

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

MINUTES

Recreation & Community Services Commission Meeting of February 12, 2015
Senior and Community Center, 61 Durant Terrace, Middletown, CT 06457
6:00 p.m.

Present: David Bauer, Anthony Jaskot, Ed Dypa, William Wasch, Phil Pessina, Gerry Winzer, Mary Bartolotta (arrived at 6:26 pm)

Absent: Gordan Adams, Tom Hutton, Rick Romano, Lucy Bettencourt

Staff
& Students: Deb Stanley

Public: Laura Falt (Water's Edge)

Call: Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Public
Hearing: Laura Fault, Water's Edge in Middletown – only wanted to observe meeting

Minutes: Chairman Pessina motioned to approve the minutes from January 8, 2015. Commissioner Winzer moved the motion. Commissioner Bauer moved the motion. All voted in favor.

Report: Deb Stanley- reported that grand opening was a success. There were several donations of food and flowers from local vendors, attendance was good. Chairman Pessina stated that staff did a great job as did volunteers. Seniors really enjoyed the event. Stanley informed commission that the Unified Theater show just finished. Show was a great success. The show ran for 3 nights and the reviews were extremely positive. Stanley also reported that ping pong and pool table are being used every day. Additionally patrons are card playing, knitting, etc. Weather is playing into the number of seniors attending. On a separate note, summer youth applications are currently available. Sports Grant applications are due on Sunday, February 15, 2015. All previous recipients have been made aware of grant application deadline. It has also been advertised in the newspaper. Stanley announced that Senior and Community Center has a new evening custodian, Tracy Barnett. She was previously working at Lawrence School. Her hours are from 2-10 pm. Crew team has been using their machines in the upstairs activity room. Youth Services has also used the facility. Commissioner Winzer asked about guest speakers coming in to talk to seniors. Chairman Pessina informed that he needs to contact Deb Stanley and Ann Gregg to set up a guest speaker coming in. Stanley commented that department needs a month in advance to publicize.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Sports Grant Funding** – Commissioner Dypa questioned why we went for \$62,500 for sports grants. Chairman Pessina stated that Commission wants to be on top of things this year. Commissioner Jaskot explained that Commission should decide the amount of money we are giving out before organizations submit grant applications. This would eliminate asking for additional money. No surprises or appropriations. Commissioner Bauer stated that the additional \$22,500 in FY15 came out of general fund money. Mayor wants zero increase for FY2016. Tough to know cost of new building yet. Pessina wants to see what costs come in at. Pessina hopes that energy saving is cost effective. Staffing may increase. Sports have grown exponentially. Our youth are very important and we don't want to lose sight of this. Programming with children is great. Commissioner Bartolotta wants to know if there is a uniform financial aid form. Commissioner Bartolotta wants Stanley to get a sample of what financial aid form might be used.

- **Facility usage agreements and fees** - proposal completed by Stanley. Joe Samolis has an intern also working on it. Risk and legal also reviewing agreement form. Chairman Pessina would also like to see a form for facility use at the next meeting.
- **Status of City playing fields** – Commissioner Bauer said presentation was extremely well represented. Sports teams were there. Discussion about investment in artificial turf. Expanding sports season. Malone and McBroom making final presentation in March, 2015. Bauer will let commission know the exact date.
- **New Senior and Community Center Location** - Commissioner Winzer wants to know how bus schedule is working out for seniors. Deb Stanley said that there will be better results in the spring. Weather is keeping people away. Stanley – don't want to cut back bussing yet. Chairman Pessina wants Transportation as a new item under new business on the next agenda. Pessina wants Ann Gregg, Senior Manager to be in attendance to answer questions. Commissioner Winzer wants to stay on top of this. Commissioner Bartolotta stated that she suggested to South Fire Dept. to hire someone to write grants. Grant writing is very particular with wording. Commissioner Bauer requests a quick report summary on vehicles age, mileage and condition at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Grand Opening Results-** stated previously under department reports by Deb Stanley
- Councilman Grady came in about 6:30 pm. Would like to know demographics about sports grants. Senior portion- need to see African Americans participating at new senior center. Pessina wants councilman to contact Ann Gregg. Wants bus routes to reach everyone. Invited council man Grady to attend next meeting.

Motion: Chairman Pessina motioned to adjourn. Winzer moved the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jody Krupa
cc Town Clerk