

RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 14, 2018
(February Meeting Cancelled)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:33 pm by C. Zaikvo, Vice-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 (A); C. Zaikov (P); D. Mobus (P); J. Pennett (A); M. Onuska (A); M. Weber (P); C. Taylor (A); M. Candiloros (P);

CONSENT AGENDA: C. Zaikov made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2018 meeting, M. Weber 2nd the motion.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: See Attached

CORRESPONDENCE:

Kids Night Out – Program Flyers
Oath of Office – M. Weber
Summer Expansion Grant Information
Summer Camp Registration Forms
Project Graduation Information
NY Yankees Season Ticket Schedule

PUBLIC PORTION:

Amber Murad joined the meeting as a potential alternate Rec Commission member. The Commission explained the upcoming events and how she could be involved. L. Monetti stated that she would be a voting member if she was part of a quorum at the meeting. D. Mobus made a motion to recommend her appointment to the Mayor and Council, M. Weber second the motion. All were in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

L. Monetti reported that the field modification for the Phillip's Field deck project was accepted by the Borough and that the BOE now needs to approve it before the project could be started.

The Commission discussed the condition of the fields for the Easter Egg Hunt. D. Mobus mentioned that with the extreme weather in the past few weeks the fields were saturated and that the DPW might need to remove some storm debris before the event. The members discussed postponing the event but L. Monetti mentioned that if the Commission postponed the Egg Hunt the deck project could not be completed before Little League Opening Day as anticipated. After thoughtful consideration and many possible issues discussed the Commission agreed that it was best to cancel the Egg Hunt this year. All were in agreement of the decision.

The "Kids Night Out" program for March 24th was cancelled as there were no registrations for the program. The second event is scheduled for April 21st at the Sky Zone in South Plainfield. D. Mobus and M. Candiloros offered to chaperone the event. L. Monetti mentioned that the programs were being advertised in the school, on the Borough website and sent out by resident email through the Borough as well as the basketball and Little League email contacts. M. Candiloros offered to contact the school to see if we could use their email list to get the word out about Recreation programs and events.

L. Monetti reported that there were no Summer Camp registrations so far but residents have until April 16th to take advantage of the early registration discount.

NEW BUSINESS:

L. Monetti shared the information about the grant available through the Juvenile Justice Commission. She mentioned that the funds are to be used to accommodate at risk youth during the summer months. She reported that the Borough was in favor of applying for the grant in the amount of \$10,000. and if the funds were awarded the money would pay for 5 or more students to attend a Borough Summer Camp program. Recommendations would be made by the school psychologist or guidance counselor on an as needed basis. The notice of approval for the grant is expected to be announced by March 30th, 2018.

The Commission discussed making a donation toward WHRHS for Project Graduation.

D. Mobus mentioned that as we have supported the program in the past and it is a great program for Seniors to participate in, he made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the program. M. Weber second the motion. All were in favor.

Purchasing T-Shirts for the Commission was discussed. The group thought it was a way for residents to locate Commission members in the crowd if they had any questions or issues. The Commission also made a decision not to use wristbands at the events as previously discussed. They decided that it was better to list the town in which families are from as they enter the event. This would give us an idea of how many people are attending the event from other towns.

The Commission discussed treating the property at Brook Hill Swim Club with Cedar Oil, a product used to control the tick population. Martoccia Landscape Services gave us a price for four treatments recommending we spray the camp area four times between the months of April and October. As the oil is safe for children and should be applied once every two months, L. Monetti suggested only treating the camp grounds twice as the program is only run for two months. She also suggested including the Mobus Field Playground area as part of the four treatments quoted as that is when the park has the most use. All members were in agreement.

REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE:

Recreation Basketball
Boys Traveling Basketball
Somerset County Activities

Special Events
Girls Traveling Basketball
Adult Basketball

Volleyball
Tennis

C. Zaikov reported that the Basketball Showcase was cancelled due to the power outages at the school. When he tried to reschedule the program the school was not available as the school was using the room for the school play. The event was not rescheduled.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:

Kids Night Out:

Fred Dealaman Bus Service – “Kid’s Night Out” Program \$310.00
Sky Zone South Plainfield – Deposit for Reservation \$100.00

