

# MIDDLETOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

The Middletown Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Dave Bechtle, Vice-Chairwoman Shawna Strenfel, Wayne Hawkins, Daniel Higbie, Alderman Jerry Kleiner, Alderman Tom Burr and Supt. Chris Brinckerhoff.  
Absent: Rollin Lybolt & Michael Torres

**GUESTS:** Barbara Bonham, Shade Tree Committee

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Roy Racino, of the Men's City Fastpitch Softball League informed us he had records and stats of the league from 1984 – 1997. Letter from County Executive's Office of Steven Neuhaus, reappointing Superintendent Christine Brinckerhoff to the Orange County Youth Advisory Board. A letter from Tom Quinlisk, of Orange County Park, thanking us for participating in Santa's Toy Box. A letter from Coree "CJ" White's family looking to partner with organizations to donate scholarships for kids to participate in recreational programs.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved on a MOTION by Wayne Hawkins; seconded by Daniel Higbie.

**AUDIT:** January program revenues were \$20,233.50. There was a \$250.00 donation from the Middletown PBA to go toward the Young Warrior Boxing Program. Brining yearly revenue total to \$21,683.50

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Personnel – There have been no changes in staff since our January Meeting. We are looking into out-of-title pay for our Keyboard Specialist during the Maternity Leave of our Program Coordinator.

Activities – Mayor's Youth Council went to the State Capital on February 5<sup>th</sup> to meet with local representatives to lobby for positive youth development funding. Winter programs are almost over and spring registration will start the week of February 18<sup>th</sup>. A Teen Cuisine program will run for six weeks in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension. The program is at capacity.

Maintenance – Has been assisting with snow and ice removal. They are servicing mowers and equipment and ordering materials and supplies for spring projects. They have assembled all the single shelters and have made repairs in Academy Building.

**RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE:** Alderman Burr reported that State of the City will be Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Online program registration and the use of debit and credit cards will start before the end of February. Staff has worked hard to get everything in place. The department started to host birthday parties. It is getting a good response from the public. Commission members reviewed the Disc Golf signs that will be at each hole. We are hoping for a ribbon cutting the end of March. There will be no sleigh riding at Maple Hill Park this winter due to the continued work on the water retention project. Davidge Park Expansion is moving along. Final paperwork is being completed and hopefully bids will be going out by March.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The programming staff is looking into the possibility of having Before Care at our local elementary schools. This would help the working parent in providing supervision and positive programming before the school day starts. The 2018 Annual Reports are complete and each commission member received a copy.

The March Meeting will be the first meeting run by the new Chair of the Recreation Commission. Shawna Strenfel will be Chairwoman for the next two years and Daniel Higbie will be Vice Chair. The Commission and the Recreation & Parks Department thanks Dave Bechtle for his two years of positive leadership. We are glad Dave will be continuing for another five year term.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Barbara Bonham, of the Shade Tree Committee announced they are getting free trees from NYC and possible hybrid Oaks from Cornell Cooperative Ext. She has been in touch with Foreman Bianchi about plantings this spring. They will be having an Arbor Day Celebration at Fancher Davidge Park and are looking for do some plantings up in the back of the park. The Shade Tree Committee wants to be kept in the loop about improvements to the Dog Park so they can add trees to the area.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The January meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on a MOTION by Shawna Strenfel and seconded by Wayne Hawkins.

**NEXT MEETING:** The March meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 14, 2019** at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christine Brinckerhoff, Superintendent*