

Town of Amherst Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

5:00pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Tony Day

Christopher Drongosky

Dick Duquin

Tim Gardner

Pam Hart

Kim Kriner

Michael MacDonald (excused)

Jacqui Berger, Amherst Town Board Liaison

Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director/Youth & Recreation Department

Eric Guzdek, Recreation Specialist/Youth & Recreation Department (excused)

Call to Order

- A. Mr. Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

Presentation/Public Comment

Remembrance of former member, Kevin Durawa.

Old Business

A. ID Cards

Ms. Pouli relayed to the Commission that the Department has started selling 2022 ID cards to residents with there being some pushback on the revised fee.

B. Rental Fees

Ms. Pouli stated that the Department is going to hold off on rental fee adjustments for now until further research is completed.

New Business

A. Departmental Changes

Ms. Pouli announced the creation of the Department of Community Services, combining the Youth & Recreation Department along with the Amherst Center for Senior Services. She mentioned the Town Supervisor's vision of having a lifelong continuum of services for residents and how this move will better align administrative resources; allowing for more money to go toward programming. Mr. Gardner asked if the role of the Recreation Commission would change. Ms. Pouli said no, the Recreation Commission, the Senior Advisory Board, and the Youth Board will all remain in place and continue to advise the Department.

Liaison Report

Some questions were raised regarding the Westwood property. At the present time, the Town is working with Wendel on the design for the MusicalFare Theater and the reuse of the clubhouse.

Executive Director/Youth & Recreation Department Report

Ms. Pouli highlighted the "Holiday Happening" event at the Senior Center, stating that there were about 140 cars with about 4 people per car at the event. The event was held in conjunction with the Youth & Recreation Department, the Amherst Center for Senior Services, the Audubon Library, and the Amherst Police Department.

Facilities Report

In Mr. Guzdek's excused absence, Ms. Pouli gave an update on the progress at the Williamsville Junior Football fields as well as the Lou Gehrig field. Also, the new parking lot at the Northtown Center is ready to be sealed and striped in the spring of 2022. Ms. Pouli was asked about the leasing contract for the Northpointe facility. She

stated that the Department and the Town were reviewing the changes to the building to finalize the terms of the lease. Ms. Pouli anticipated a written agreement within the next 15 days or so.

Chairperson's Report

No report

Liaison Reports

- A. Daemen College, AYB, Football – No Report
- B. Skatepark, Parks & Playgrounds, Amherst Skating Club – No Report
- C. High School Baseball, Little League Baseball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball – No Report
- D. Golf – The new golf carts have been delivered. Concern was raised as to their winter storage. A review of fees for 2022 is upcoming.
- E. Ice Hockey, Town Recreation Facilities – No report
- F. Individuals with disabilities – No report
- G. Racquet Sports, Soccer, Lacrosse – No report

Correspondence

No report

Press Releases/News Articles

None

Adjournment

Mr. Duquin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Kriner. Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Notification of the date/time for the next meeting will be given by email.