PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
January 9, 2025, 6:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

   A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, January 9, 2025, in the Town Hall Large Conference Room. Vice-Chairperson Leona Bevins called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Members also present were Karen Hines, Robert Ravens-Seger, Marc Dlugolenski, Carly McKenney, and Chloe Rapose. Morgan Bengel, Nicole Sokolowski, Jon Webster, and Ella DeSimone were absent. Also present were Alicia Van Neil, Program Director; and Amanda Mele, soon-to-be member.

2. **DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC**
   None.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES**

   R Ravens-Seger made a motion to approve the minutes for December 5, 2024. M Dlugolenski seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   A Van Neil received a donation request from East Granby Project Graduation.

Motion: Robert Raven-Seger made a motion to appropriate $500 to support East Granby Project Grad. Carly McKenney seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. **PROGRAM REPORT**
   A Van Neil reported that the Ski Sundown program is not running this year due to low enrollment and high cost of buses. Basketball is up and running. Grades 3-8 started in December, grades 1-2 started last week, and Kindergarten is starting Saturday. There are 3-4 after school programs planned, but they currently have low enrollment. Flag football and the rest of the spring programming will open in the next couple weeks. The goal is to have summer programming planned by end of February.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT**
   L Bevins gave a brief report in N Sokolowski's absence. She glanced at the information and did not see anything out of order. A Van Neil added that everything is on track.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Cowles Park** – No update
      a. **Emergency Management Markers**- No update.

   B. **Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – R Ravens-Seger was on the trail today with freezing temperatures. He saw only one other person. The fencing has been repaired and DPW did a fabulous job. Other conditions are the same as before. K Hines walked the trail from Floydville to Salmon Brook on a warmer day. She noticed all the fencing was repaired there as well. The trail conditions are very deteriorated from the bridge and going south for about 1/3 mile. K Hines saw 8 bikes, 5 ebikes, and 7 pedestrians, and 1 jogger (2-3pm).

a. **Emergency Management Markers** – No update. A Van Neil mentioned not putting markers up until path has been repaved.
b. **CT Rec Trails Grant Update**- A Van Neil reported that everything is good to go when the weather gets better. She will meet with DPW soon to learn the next steps. Paving will cover from Floydville to Rt. 189.

C. **Granbrook Park** – No update.
   a. **Softball Field –** A Van Neil mentioned the project began in November. Three truckloads dropped in-field material after the area had been cleaned out. The bases have been ordered. The next step is to figure out tree trimming, scoreboard, dug outs, and batting cages. Money comes from older Little League money that was ear-marked for East Granby usage. The hope is to have the field ready for the spring.

D. East Granby Farms – No update.
   a. **STEAP Grant updates-** The RFP was started on January 2. A Van Neil will follow up next week.

E. EG Farms Playscape Fundraising/Update – The tractor playscape and riding toys have officially been removed. The blue climbing and funnel ball structures, as well as the swings, remain. The new playscape will ship tomorrow and will be stored until it is ready for installation. The Kardos family helped fundraise the playscape, bringing in around $300. Another $6-7000 will be needed for mulch and border. The residential fundraising campaign will begin shortly.

F. **Sports Programs/Coaching/Training/Policies –** No update.

G. Program Committee –
   a. **Holiday Tree Lighting-** The evening was adjusted due to cold temps. The ceremony was moved inside and then everyone went out for caroling and the tree lighting. Troop H was there doing the stuff-a-cruiser, and the Fire Department was there to support the event. The student essay contest was held again, but there were only a few entries. C McKenney suggested re-wording the prompt to entice more students to participate next year. C McKenney also mentioned that members should use the volunteers that signed up to help instead of telling them they were no longer needed. This happened with preparing, setting up, and taking down the luminaries. It has also happened at previous events. C McKenney wondered if luminaries will continue next year. L Bevins said yes, but they are not going to do the whole campus. Another suggestion for the event is to have a stronger fan for the inflatable snow globe and maybe have another activity outside for older children. Amanda Mele also suggested adding sand to the sandbags in the luminaries to help the bags stand straighter.

H. **Recruiting- One open position-** Amanda Mele has been approved by the Board of Selectmen and will be sworn in soon to be an active member at February's meeting. A Van Neil mentioned everyone could recruit more people to help with the Program Sub-committee (the Town Events). These people do not need to be board members.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
   A. **2025 Event Calendar/Budget-** A discussion was held regarding event dates. The following events/dates were agreed upon:
   Easter 2025- flashlight egg hunt (grades 3-5) – Thursday, April 10th at 8pm.
   Preschool-2nd grade- Saturday, April 12 at 10am
   Summer Concert 2025- Friday, August 22 from 6-8pm.
   Raindate- Sunday, August 24.
   Halloween 2025- Saturday, October 25.
   Tree Lighting 2025- Friday, December 5.
   Raindate- Saturday, December 6.
   A Van Neil reported the overall town event budget is $4500 for the year.

Motion: Carla McKenney made a motion to approve annually $1000 for Easter, $1100 for the summer concert, $1000 for Halloween, $700 for the Tree Lighting, and hold a $700 balance for potential new events. Leona Bevins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A motion was made by C McKenney and seconded by M Dlugolenski to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Commission Clerk