

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT**

**MINUTES
November 3, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Parks & Recreation Commission was held Thursday, November 3, 2022, in the Fire Station Meeting Room. Chairman Patrick Gill called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Members present were Karen Hines, Robert Ravens-Seeger, James Gothers, Christina Leadbeater, Nicole Sokolowski, and Marc Dlugolenski. Program Director Alicia Van Neil was also present.

2. DISCUSSION WITH THE PUBLIC

None

3. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by R Ravens-Seeger and seconded by M Dlugolenski to approve the minutes of October 6, 2022, as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried. A motion was made by C Leadbeater and seconded by J Gothers to approve the minutes of June 2, 2022, as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried. A discussion was held to clarify what a quorum is and how it pertains to voting rules. The by-laws may need to be clarified and updated but will be done so later.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director A Van Neil stated that all is well. All the fall programs are being held, none had to be cancelled. The preschool programs have high attendance. Flag football is ending next week. All after school programs are full and have wait lists. Winter programs are getting started. Basketball registration is open. The Ski Sundown program is switching to Fridays instead of Mondays. Pricing for the program has gone up due to the increase in bus prices and the increase in Ski Sundown prices. Granby's prices are lower because they fill their buses and East Granby does not.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

C Leadbeater made a motion and M Dlugolenski seconded to instate N Sokolowski as treasurer. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried. N Sokolowski handed out the current financial report. October hasn't closed yet. Rosalie McKenney checked the report and will continue to work with N Sokolowski to transition this role. A Van Neil stated that the contracted services line will be over because a portable toilet was added. The portable toilets will be removed from all properties before winter. Also, the money encumbered to Cowles Park has been used to purchase wood for bridges and the money left will go towards tools. A work crew is being put together to repair the bridges. Money has been put aside, and the money from the Women's Club grant has been received, to purchase an outside sound-system. M Dlugolenski will work with A Van Neil to try to purchase one before the Holiday Tree Lighting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Farmington Valley Heritage Trail** – B Ravens-Seger stated he visited the trail between Rt 20 and Copper Hill. He continues to report on the progression of cracks in the trail. The biggest crack is about 2 inches wide. K Hines stated that she visited the trail from Rt 189 to Floydville and noticed many posts rotten and fallen. Some are even missing. Three sections of the fencing are completely out and are a safety hazard. K Hines counted about 28 posts that need replacing. A discussion was held regarding who could be called to inquire about fixing them.
- 2. Cowles Park** – K Hines stated that there is still a lot of activity there.
- 3. Granbrook Park** – P Gill stated the park is clean. He visited the location with reps from Little League to assess the area to the left that has been cleared for a possible location of a new softball field. There are funds from the Little League that were raised in East Granby that could be used to establish the new field, and they are acquiring an estimate of cost. EGPR would have to be able to have the funds to maintain the field. Parking has been extended, and may be extended more, to hold enough cars for a baseball game and a softball game at the same time. J Gothers asked if flooding of the new field would be a concern. P Gill stated that DPW says this area of the park stays fairly dry. Flooding doesn't come off the hill, it can come from the stream. But after the last flood, the stream was rerouted to stay away from the park more.
- 4. East Granby Farms** – A Van Neil stated the flag football field will need to be aerated and re-seeded. M Dlugolenski offered to help do that.

5. Sports Programs/Coaching/Training – A Van Neil stated there is a new Public Act 21-64: Justice for Child Abuse in Connecticut. All youth programs with coaches need to make a sexual abuse policy. This policy needs to be created before the winter programming. C Leadbeater offered to help A Van Neil create the policy.

6. Marketing – C Leadbeater stated the logo contest will be closed. The high school student's logo is not what the commission was looking for, so it will not be used. The student will be thanked for his time and efforts. Becky Hayes has been working in Canva- a program we already have- to create a logo that may be considered by the commission.

7. Program Committee –

a. Halloween- A Van Neil stated the Halloween party went well. Over 400 children attended. All food was sold out. The Civil Air Patrol did an awesome job with parking. A great group of 32 students from the Middle School ran the games. They were able to meet a week in advance to prepare their stations, to enable them to get to the event closer to the starting time. One social media post had an erroneous event start time of 5:00 instead of 6:00, but Morgan at the prison was able to accommodate early arrivals. A detail that can be considered for next year is that not everyone was able to go into the mines because attendance was so high. P. Gill talked to the media and Fox 61 covered the event.

b. Holiday Tree Lighting – A Van Neil stated the event is Friday, December 2 at 6:00. The Allgrove/Seymour PTO is sponsoring a magic show at the Community Center from 4:30-5:30. The High School chorus confirmed they will be performing. An MC is still needed. There will be a train and most likely the photo booth, as well as hot cocoa and cookies. A discussion was held about purchasing luminaries. The decision was made to purchase them and start on a small scale this year with hopes to make it even bigger next year.

c. Dance Program – The dance program show will be on December 11. There are 125 dancers. Help is needed with flowers during the week leading up to the event, and then also on the day of the event at the High School auditorium. Members should let A Van Neil know if they can help. Ticket prices were lowered this year.

B. ARPA Funds – A Van Neil stated East Granby was not selected to be awarded ARPA funds. All our items were shifted to the Capital plan.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Student Representatives** – A discussion was held about if student representatives are added to the commission, would they be voting members or not, and would they be additional members or would they replace a current member position. If they are voting members or additional members, the by-laws would need to be changed through the Board of Selectmen. For now, C Leadbeater is going to plan out the verbiage for the by-laws for the different options. Another option is to start including students at meetings as non-members.
- B. **2023 Commission Vacancies/Renewals** – Three candidates submitted bios for consideration for the two open positions. Political party affiliations are not a concern in choosing among these three candidates. A discussion was held and then members voted anonymously, and two candidates were selected. P Gill will submit these names to the Board of Selectmen for approval.
- C. **2023 Meeting Calendar** – J Gothers made a motion and N Sokolowski seconded to approve the new calendar as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. The motion carried. 6:30 pm will still be the start time for meetings.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C Leadbeater and seconded by J Gothers to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovalski
Commission Clerk