

*RECEIVED December 18, 2023 @11:21AM  
Kimberly Keil, Assistant Redding Town Clerk  
3 pages*

**REDDING PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Monday, December 4, 2023, 7:00pm – In person & via Zoom

Redding Community Center – Multi-Purpose Room

Present: Angela Caes, Tami O'Connor; Mary Lou Carlson, Brett Chapin, Pete Graziano, Jaymie Massaro, Lorcan O'Connor (all in person); Patrick Schuchard, Will Rook (both via Zoom); Rob Blick (in person)

Full Attendance – quorum met; no absences/excuses.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Ms. Caes called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Ms. Caes asked for a motion to approve the November minutes. Motion Ms. Carlson. Second Mr. Graziano. Passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

None from public

Email from Ms. Massaro to Mr. Blick/Ms. Wadsworth – re Rec Flag Football program – need for drills, prep coaching for newbies, there are many returnees - potential future splitting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts for more parity of skill levels.

Ms. Caes was given a lot of feedback from various townspeople, re Basketball Program (positive) but critically re need for greater seating. Mr. Blick responded that 24 chairs have been ordered (due Sat 12/9/23). Possible next tranche of extra 24 chairs - cost split between town & REBA.

There have been calls for unique freestanding Park & Rec Instagram account; & also seeking access to Town's Facebook account for Ms. Wadsworth as an additional admin. Re Facebook, there is an issue with the 'link' being broken. To be followed up with Office of Selectman.

There was also feedback of discontent about current lack of Winter Brochure. Mr. Blick re-assured the Commission that this is being resolved ASAP & will be available next week, to be announced / promoted with an email blast once issued. (New personnel were on-boarded – need to announce position of Ms. Wadsworth via Sentinel, etc.) – some discussion re this paper reporting more P& R activity as ‘news’ & not necessarily as ‘advertising.’

‘Grit Ninja’ & ‘Ultimate Frisbee’ programs will be announced 12/5/23, via Town Hall. Some members suggested future programs be pushed through school PTA groups (as they comprise the target cohorts) as well as through current official school communiques.

(Noted via Sentinel that Topstone RFP had been approved; & other miscellany re tree lighting, etc.).

### **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS BUSINESS / 2024 COMMISSION GOALS**

Review to approve P & R Comm “Goals,” kudos to Messrs. Graziano, Schuchard & Rook for collaborative work done over Oct/Nov (***please refer to other printed documents***). Mr. Rook did stress how these goals would need to be actively worked upon & not merely shelved. Robust discussion ensued. Ms. Massaro emphasized need for use of other social media & feedback re progression/realization of these goals.

**Ms. Caes asked for a motion to adopt these 2024 P&R Comm Goals. Motion Mr. Graziano. Second Ms. O’Connor. Passed unanimously.**

### **PROPOSED COMMISSION 2024 CALENDAR**

In the interest of time-saving further discussion was tabled for Jan ‘24 meeting. (...to be kept in person, at 7pm, & in the RCC Community Room; possible issue of Easter Monday being re-scheduled).

**Ms. Caes asked for a motion to adopt the proposed 2024 P&R Commission Calendar (as is). Motion Ms. Massaro. Second Mr. O’Connor. Passed unanimously.**

### **DISCUSSION OF 2024-2025 BUDGET**

Mr. Blick summarized pre-meetings with Office of Selectman; run up to town public hearing in Jan ‘24; meeting with B of F, etc.

Salient items discussed included Town Walking Path & related ‘recreational needs assessment costs’ (P&R, Heritage Ctr, Sports Groups). This may however remain as an internal P&R item. There was discussion re Town 10yr plan (next due 2028) & how we need to be cognizant of our P&R needs within this.

Space for Extended Day remains a huge concern & ideas floated re other options to help with any expansion. Mention of new build, adjacent to current gym, as previously mooted varying to future use of Georgetown resources & meeting spaces being utilized for Seniors, P&R offices – understood school-based programs need to be on/near current siting for logistical reasons. ‘Buy-in will be required by all stakeholders.’ Proposed benchmarking and template. \$50k was previously budgeted (excluding athletic

fields) this number will be proposed again. Discussion re whether indoor space only – 1<sup>st</sup> pass – may be fine-tuned – (possible extra TURF field question being revisited). Report is due from consultant by 12/7/23.

Summary – need for our programs to be of best quality & to not compete with but rather compliment other town entities – i.e., NFP or REBGC. Ms. Caes & Mr. Chapin suggested there is need for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party as a neutral opinion. Ms. Carlson opined our programs need more ‘oomph’/‘wow’ factor to be attractive & competitive. There was agreement among all Commissioners that keeping the Ext Day Prog ‘feasible’ was a priority.

Other line-item budget details were reviewed with Mr. Blick with elaboration as needed throughout. ***(Please refer to other more detailed printed budget documents)***. Topstone Summer passes were reviewed. Staffing costs had a modest increase due to ongoing increasing/competitive needs.

Allusion to P&R computer modification & future/further staff training – these items will speed up brochure production, report production & data harvesting. Further items discussed included surveys, switching Ext Day payments from checks to credit cards. There was lengthy back & forth re new potential job position & the possible merging of Ext Day & Summer Travel Camp roles. Community Garden fence issues resurfaced – discussion re possible community build but also of need for different quote (repair vs rebuild). Possible grant option also cited.

Expansion of hidden cost issue with summer camps when aides accompany children with needs. Enrollment number corrected for RES & PK to 512. Age vs grade eligibility for P&R programs discussed. Movie night will be re-introduced in 2024 with possible movie projector purchase (relatively inexpensive). In the RES bowl, or lower field if pavilion is used.

**Ms. Caes asked for a motion to adopt/endorse/support the proposed P&R Budget (with fence proposal increased from \$3k to \$10k, operating not annual). Motion Ms. O’Connor. Second Mr. O’Connor. Passed unanimously.**

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

(Walking Path project manager / contractor follow-up with B of S & Topstone RFP follow-up next week)

Ms. Wadsworth will be invited to the Feb ’24 meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Caes asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion Ms. O’Connor. Second Ms. Massaro. Meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm**

Gratitude expressed to the Co-Chairs for the delicious festive fare & beverages provided.

Happy Holidays to All

Next meeting scheduled – 1/8/24.

Submitted by Lorcan O'Connor