



RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
February 19th, 2026 5:30 PM MEETING MINUTES

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION –

In attendance: Jeanette Blackwell, Leslie Spatola, Betsy Bielefield, Andrea Dallas, Dan Deconti, Felicia Goodwine, Kristen Jensen, Tami Kapaczewski, Harold Panciera, Rogers Pylant, Sowgol Zakarian,

Absent: Kristin Jensen

Staff: Cathy Lechowicz, Director

AGENDA:

Call Meeting to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

Public Hearing:

No members of the public in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilwoman Spatola made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 15th, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kapaczewski. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Update:

Director Lechowicz provided the budget directive, emphasizing a flat budget with a narrative of a 5% reduction. She overviewed the distinct financial challenges each division faces, from facility maintenance to rising energy costs and minimum wage increases. She briefly discussed revenue opportunities that supported programming and infrastructure needs. She discussed the process for budget approval to the commission. Further updates on the budget expected between April/May.

Sports Grant Packages:

Director Lechowicz provided hard copies of the grant submissions and will provide email copies. Provided a brief update on the submissions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Department Updates:

Director Lechowicz shared department updates with the commission. For the recreation division, she reviewed day one of camp registrations, emphasizing the high demand with one camp already at 97% percent capacity. She highlighted that families are utilizing the financial payment options, which is making enrollment more accessible. Gave update that all programming has had an increase. For the senior division, gave update on the program attendance policy. Review the no show policy and emphasized trying to meet the needs of the membership with the high demands for event programming. Gave an update on the grant funded nutrition counseling, which started this month that was well received and attended.

Manager of Recreation Position:

Director Lechowicz gave update on the job posting. Because it is a unionized position, an internal posting went out first and there was an internal application. The director, along with the chief of staff, will be interviewing this candidate and will provide further updates in March. Councilwoman suggested if there was an opportunity for members of the commission to provide questions that that the director and chief of staff could submit towards the interview process.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Director Lechowicz was asked about the status of the tennis courts. Briefly discussed the conditions of the tennis courts and the process surrounding the maintenance. She will reach out to Wesleyan for update on status of courts and their readiness.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Kapaczewski made a motion to adjourn, seconded by commissioner Pylant. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:24pm.