

WOODBIDGE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

John Adamovich – Recreation Director

11 Meetinghouse Lane
Woodbridge, CT 06525
203-389-3446

RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 19, 2022

AUDIO AND VIDEO OF THIS MEETING WILL BE TELEVISED ON
youtube@wgatv79 IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO VIEW AND LISTEN
TO THE MEETING. YOU MAY ACCESS IT HERE AT:

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PRESENT:

Commission Members present: Mary Alvarado, Michael Helfenbein, Kim Hynes, Smith Mowry, Jane Shernow, and Andrea Weinstein

Staff: John Adamovich, Recreation Director, Theresa Bahner, Pool Director, and Christopher Bahner, Assistant Pool Director, David Cohen, Assistant Recreation Director, Kathy Adamovich, Road Race and Summer Concert Coordinator

Meeting Host: Jon DeMayo, Office Clerk

Recorder: Jim Franco, Office Manager

Public: Julia Shi

1) Meeting called to order 7:01 PM

2) Public Comments: Julia Shi of 18 Centerview Rd spoke as the treasurer from WAC and their former president. Mary Alvarado is their current president. Julia mentions how since the pandemic their membership is down 60%. They now have no home pool. Julia also states that there is a lack of communication. Usually the pool closes in August, why was it September this year. Competitive swimming starts at this time. She is looking for a ballpark date when the pool will reopen. She goes on to mention all the purchases WAC has done in the past including lane lines, flags, starting blocks, and \$32,000 in filtration system. Lack of programming in the pool means not only WAC suffers, but the Amity swim team as well. The pool needs the best equipment. Julia would appreciate feedback. B) Jane Shernow under public comments asks when will the meetings return to meeting in person. She points out that the Library Commission has been meeting in person. Michael responds that the Board of Selectmen still have not met in person.

3) Minutes: **Jane Shernow made a motion to approve the minutes from Monday, August 22, 2022. Smith Mowry seconded the motion, all voted in favor. Kim Hynes abstained**

4) Chairman's Report/Vice Chairman's report: A) Andrea is interested in the success of the pool, WAC, and the community. She announces that there will be another meeting this week of the Community and Cultural Center committee.

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She would like a thank you note going out to Robin Schaffer for all those years of donating cookies to the Road Race. Four Flours will be missed. Kathy will send a thank you letter. B) Smith thanked Jon DeMayo and Jim Franco for the transformation to the new recreation registration website. The process was completed last week. Jim went on to add that Toni Belenski also played a major role in the switch over to the new website. Smith inquired if a thank you letter went out to Nick Dottori for his years of service to the summer camp. Jim and John will work on it.

5 A) Pool – John Adamovich spoke that the maintenance of the pool budget is in Brad's budget. Recreation's budget is in charge of programming. Christopher mentioned how they work hard on classes and that there was a waiting list for swim lessons. The pool was busy in the summer with camp. The pool can't be used for programming during the school day. There are programs in the pool on weekends, so recreation is impacted as well as WAC with the closure. Julia would like to know the extent of the closure, to see if they need to rent somewhere else. There needs to be good communication. Julia questioned why was the closing in September instead of August? John replies that was when the company that was doing the inspection was available. Every Wednesday John receives an update from Tony and Brad. They haven't received the inspection report as of yet. Theresa adds that swim lessons always had a wait list. COVID had given us many restrictions. We have had closures in the past like the Virginia Graeme Baker act with the drains. Theresa addresses the line of communications and said to call or email her. Theresa said that she wants the pool open more than anyone else. Julia is a strong advocate for the pool and mentioned how WAC had to pay for a custodian during COVID. During the shutdown there is no custodian on the evening in Beecher. The pool is currently drained, and we are waiting for the report to come back from the consultant. The report is supposed to be ready in a couple of weeks. According to Julia WAC membership is suffering. Smith questions the numbers. They had over 100 membership before COVID, then down to 30 during COVID, and following, up to 60. The Commission is waiting for the costs of the pool figures from Tony. WAC pays \$21.71 per hour as opposed to \$38.50 when the Amity Swim team used the pool. The Commission would like to have a special meeting to discuss the WAC fees when they have all the figures from the Town.

6) Personnel: Stefan Maser and Michael D'Andrea for Sports Leaders. **Smith Mowry made a motion to approve the Sports Leaders. Jane Shernow seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**

7) 2023 Recreation Commission Meeting Dates: January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, No July meeting, August 28, September 18, October 23, December 4, 2023. Jim will look into seeing if the main meeting room at Town Hall is available instead of the Beecher South Assembly room. **Kim Hynes made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates. Mary Alvarado seconded the motion. All voted in favor.** Michael asked to check

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with Pua about holding hybrid meetings, especially for the special meeting, but for the regular monthly meetings as well.

8) Summer Concert Complex: Kathy presented her report in the packet. She explained how we had a new main sponsor this year. Holli Shambrom Colwell Banker Real Estate Team. The banner was displayed for two weeks at the Center Field fence, and then on the gazebo for the month of July. The best attended concert was the final concert, with over 1,000 people. It was the local band Rumrunners. The Commission thanked Kathy and said well done.

9) Road Race: The Road Race is October 1st, with the fun run at 9 am and the 5K at 10:30 am. So far 30 pre-signed up. Kathy designed the shirt. The shirt will be green and black. The trophies, ribbons, and gift bags will match. There will be no cookies this year. Thom Jacobs will be timing the race again. To register, participants can just scan a QR code. We are using an outside vendor for registration. So, we reduced the Running Club fee, so those interested in the fun run or road race can register with the outside vendor and still get the running club discount. Jim mentioned that an email went to all our registration lists for the event. Andrea mentioned the possibility of having a band. .A) **Truck or Treat Donation: Smith Mowry made a motion to donate \$500 from the Road Race account to the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association's Truck or Treat event. Jane Shernow seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**

10) Director's Report:

A) Fitness Center Times are restricted due to lack of funding. If funds are put back, hours will expand.

B) Outdoor Facilities:

C) Tennis Courts: Tennis is excellent. Pickleball is going well. Michael asked John about a liner for the ice rink. John replied a new liner is on order and we will have skating this winter weather permitting.

D) Programs and Sports: Very good. Dave added we are trying to find help and we are struggling with limited space offered by the Beecher School District.

E) Financial Report: John explains the Board of Finance took a lot of extra funding out of the budget. We can't run programs because we don't have a custodian. John feels that our programs have been severely hampered by budget cuts added to our budget by the Board of Finance. Evening programs as well as weekend hours have been cut. Expenses through August 2022 are \$162,823.99 that is 31.1% Expenses through August 2021 were \$146,466.55 at 30.2%. The income through August 2022, was \$21,642.67 at 8.8%, of that 89.8% was collected by credit card. Fees collected through August 2021 were \$15,260.63 at 8.5%

9) Policies and Procedures: Andrea will get back to us with some spelling errors from the emergency action plan.

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10) Correspondence- Letter from Beth-Wood Baseball President, Dwight Rowland thanking the Town of Woodbridge, especially the Parks Dept. for both the Cal Ripken 10-year old district and the 8's Friendship tournaments hosted this summer at Acorn and West River a success. He went on to say that Adam Parsons and the entire crew should be commended for a great job on grooming and lining the fields before every game and keeping the fields in good safe playing conditions. Thanks for allowing them to host those prestigious tournaments. B) Thank you letter from the Ronald McDonald House for the donation of art supplies, toys, and musical equipment.

11) Other Business: none

Next meeting October 24, 2022 7 pm.

12) Jane Shernow **made a motion to adjourn. Michael Helfenbein seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.**