

**Town of Hamden
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of a Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 17th, 2023
5:30 PM
Parks and Recreation Conference Room
Hamden Government Center**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Leonardo called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.
- 2. Attendance**
 - a. In Attendance:** Christine Huber; Sarah Morrill; Rich Leonardo; Arnie Mann; Ken Sweeten; Deborah Smith
 - b. Also In Attendance:** Karen Bivens, Director of Arts, Culture, Recreation and Wellness; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
 - c. Absent:** Chris Ruggiero
- 3. Approval of Past Minutes:** December 13th, 2022
 - a.** Ms. Morrill made a motion to approve the December 13th minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Huber. All were in favor.
- 4. Elections**
 - a.** Chairman Leonardo requested a motion to hold elections for the office of chairperson and vice chairperson. Ms. Morrill made a motion to hold elections, which was seconded by Ms. Huber. All were in favor.

Mr. Mann asked for nominations for the position of chairperson. Ms. Huber and Chairman Leonardo nominated Ms. Morrill. All commissioners present were in favor of putting her on the slate. Mr. Mann closed the nominations.

Mr. Mann then asked for nominations for the position of vice chairperson. Ms. Morrill and Chairman Leonardo nominated Mr. Sweeten. All commissioners present were in favor of putting him on the slate. Mr. Mann closed the nominations.

A vote was held, and the results were unanimous. Ms. Morrill is now chairwoman and Mr. Sweeten is vice chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- 5. Parks and Recreation Director's Report**
 - a.** Ms. Bivens was happy to report that the pop warner football and cheerleading teams placed very well at the nationals, which took place in Florida. A reception is taking place on January 18th, 2023 in the Thornton Wilder hall at the Miller Library. Ms. Bivens welcomed any of the commissioners to assist with the refreshment handout, and serve as a supportive presence for the teams.
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. Code of Conduct for Youth Sports**
 - i.** Ms. Bivens shared that the Town Attorney is currently looking over the document. Ms. Bivens plans to share the attorney's comments at the February meeting. A brief discussion ensued regarding the tone of the code of conduct draft, distribution and enforcement tactics and need for signatures.

7. New Business

a. Celebration for Youth Football and Cheer (Nationals)

- i.** See above director's report

8. General Comments/ Suggestions

- a.** As Chairwoman Morrill regularly communicates with the league representatives, she raised two concerns recently brought to her attention. The lacrosse leagues have expressed the need for a fence or fence-like solution at the West Woods field, as the lacrosse balls continue to be lost in the brush/woods. Ms. Bivens will follow up with Public Works regarding a potential solution and cost estimates. Multiple league representatives have expressed discontent regarding the current procedure of distributing flyers only via the virtual BOE community board. Several leagues feel that their virtual flyers are not reaching enough kids and wish to return to the paper flyer distribution method. Ms. Bivens suggested Chairwoman Morrill speak with a BOE representative, to see about potential solutions.

- 9. Adjournment:** At 7:06 pm, Chairwoman Huber made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Leonardo. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk