

GRISWOLD RECREATION COMMISSION –
(Park and Recreation Dept. Advisory Board)
January 28th at 5:30 pm
Youth Center Community Room
68 Ashland Street, Jewett City, CT 06351



Committee: Carol Mauro - Chairperson
Darren Drobiak – Vice Chairperson
Tina Luft, Jay Rainier, Sonja Murphy
Alternates: Erika Bevis, Ken Willey, (Two Open Spot)
Director: Ryan K. Aubin
Secretary: Mike Morton

MINUTES

a. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present – Carol Mauro, Darren Drobiak (arrived 5:50 pm,) Tina Luft, Jay Rainier (arrived 5:36 pm,) Sonja Murphy, Ken Willey, Ryan Aubin
- Absent – Erika Bevis, Mike Morton

b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November Minutes to Review
 - Approved – Jay Rainier, Seconded – Tina Luft

c. PUBLIC FORUM

- No Audience

d. OLD BUSINESS

- 2019/2020 Budget
- Ryan Aubin reviewed his suggestions for the upcoming Park & Recreation General Budget 5301
 - i. Ryan explained this is the first time he was going to request for a full time staff member due to the fact that both YFS & PR departments have grown very largely this past three years due to our afterschool enrollment. More importantly, the department need to meet the needs of demographics not met. Examples are 4-H STEM clubs partnered with UCONN Extension center. A recreational program for female residents because less than 40% of Youth Basketball is female, volleyball is identified for a sport to fill that role but also transition to future play at GHS teaming up with Coach Bruno. Also, increasing the use of the very successful Wellness Studio.
 - ii. The position would be shared with YFS to oversee and create new seasonal programming for residents that Ryan has no time to create. The PR budget will show an addition of \$13,650 as well as the YFS. This is a 35 hour employee a \$15 an hour. PR Budget was also reduced by \$7000 for summer camp & \$956 for basketball due this person overseeing both weekly.
 - iii. Commission discussed possible questions that could arise from the budget. Also agreed all need to be present at the budget hearings to support.

- iv. Overall, Ryan stated that the Board of Selectman are pitching a 7.5 million dollar building for the Senior Center, even though Tina said in the newspaper that they had 500 members. Our Recreation Department host more than 500 enrollments in ONE of its 30+ programs. But we were never looked to, to be part of the building. Also, no one ever asks how many are actually residents.
- v. All commission members spoke about how expensive the building was. The building on School Street is only 2 million, East Coast is 1.3 million, the new building is going to be a much much more expensive. Doesn't make sense that its only limited to a small portion of our town especially when all tax-payers are paying for it.
- vi. Other comments include that a building like that & at that cost should include a pool, community rooms similar to a YMCA for all ages.
- vii. Jay Rainier said he is on the building committee for the new Senior Center and he wasn't sure if it was just seniors using it.
- viii. Ryan Aubin said that it's not for mixed use through a conversation with Tina in the past. Over a year ago.
- ix. Carol Mauro asked what happened to the idea of a community center that the town voted on years ago. Ryan Aubin looked up the article from 2009 in the Norwich Bulletin. Commission discussed further. That idea was to include a Youth Center, Senior Center & Police in one building. It was voted on and approved, but was never talked about again when Phil Anthony was Selectman.
- x. Commission members support the budget and agreed to the need of an additional staff member, one that is full time.

e. NEW BUSINESS

- o Griswold Great Get-Together
 - o Ryan Aubin explained the event would include a carnival, fireworks show, parade and festival featuring food trucks on May 4th.
 - o Event Sub-committee will meet this next Monday, May Feb. 4 at 5:30 pm to talk about fundraising options and parade route, plan.
- o Sunflower 6K
 - o Jay Rainier, Event Chairman, explained that this year the enrollment would be on Feb. 1. Limited to 1k runners. They will slowly increase the price to get people to sign up and pay sooner than years past. Ryan Aubin said he believed it will sell out very quickly. Jay spoke about some changes to the race prep and that runners are getting a ice cold towel after completion. Runners will also get dri-fit shirts customized male or female. The 6K Committee was meeting right after this meeting at Panera.
- o Schedule of Town Events
 - o Tabled due to lack of time before next group used the YC Wellness Studio.

f. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

- Fundraising websites with no fees: youcaring.com & facebook.com

g. PUBLIC FORUM

- None

h. ADJOURNMENT