



Griswold Recreation Commission
Monday, August 17 @ 7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
 - In Attendance: Carol Mauro, Ricky Bevis, Ryan Snide, Sarah Seifert, Ken Willey, Ryan Aubin
 - Absent: Darren Drobiak, Jay Rainier, Lionel Lasalle, Mike Morton
2. Approval of Minutes
 - July Minutes – Approval: Ricky Bevis, Seconded: Ken Willey
3. Correspondence
 - N/A
4. New Business
 - Spooktopia! A Trunk or Treat Event.
 - There was a discussion of the original event idea, which was to move Spooktopia to Hell Hollow Road. However, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) recommended the campground at Hopeville State Park, for which Aubin explained the drive-thru layout. The committee agreed to move the event to Halloween, which would offer a safer option for residents skeptical of door-to-door trick-or-treating.
 - Snowflake Parade
 - The commission discussed that this year's event would only feature the parade, with post-parade activity or access to the schools. Santa & Mrs. Clause would be stationed on a float, while "Santa Helpers" (staff/volunteers) could handout preassembled bags to the children in the crowd. CDC recommendations would be observed (e.g. wearing gloves). The current plan is to not allow any gathering at the event and for families to socially distance themselves at the parade. Additional supplies will need to be purchased including elves, coloring books, and bags (the lattermost will be assembled by volunteers and Youth Center workers. Aubin will order ASAP, so there are no shipping charges.
5. Old Business
 - Basketball Court Project – tabled until Boundaries, LLC could attend meeting.
6. Any Other Business
 - Social Media Policy by Selectman
 - There was much discussion on the consequences of removing or relinquishing control of the Park & Rec Facebook Page. Members felt that this would hurt the Youth Center & Recreation Commission more than other town institutions who do not use their Facebook pages nearly as much. This proposed policy was discussed at the most recent Board of

Selectmen (BOS) meeting, which occurred Tuesday, August 11. The Rec Commission discussed this, along with the process the BOS is currently going through: the Selectmen have a draft of other towns' policies in addition to ideas for a policy in Griswold. These are expected to be reviewed and discussed at the next Selectmen meeting. Commissioners suggested making a request to the BOS, which would call for the Rec Facebook page to be put in the control of Rec Commission members. In this scenario, the department director would still be able to post, but would share that responsibility with the commission, effectively lightening the burden. Aubin mentioned a previous instance where the First Selectman tried to take the page away from the department and give it to a town hall employee during town hall hours only. The commission agreed this would hurt the Recreation Department, as Aubin needs to post frequently each day to effectively inform community members of the department's extensive programming. Aubin explained that a letter from the commission would have to be sent for the BOS to discuss at their meeting. It was also pointed out that no time was allocated for public comment at the aforementioned BOS meeting, which left several questions unanswered. Aubin stated the process needs to be brought to the Selectman to enact any change in the current Facebook Page.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting had to be temporarily paused due to Zoom's 40-minute time limit, as the commission does not have a full Zoom subscription. Because the Zoom session was opened before 6 PM, it was closed at 6:34.

Continuation of the Meeting (6:41 PM) Resumed on Zoom, Not All Members Returned

- In Attendance: Carol Mauro, Ryan Snide, Sarah Seifert, Ken Willey, Ryan Aubin
- Other Business: (continued) Social Media Policy by Selectman
 - Discussion continued; Aubin stated that he will purchase a full Zoom subscription before the next meeting. Willey said that he would draft a letter to the BOS on behalf of the commission and Seifert offered to create an online petition requesting to keep control of the Rec Facebook page with the Rec Commission/staff; both are planned to be ready for the next BOS meeting, which the commission plans to attend. Board is willing and hoping to work with the Selectman.
- Ken Willey dropped call (lack of quorum) lead to meeting ending.
- Meeting ended 6:54 pm

Minutes by: Ryan Aubin / Phillip Michel