

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
Recreation & Community Services Department
100 Riverview Center
Suite 140
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

MINUTES

Recreation & Community Services Commission Meeting of January 8, 2015
Senior and Community Center, 61 Durant Terrace, Middletown, CT 06457

6:00 p.m.

Present: David Bauer, Lucy Bettencourt, Phil Pessina, Rick Romano,
Gerry Winzer

Absent: Gordan Adams, Mary Bartolotta, Tom Hutton, William Wasch, Anthony Jaskot, Ed Dypa,

Staff
& Students: Deb Stanley

Public: N/A

Call: Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Public
Hearing: N/A

Minutes: Chairman Pessina motioned to approve the minutes from November 13, 2014. Commissioner Romano moved the motion. All voted in favor. Abstained –Commissioners Pessina, Winzer, Bauer, and Bettencourt.

Report: Deb Stanley informed the Commission that the Recreation and Community Services Department has been very busy. She thanked the Public Works Department and Joe Samolis for all their help during the move to the new facility. The move was a lot of work but all helped out. Recreation items are currently being stored at Crystal Lake, Vets Pool, Mile Lane, and the Remington Rand Building. Plan is to organize stored items over the winter. Staff is transitioning well and moving forward. Department hosted a “Mocktail Party” for about 130 patrons. Toy Drive was very successful this year. Community really stepped up as well as several businesses with donations. City employees also donated. Recreation Division also has a “Family Fun Night” coming up in January at Woodrow Wilson Middle School. There will be games, bounce house, ride on mechanical animals and several other things. Lots of fun for families. Deb Stanley commented that all programs are looking good currently. Commissioner Bauer questioned whether or not a budget for the new center has been figured out. Deb Stanley informed him that the building has only been open for a few weeks. More time is needed to compile data on what the upcoming costs will be to run the building. Deb also commented that there are services (grease removal, etc.) that we are currently calculating in the budget that were not present in last year’s budget. Commissioner Bettencourt suggests that we put lunch in newsletter every month. Commissioner Romano suggests that channel 19 be used also to inform seniors of programs, etc. Commissioner Winzer questioned how Recreation keeps track of what households are receiving Christmas Toys. Deb Stanley informed him that Rec coordinates with the Salvation Army. Commissioner Winzer also concerned about commissioners who are no shows. Chairman Pessina looking into it.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

New sports grants deadline date – February 15, 2015. Date moved up because teams need financial assistance earlier in the year. Chairman Pessina states that commission will look at applications in March. It was decided by the commission to present a \$62,500 sports grant request for FY2016. Commission also going to discuss how teams decide what families are in need of financial assistance. Currently there is no uniform format.

- **Facility usage agreements and fees** - n/a
- **Meeting dates for 2015** – Commission will meet every second Thursday of each month in 2015. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. Copies were distributed
- **Status of City playing fields** - Commissioner Bauer informs all that the Public Works Commission is having a meeting January 21, 2015 to discuss city playing fields. There will be a presentation on their study to public works commission. Report will be on condition of fields. Chairman Pessina commented that fields are vital to recreation. Wants to see where we are with fields and what is proposed. Commissioner Bauer commented on the timing of lacrosse practice and how impairs the grass growing. He also mentioned that open space hour is now sunrise not 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Romano felt that space should be opened at a consistent time, not sunrise. Romano also questioned about any future plans of a turf field. He also strongly encouraged that irrigation be included for all fields otherwise all work done on fields is pointless.
- **New Senior and Community Center location**: Most feedback has been nothing but positive about the new facility. There seem to be a lot of new faces and patrons. The bussing is running fine. Plan is to revisit current route schedule to fine tune for the future. Currently the routes appear to be adequate. Chairman Pessina wants to know if there has been an increase of seniors coming to the new facility. Deb Stanley mentioned that the Senior Reports were available. Winter is tough for patrons so currently the average is about the same. Department is currently working on key fob system to track attendance. Commissioner Bettencourt questioned how many people get on bus each time. She has concerns about the bus schedule and whether or not there are empty buses. Deb Stanley said the plan is to continue the current bus schedule until spring because winter is tough on seniors and more patrons may use bussing once the weather is warmer. Bus routes will be reevaluated at that time. Commissioner Bettencourt made the suggestion that program times be moved so that a few programs run simultaneously. Commissioner Winzer wondered if bus trips are being tallied. He wondered if it would be possible to call for trip instead of running routes. Commissioner Winzer also wants to educate people on how routes run. Andrea Gregg, senior manager worked hard on creating bus routes with Middletown Transit District. Deb Stanley commented that the intent was to have bussing available seniors throughout the day. Commissioner Winzer thought too many bus routes could be problematic. Chairman Pessina reminded the commission that it is cold and a very tough time for seniors to get out. This needs to be revisited in the spring. Also commented that MAT transit keeps track of number of patrons. Commissioner Bauer wants to know if there is a general business plan for the new building. He wants to know how we implement transportation for new building. Chairman Pessina stated that the manager of senior services will be presenting a plan for transportation, rentals, etc. but we need to give her an opportunity to put it all together. Chairman Pessina reminded the commission that this is still a soft opening. Official opening is in February. Chairman Pessina commented that he spoke to several seniors that are happy with new building.

Motion: Chairman Pessina motioned to adjourn. Winzer moved the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jody Krupa
cc Town Clerk