

RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes

February 1, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:40 pm by Bill Jacques, Chairman of the Recreation Commission who determined the meeting had been called in accordance with the N.J.S.A. 20:4-6 et seq. Notice of this meeting was given by annual notice to the official newspapers, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL:

L. Monetti (P); B. Jacques (P); C. Zaikov (P); D. Mobus (P); J. Pennett (P); M. Onuska (A); M. Weber (P)

CONSENT AGENDA: The minutes of the January 4, 2017 meeting were approved by J. Pennett, seconded by C. Zaikov. All were in favor.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: See Attached

CORRESPONDENCE:

Summer Camp Expense Ratios
Oath of Office – W. Jacques
Ness Property Survey
NY Yankee Season Schedule
Scotch Plains and Madison Camp Information

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Commission discussed the Summer Camp program that was proposed to be run at Brook Hill Swim and Tennis Club. J. Pennett mentioned offering tennis and swim lessons as a try out. D. Mobus mentioned we should be prepared to offer the program to Warren and Green Brook as early as we can so that we would fill the program. Also suggested was setting up a large tent in case it rains. B. Jacques suggested looking into how Warren handles their payments. J. Pennett suggested giving a discount to anyone that pays by a certain date and offering the program in two week blocks.

REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE: No Report

Recreation Basketball
Boys Traveling Basketball
Somerset County Activities

Special Events
Girls Traveling Basketball
Adult Basketball

Volleyball
Tennis

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commission discussed goals for this year as well as plans for the next 5 years. J. Pennett advised that the Summer Camp program is a big undertaking and the details of such a program will be a great accomplishment for Recreation if approved. L. Monetti suggested having a "Concert in the Park" event in the future and J. Pennett mentioned having a "Battle of the Bands" event. L. Monetti reported that the BOE had been contacted to combined the Movie Night again with the Ice Cream Social event. No confirmation was received. The issue with the goose droppings was discussed again as this has been an issue with the field at Mobus and a concern when having events when residents might like to sit on the ground. L. Monetti proposed the possibility of purchasing the vacuum cart that was mentioned years ago that could be used by the DPW prior to an event but the cost of \$5000. was a concern.

The Commission discussed the details of the Easter Egg Hunt. L. Monetti mentioned the Lion's Club planned to make a donation again this year but no amount was disclosed. D. Mobus suggested purchasing 4000 eggs this year to accommodate the extra children not anticipated last year. L. Monetti mentioned that last year's DJ was not available and that she had contacted Fun Services for a DJ for this years event. Also mentioned was that Valley View School gave us permission to use their parking lot for the event.

The Commission discussed making improvements to existing programs and events. J. Pennett suggested including a few games at the Community Picnic event to attract some of the older children. Also mentioned was contacting Chipotle which just open next to Gray's Florist on Rt. 22. L. Monetti mentioned that donations request letters will be sent out by the end of February.

The Commission reviewed the Ness properties concept plans. D. Mobus mentioned that the Borough is looking into available grants to fund the Ness property project and would like recommendations from the Recreation Commission. C. Zaikov and J. Pennett both suggested using concept plan C and including a Recreation center with an indoor gym that could be used for several activities including a teen center. B. Jacques suggested using concept A with the Amphitheater and fitness trail.

L. Monetti mentioned that WHRHS requested the use of our tennis courts for the spring season Monday thru Friday, as their courts need to be replaced or repaired and are not currently available for their use. As the Watchung Recreation tennis program has been in place on the Mobus courts since they have been replaced, the commission felt that it would be ok for the high school to use the courts when our programs are not in session which would be Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. D. Mobus mentioned discussing this with the administrator and making sure that he was in agreement with their use of the courts.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:

Fred Dealaman Bus Service – “Kids Night Out” @ Sunburst Gym.	\$275.00
O2 Sports – Basketball Mesh Logo Shirts	\$180.00
O2 Sports - Basketball Mesh Logo Shirts	\$2584.00

