

**RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**December 5, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:30 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 ( A ); M. Onuska ( P ); M. Weber ( A ); C. Taylor ( A ); M. Candiloros ( P ); A. Murad ( P );

**CONSENT AGENDA:** M. Onuska made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting, A. Murad second the motion.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** (Attached)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Devils Game Group Pricing Information  
Kids Night Out Program Information

Recreation Budget  
Recreation Donation Account

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

L. Monetti mentioned that the Commission is running on a temporary budget as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 and funds were used from the Special Events budget to run trips like the Devil's Game and Yankee Game trip. Since the Special Events budget includes the Easter Egg Hunt, Movie Night and Fishing Derby, there may not be extra funds in the budget once approved to run these trips which also includes the "Kids Night Out" Program. The Commission agreed to hold off on plans for these trips as they have not been well attended the past few years.

The Commission discussed planting shade trees at the Mobus Playground. As D.E. Knegten sat in at the meeting, she mentioned planting trees may not be our best option as tree branches could block the parents view if their children happen to wander. She suggested putting in some playground umbrellas and posts with shade as she felt they would be a safer option. A. Murad mentioned that there are many options for the shade structures and that she would look into what was available.

***NEW BUSINESS:***

L. Monetti suggested adding an 18" fence to the Capital Budget that could be installed at the edge of the lake that borders Mobus Field and adding a three foot fence around the Mobus Field Playground to discourage the geese from entering the park area. She also pointed out that the fence around the playground would allow parent to let their children run without the possibility of them wondering near the stream. She stated another benefit to the fence would be that it would be easier for the parents to keep an eye on their children if the area was enclosed and that we could leave only one area open to get in and out of the playground and that could be by the ramp.

The Commission discussed the Summer Camp Program. D. Mobus suggested waiting to discuss the camp until the next meeting when the Borough will have more details on the sale of the Brook Hill property.

The Commission discussed the Dates for the 2019 Events. The dates decided for all planned events are as follows;

- Easter Egg Hunt – April 13<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date April 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Community Picnic – May 18<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date May 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Movie Night – Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> (Date TBD by PTO)
- Fishing Derby - Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> (Rain Date Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Harvest Festival – October 19th (Rain Date Oct. 20th)

- A. Murad suggested finding a date for the Harvest Festival that did not conflict with the "Weekend Journey" at the Texier House. D. Mobus suggested planning the event so it did not conflict with the Forest Lodge "October Festival" and those dates have not yet been determined.

L. Monetti mentioned that she had received an email from Halecon, Inc with an estimate of \$45,000. to repair the cracks in the tennis courts. She reported Halecon suggested waiting another year before making any repairs as they did not observe any safety hazard that should affect anyone while playing on the courts.

M. Candiloros suggested putting in an ice rink somewhere on Borough property. B. Jacques stated that an ice rink had been purchased years ago but did not hold up and mentioned that there are better options on the market now. D.E. Kneigten mentioned the Borough could use a third party to run and manage a rink for us if we were to install one.

L. Monetti reported that she received an email from a company called Ultra Artists out of Morristown, NJ which is a booking agency for tribute bands performing authentic music from popular bands from the 70's and 80's. The Commission discussed having a "Music in the Park" event this summer. L. Monetti brought up the concerns about having the event at Mobus with the issues of the geese and that the field would be difficult to clean up before such an event. D. Mobus suggested including Food Trucks at the event. Phillip's Field was mentioned as a location for a music event. As the tennis courts were used for the Harvest Festival that too was a suggestion for the location for the event.

A. Murad suggested having a Halloween parade every year on or before Halloween. L. Monetti mentioned the town use to hold a Halloween Parade years ago which included the Police, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and any families or children that wanted to participate.

**VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:**

ARF Rental Service – Temporary Restroom	\$23.94
Dee Lightning & Safety, Inc. – Maintenance Service	\$250.00

*Basketball;*

Darrow’s Sporting Edge – Travel Basketball Jerseys & Shorts	\$2850.00
Darrow’s Sporting Edge – Recreation Basketball Uniforms	\$983.25

**REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE:**

Recreation Basketball	Special Events	Volleyball
Boys Traveling Basketball	Girls Traveling Basketball	Tennis
Somerset County Activities	Adult Basketball	

L. Monetti mentioned that the Superintendent of Valley View School had informed her that the Borough use to pay for a custodian when using the school on a Saturday for the basketball program. She mentioned that starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 the Borough would need to cover those costs if the program is run on a Saturday. The hourly rate mentioned was \$35.00 per hour. C. Zaikov stated that since the fees have not been raised to participate in the basketball program in years and the borough will now be responsible for custodial fees when using the schools on a Saturday, the fees could be raised for the 2019/20 season to help offset some of those costs. He also mentioned that Warren may take over the program for Watchung in the future as there is not as much interest in recreation and travel basketball as there had been in the past.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business B. Jacques called to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm, M. Onuska seconded the motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 2, 2019, 7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

*Linda Monetti*

Recreation Coordinator