

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN**  
**Recreation & Community Services Department**  
**100 Riverview Center**  
**Suite 140**  
**Middletown, Connecticut 06457**

**MINUTES**  
**Recreation & Community Services Commission Meeting of June 11, 2015**  
**Senior and Community Center, 61 Durant Terrace, Middletown, CT 06457**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Present: David Bauer, Gerry Winzer, Lucy Bettencourt, Ed Dypa, William Wasch, Mary Bartolotta (chaired meeting)

Absent: Tom Hutton, Anthony Jaskot, Phil Pessina, Rick Romano, Sal Uccello

Staff  
& Students: Deb Stanley

Public: Pat Jackowski- formerly vice chair of Senior Services Commission  
Dennis McKenna – Boy Scout Troop 41

Call: Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Public  
Hearing:

Pat Jackowski stated that seniors have been displaced from first floor and she finds this very displeasing. She has several concerns about seniors going upstairs. Commissioner Bartolotta asked for Deb Stanley's input. Stanley stated that the senior registration and sign in will only be moved upstairs for 6-7 weeks. She stated that the front desk is extremely small and summer camp registrations are very busy. She also stated that although this is not the perfect solution it is the best solution that she and manager Ann Gregg felt comfortable with. Stanley also stated that this change was run by the Mayor's office for his approval. Stanley also mentioned that you are not required to go upstairs to sign in. Summer clerks are taking senior attendance manually. Bartolotta questioned whether just Rec was going addressed at front desk or do summer girls also address senior issues. Bartolotta also questioned if front desk could be split up so that there were 2 lines to help address needs. Commissioner Winzer felt there was not enough room. Bartolotta stated she wants to hold to promises made to seniors that this building is primarily a senior facility. People coming in for recreation can get around just fine. We need to be concerned about how difficult it is for seniors to get upstairs. Dypa stated that we need to be aware that Christmas is around the corner and where will the toy drive be held? He felt that the building is not built for this. Commissioner Dypa suggested that recreation registrations take place in the lobby of city hall. Bartolotta asked if summer employees can work at city hall or do they need supervision? Deb Stanley stated that her full time staff needs to be at the camps for extended periods most of the summer. Question was asked when the highest foot traffic is for seniors. Stanley informed that Wednesday and Friday were busiest time. Bartolotta stated that we need to keep accurate record of attendance for justification purposes going forward. Boy Scout Troop 41- Dennis McKenna introduced himself and asked if there is anything boys scouts can do for the city to help earn Merit Badges. They need to earn Citizenship Merit Badges. Both boys are in high school. Bauer informed that there are several commission meetings that these scouts can sit in on to earn service hours.

Minutes: Bartolotta motioned to approve the minutes from April 9, 2015. Commissioner Bauer moved the motion. Commissioner Winzer seconded.

Report: Deb Stanley began to give her report. Bauer wants to hear numbers on how participants are attending. What is growth? Stanley said numbers have doubled. Moved on to sports grants.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Sports Grant Funding** - Commissioner Bauer asked if they could vote on youth sports grants because he had to leave shortly. Bauer wants to have a better breakdown of costs from the applicants. Wants to know many kids per

grant request. He would like to know the unit price per kid. Winzer wants no child turned away. Winzer also stated that different equipment is used for different sports so cost per child and cost for storage varies. Very difficult to come up with a generic per child cost. Dypa wants to make sure that anybody who receives grant money should not refuse any child. Winzer wants to see how much the groups are raising themselves (fundraising). Dypa wants to see a better breakdown of how applicants come up with their grant request figures. Bartolotta – team needs to present to the commission on how money was being spent. Bartolotta also stated that she found space in the city in Remington Rand building for equipment storage for the leagues. (About 2,000 square feet). Bartolotta wants to see how money is being spent on storage. Bartolotta stated that previously the Commission had agreed to have coaches come in and give an itemized break down of how money was being fundraised and spent. Winzer again stated that he would like tax returns from each applicant. Bartolotta felt that cost of BOE for getting football fields ready should be revisited. Bartolotta stated that city is getting fields ready as an in service. Bauer state that he would like to make sure the commission distributes money correctly this year and going forward. Wants itemized proposals from leagues. Stanley said that we have itemized budget in their grant application. Approximately \$9,000 is spent collectively on storage. Bauer stated that the Athletic Director is for entire town and would like to see her utilized for her expertise. Bauer would like to see continuity between youth grants and school sports. William Wasch disagrees and would like it to be separate from schools. Bartolotta questioned if all the teams came in and made a proposal to commission in respect to their grant application. Stanley stated that the last time that commission met with all league directors met was last year. Dypa wants application restructured. Bartolotta requested that Deb Stanley resend her copies of proposed budgets because Bartolotta never received. Bartolotta motioned to take out storage expenses and approve youth grant awards. Wasch seconded the motion. All approved. Bauer abstained.

- **Facility usage agreements and fees** - intern from mayor's office prepared a booklet Rental Policies and Procedures. Stanley concern that there are various groups who would like to continually schedule the same day on a routine basis. Stanley felt that we should have language in rental policies and procedures that limits how you reserve facility. We need to have some controls in place. Dypa agreed that facility should not become a permanent rental place or a place you run your business. Not for a permanent nature. Stanley is checking with city attorney on language. Bartolotta felt rental was low. Stanley stated that the idea was to start low and revisit fees down the road. Commissioner Dypa motion to accept the Rental Policies and Procedures the way it is with the approval of legal redefining permanent rental or extended time. Wasch seconded. All in favor
- **Status of City playing fields** – Commissioner Bauer meeting with athletic director. He stated that the top priority is to work on Pat Kidney field. Would like to see sports for all age groups. Ultimately would like Pat Kidney Field to be an entire community area (maybe picnic area included). Winzer wants AD to come to a commission meeting. Bartolotta worries about turf being unhealthy. Public works commission doing most of the coordination. Need good plan and narrative. \$5 million to take care of site work etc. for Pat Kidney & upper football field, 28 million for all fields in town. There will need to be a referendum. Bauer also mentioned that Wesleyan may be in need of tennis courts. City is moving forward with plan to develop tennis courts. Still have to work on narrative.
- **Review of senior center usage contract and fees**. Dypa motioned to approve usage contract. Bettencourt seconded. All in favor.
- **Transportation** : looking to get new bus. Stanly hopes both buses last a few years. MAT is going to give us a bus. It needs tires. Lift is not working properly on current bus but does work manually. Needs repair. Bartolotta suggested hiring someone to help apply for grant at a flat rate. Stanley not even sure if money will be available. Bus schedule has been reduced and working fine.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Rowing program grant funding**: - Stanley stated that sports grant awards have always been for youth and concerned about opening this up to adults. Tabled this discussion until next month.
- Bartolotta requests that all coaches present to the commission their financial need (15 minute presentation). Make sure there is a date to interview the coach.
- Bauer – this is still a very new senior facility. We need to be very sensitive to their needs.

**Motion: Commission Bartolotta motioned to adjourn. Dypa moved the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.**