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business B. Jacques adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.
The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 7:30PM
at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By;

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/
Recording Secretary

WATCHUNG RECREATION
COORDINATOR'S REPORT

March 1, 2017

Capital Improvements; As the Borough had planned to renovate the Phillip's Field decking adjacent to the Snack Shack the Borough received two quotes from local contractors for the job. When the lowest bidder submitted the drawing of specifications for the renovation the building inspector assessed the condition of the deck before approving the work and it was his recommendation that the deck should be completely removed and rebuilt with ADA requirements as one of the joists were loose in the ground. Although he did not feel it was an immediate concern, he did feel it was not wise to add more weight to the structure as it is and that it should be rebuilt to code for the future. As the Little League season is fast approaching the project was put on hold until the end of the 2017 Little League season. As the original quotes for the renovation will no longer be valid new quotes for the replacement of the decking will need to be requested.

Field/Facility Use; Mr. B ran a holiday camp on February 20th for President's Day. The facility use for that program was \$240.00 for the one day program and Mr. B plans to run another holiday camp program during the Easter holiday break. He has also submitted a field use application for various summer camp programs for the weeks between June 26th through August 25th. His programs will include half and full day programs.

At the last Recreation Commission meeting discussed was the request from WHRHS for the use of the borough tennis courts at Mobus Field. As the high school courts are in disrepair the director of the boys tennis team requested to use the borough's courts for their tennis season from March 3rd to May 26th for whatever days would be available. As the commission was in agreement that we should accommodate their request, the administrator was made aware of their request and agreed that we should allow the boys tennis team to use the Mobus courts on those days that the borough's spring tennis lessons are not in session. As the spring tennis program is scheduled to run on Tuesday's from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm the Borough has received the field use application from WHRHS to use the courts from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as well as Tuesday before 4:00 pm and after 6:00 pm.

Kids Night Out Program; After the final count of 14 registrations for the program the Borough received a refund from the insurance carrier of \$302, bringing the total cost of insurance down to \$145.00 from the original \$447.00. With the cost of the bus the total amount for running the program came to \$390.00.

As I am a member of the Youth Services Commission and we now have two youth members from Valley View School, the teen program was mentioned and their feedback was that the students appreciated the opportunity of the program and even though they were not able to attend they hope that other programs could be run so that students would have more social opportunities in the future. As this program would be available to at risk students, which is what the Youth Services Grant funds programs for, it is possible that Recreation could partner with Youth Services to help fund future "Kids Night Out" programs.

Summer Camp Program; After the meeting with Brook Hill Swim Club to discuss the possibility of running a summer camp program at their facility, members of the board approved running the program at their facility with a \$7.00 per person, per day fee to compensate Brook Hill for the use of their facility. The Borough is in the process of putting together all the necessary forms needed to run the program. A notice to announce the camp director's position has gone out to the papers this week and the notice was forwarded to the high school, Valley View and Bayberry. A Resolution to set the fees for the program will be approved at the Mayor and Council meeting tomorrow night, March 2nd. Trips need to be scheduled, buses need to be reserved and forms need to be updated or complete before the program can be advertised. The rain location has been approved with a \$5.00 per person fee, per day of use to Sunburst Gymnastics. A revised insurance quote for the entire program including all trips was quoted as \$340.00 for the 8 week program. The program will run from June 26th through August 18th and the staff will be hired according to the amount of registrations. The director will oversee the program and staff, a health coordinator will be hired as an assistant to the director with mandatory CPR and first aid certifications. The staff will consist of qualified college and high school students with relevant experience.

Easter Egg Hunt; The event flyer has been posted in the school's Friday Backpacks. A new banner has been purchased as the first banner was worn and the dates are not current. It will be placed on the Watchung Lake property before the end of next week. The DJ has been scheduled and we have a volunteer for the Easter Bunny mascot. More eggs will be purchased this year in anticipation of a large crowd like last year and parking will be offered at Valley View School as we now have the approval to use their parking lot for the event.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator