/1- Bruce John and Peggy Ann- Food vendor Democratic Town Committee
  5. 8/8- TBD- Food vendor- Republican Town Committee

**D. Bike Camp:** Currently there are 21 kids registered for Bike Camp from 6/19-6/24

**E. Gymnastics Camp:** Currently there are 13 kids registered for Gymnastics Camp from 6/26-6/30

**F. Summer Camp:** Currently there are 15 kids registered for Summer Camp and enrollment is still open. This will run from 7/17-7/21.

**G. Vinny's Music Camp:** Currently there are 2 kids registered for Music Camp from 7/24-7/28. Enrollment is still open.

**H. Camp Out-**The Annual Summer Camp Out is scheduled for 8/18.

## 3. New Business

### A. Lion's Club Scholarship Fund

- i. Sherry shared the scholarship fund run sheet from before 2020. This list has every campership or scholarship for programs given to individuals in need in our community. This scholarship fund can provide financial

assistance for kids to go to any camp as some of the recipients have gone to Holiday Hill, Bike Camp, 4H, etc.

- ii. Currently we have \$2,486 of grant money that needs to be used and an addition of about \$2,000 is to be donated soon.

**B. Parks Maintenance:**

i. **Pompey Hollow:**

1. Currently looking for volunteers or a group to help manage a couple of garden beds. This would include weeding and tending to the garden.

ii. **Ashford Memorial Park:**

1. A new Book Box was installed by the blue swing. This is a new community-based lending library for residents to use
2. The picnic table has been fixed under the pavilion.
3. APR is looking for a new gatekeeper.

**C. July Citizen:** The July Citizen is due on 6/19

**D. Steve Galinat:** Steve has been recommended for an appointment as an alternate to the APRC. His letter has been submitted to, and reviewed by the first selectman's office. Amanda Holden made a motion to appoint Steve Galinat as an alternate to the Ashford Parks and Recreation Commission. Neil Gordon seconded the motion. Dan Kehoe, Leslie Bizilj, and Andrew Doering all agreed and the motion passed unanimously.

**E. Miscellaneous Concerns:** None

4. **Closing adjourn:** Andrew Doering made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Neil Gordon seconded the motion, and all other members were in favor. The meeting ended at 9:56 p.m.