

Haddam Park & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2020
MINUTES
Approved as Printed at the May 14, 2020 Meeting

In attendance: Chairman Jason Lonergan, Vice Chairman Jennifer O'Neal, and Commissioner Peter Christopher

Not in attendance: Commissioner Daniel Belanger and Commissioner David Law

Staff in attendance: Barbara Galloway, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lonergan called the Meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

2. Discussion of Grim's Haunted House October Plans with representatives

Residents Chuck Cook, Jack Calhoun, Mark Lundgren, and Joann Mucciacciaro were present to discuss with the commissioners their plans to-date for the 2020 Grim's Haunted House event. They are all members of the group that has presented Grim's Haunted House on the Community Center property on the weekend before Hallowe'en for the past four years.

Mr. Cook explained some of the changes and additions they have planned for this year's event. He requested that the commission take responsibility for running the Trunk or Treat this year, which has been coordinated with Grim's Haunted House for the past couple of years and had previously been sponsored by other town agencies and then the Haddam Economic Development Commission until 2019. Aspects of organization and the initial site plan set up with further items on the list to be addressed and responsibility assignments for the accomplishment of each were discussed. All present agreed to work on their assigned tasks and then have a more detailed discussion at the commission's June Meeting once some initial communication with the Town and with local agencies and other groups about their interest in possible involvement has taken place.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Christopher made the Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Neal to approve as printed the January 9, 2020 Minutes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

4. Facilities and Field Use Requests – discussion/approval

Both Chairman Lonergan and Commissioner Christopher reported having received completed facilities and field use request forms to be approved and signed at tonight's Meeting; however, both had forgotten to bring those forms to the meeting. To avoid scheduling issues and to allow for the timely approval of requests prior to the beginning of the field usage season, Chairman Lonergan suggested temporarily approving received requests until the commissioners had the opportunity to walk the fields and were able to confirm Haddam Little League's and other current users' schedules to avoid any scheduling conflicts.

Chairman Lonergan made the Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Neal to allow Chairman Lonergan to conditionally accept all facilities and fields use request forms received, unless they would cause scheduling issues especially with Haddam Little League dates, until this commission

can perform a facilities/fields walk before the end of April. The Motion was approved unanimously.

5. General Review of current budget financial reports (01/2020, 02/2020)

Financial statements for January and February 2020, “Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures – General Fund, July 2019 to January 2020”, dated 02/04/2020, “Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures – Capital Non-Recurring, July 2019 to January 2020”, dated 02/04/2020, and “Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures – General Fund, July 2019 to February 2020”, dated 03/04/2020, and “Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures – Capital Non-Recurring, July 2019 to February 2020”, dated 03/04/2020, were distributed to the commissioners for their review. The Commissioners went over lines of the reports and believed that there should be sufficient funding to complete the remaining budgeted work for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

6. Unfinished Business

a. *Haddam Elementary School property/Higganum Center – any updated planning information*

Chairman Loneragan reminded the commissioners that the Town is still in discussion with a school interested in leasing some of the HES building. Chairman Loneragan also noted that several groups in town would like to be able to use the fields and courts at the school for practices. Other organizations have expressed interest in using the auditorium and the kitchen at certain times for specific purposes. The commissioners agreed to table this discussion pending decisions re: several rumored plans for the property being considered by the Town.

b. *Any updates re: Great Hills Fields, Brickyard property and HES property sports areas*

Commissioner Christopher reported that the contracted company has now completed the cleanup of weeds and the overgrown brush removal in the area surrounding the playing field at the Brickyard Field. Commissioner Christopher thought the field looked great with the work done so far. Commissioner Christopher noted that the fencing still needs to be reversed and the home plate backboard has not yet been replaced, but he believes that this work should be started in the next week or so. He also noted that the Town public works crew had redone the filling in of the hole and resurfacing work on the driveway at the field entrance; it is much improved over the repair work done earlier. Commissioner Christopher said that he had noted that the benches on site will need repair/replacement since they are rough surfaced and are falling apart. In the future, Chairman Loneragan had agreed with the Board of Selectmen that some of the field maintenance work can be completed by the Haddam town crew instead of going through the bidding process. This practice will decrease the need for additional funding in the commission’s planned budget lines.

Chairman Loneragan talked about his plans to have the fields and playscapes in all areas inspected for physical and safety issues and then having the field surfaces properly prepared and equipment repaired, as required, prior to the new outdoor sports’ season.

c. *2020-2021 Budget Request Outcomes – further discussion*

Chairman Loneragan reported that he had attended the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) budget meeting regarding this commission's 2020-201 Budget request. The BOS had made a reduction in several lines of the commission's request and First Selectman McGarry had explained the reasoning for these changes. The Board had approved the new line for Facilities Maintenance. The budget recommendation must now go before the Board of Finance (BOF) for its approval, as well. Chairman Loneragan said that he hoped to be able to attend the BOF discussion regarding the commission's budget and explain the commission's plans. Once the budgets have been addressed by the Board of Finance, the Finance Office will notify the departments to inform them of the total amount approved for each line in each budget. Chairman Loneragan will then talk with Finance Director Barbara Bertrand if he has questions or concerns about the outcomes.

d. 2020-2021 Capital Planning Budget – further discussion

Chairman Loneragan reported that he has not yet had any communication with the Capital Planning Committee regarding the commission's 2020-2021 Capital Budget activity request.

7. New Business

a. Discussion/ any required Motions/Votes on New Business items

This item was addressed in Item 4.

b. Additions to the Commission ongoing list re: any new ideas for potential park-related and recreation-related activities

No additions were made to this on-going list at this meeting.

c. Mr. Lundgren, a member of the Grim Haunted House group, who is also a representative of the new Mucket Madness celebration planned for August 2020, asked the commission to be given time at the April Meeting to discuss that upcoming event.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence received for discussion or action.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Christopher made the Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Neal to adjourn the Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara D. Galloway
Recording Secretary