Signs by Tomorrow – Easter Egg Hunt \$179.81

National Center for Safety Initiatives – Background Checks \$325.00
The Brooklyn Press – Volleyball T-Shirts \$259.16
Thor Guard, Inc. – Battery for Lightning System \$125.00
Bardy Farms – Fruit Basket for M. Onuska \$35.00

Summer Camp:

Land of Make Believe – June 29th Reservation Deposit \$100.00
The Circus Place – Aug. 17th Reservation Deposit \$100.00

Basketball:

T. Zaikov – Referee Reimbursement \$180.00
C. Zaikov – Referee Reimbursement \$540.00
Scott Shiffman - Referee Reimbursement \$350.00
Curtis Dahl - Referee Reimbursement \$550.00
Maria Dahl - Referee Reimbursement \$200.00
Brian Morris – Referee Reimbursement \$250.00
Jack Griffith - Referee Reimbursement \$500.00
Todd Smith - Referee Reimbursement \$500.00
DJ Hunsinger - Referee Reimbursement \$370.00

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business D. Mobus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm, M. Weber second the motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Monetti

Linda Monetti

WATCHUNG RECREATION
COORDINATOR'S REPORT

March 14, 2018

Grant Information; The NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety and the Juvenile Justice Commission is offering a grant to provide positive youth development activities to at-risk youth during the summer months. The grant was presented to the Youth Services Commission but is also available to the town's Recreation Commission. The grant is available in the amount of \$5000.00 to \$20,000. per region. As Watchung now has a summer camp program in place along with other options for children in the summer months such as Mr. B's Summer Camps. An application was submitted through the Recreation Commission to request \$10,000. that could accommodate 5 students for the full 8 week summer program. The grant approval notices will be mailed out by March 30, 2018. If the Rec. Commission is awarded the grant then we will make a determination as to who will attend the camp. The at-risk determination will be based on those students that might be left unattended during the summer months while both parent are at work. Recommendations will be requested from the guidance department at Valley View and Bayberry Schools. The students' needs would be evaluated by the schools and recommended to the commission for us to make the decision on who will be awarded the scholarships. The commission could also decide to use the grant for more than 5 children allocating the funds to accommodate more children.

Kids Night Out; Two programs are now set to run. One on Saturday, March 24th at Sunburst Gymnastic in Union and one on Saturday, April 21st to Sky Zone trampoline park in South Plainfield. Both programs will supply bus transport to and from the Watchung Police parking lot. Information is on our website and in the school backpacks. It is our hope to keep the program available to Watchung students only.

Phillip's Field Decking; The borough has received two quotes for the deck project at Phillip's Field. The Field Modification has been approved by the Borough and submitted to the BOE for their approval. If the BOE supports the project and approved within two weeks it could be completed by Opening Day.

Easter Egg Hunt; The Lion's Club has offered to donate \$800.00 toward the event as well as a personal donation from Mike Finne of \$150.00 to help offset our costs. Last year we ordered 4000 eggs which seemed to accommodate the crowd well. Fun Services was contacted for a DJ and game host. Valley View School gave us permission to use their parking lot for the overflow of cars during the event. The owners of Cupa Café, the new coffee shop in town, is interested in supplying coffee for the event. Also the Girl Scouts have requested to sell cookies at the event again this year.

Community Picnic; Donation requests for the event have been sent out. A grant application was submitted again this year for Stop & Shop. Unfortunately grants are only rewarded after a 12 month period and as the Borough was awarded \$500.00 in the fall of 2017 the Borough does not qualify at this time. As the Commission discussed requiring a wrist band to enter the event, volunteers will be needed to man the table for this process. Gaiser's Wholesale Foods contacted the Borough about participating in the event. They would like to donate items such as kielbasa, sausage, Bratwurst or any meat we would like to add to our event. The marketing representative lives on Wetumpka Lane in Watchung and has been at our events and why she offered to participate. Also the Marketing Coordinator from Bonefish Grill offered to supply the event with a few appetizer options they offer in their restaurant. These two new vendors will add more food options to the event which is something the residents requested in the online survey.

Summer Camp; The camp registration is now open to residents with an early registration discount of \$25. until April 16th. Registrations will be open to the sending district on May 1st. All trips are planned, the busses have been reserved, Sunburst Gymnastics has agreed to supply the camp with a rain location and the Brook Hill contract is now in place. The Brook Hill member discount of \$35. will apply to the WHRHS sending district (Warren, Green Brook, Long Hill & Watchung) to encourage families to join the club.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator