

RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
November 4, 2020

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The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:37 pm by Bill Jacques, Chairman of the Recreation Commission who determined the meeting had been called in accordance with the N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 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); S. Black (A); J. Pennett (P); M. Onuska (P); M. Weber (A); S. Stiles (P); A. Baitel (P); D. Mobus (A)

CONSENT AGENDA: B. Jacques made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2020 meeting, J. Pennett seconded the motion. All were in favor.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The Pumpkin Decorating Event was well attended with 131 pumpkins used at the event. The total cost of the event came to \$2,386.49 including all costs with pumpkins, gift cards, paint, goodie bags and miscellaneous supplies. Some supplies were left over and can be used for a future event. The BBQ and Ice Cream food trucks were a great addition to the event.

A request was submitted to the Mayor and Council to replace the picnic tables at Mobus and Phillip's for their approval as they are now becoming a safety issue.

The grant approval for the Game Time playground equipment has not yet been confirmed.

Field Use;

The Cub Scouts postponed their recruiting event from last Sunday to this Sunday, Nov. 8th from noon to 3:00pm at Mobus Field.

C. Zaikov put in a request to use Mobus Field basketball courts on Saturday from 9am – 3:00pm and Sunday before noon and after 3:00pm for the Travel Basketball program tryouts.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Any Excuse for a Party Flyer; Information on costs to run a Drive-In Movie event.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2021 budget request for funding was submitted according to last years approved amounts in anticipation of offering the following programs in 2021; Easter Egg Hunt, Community Picnic, Music in the Park, Fishing Derby, Movie Night and the Harvest Festival. If any of these programs cannot be offered due to the health risks, modifications can be made to offer similar or alternate programs with safety measures in place. All were in favor.

The Commission discussed alternative options for events in case COVID restrictions remain. L. Monetti suggested offering a Drive-In Movie night event in the spring if the high school would allow the Borough to use their parking lot for the event.

The Commission discussed offering the Holiday Lights and Snow Sculpture Contests. B. Jacques made a motion to get an approval to hold the Holiday Lights contest. A. Baitel second the motion. All were in favor. A. Baitel made a motion to hold the Snow Sculpture Contest, M. Onuska second the motion. All were in favor.

The Commission discussed making changes to the Capital Budget. C. Zaikov suggested adding a Community Garden to the plans for the property at Camp Endeavor. He mentioned a resident is motivated to contribute to this project if approved and that the project could be implemented with charitable volunteerism.

J. Pennett recommended getting an update from the Mayor and Council about the plans for the Ness property. M. Onuska conferred that the Commission agreed on option 3 in the plans for the property which included a walking path, a multi-sports field and an amphitheater.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:

Gray’s Florist – 131 Pumpkins	\$327.50
L. Monetti – Gift Cards & miscellaneous supplies	\$345.55
L. Monetti – Event Banner	\$47.63
A. Baitel – Table Clothes, Goodie Bags, Paint, etc.	\$1,615.26
League Athletics, Annual Website Hosting	\$250.00

REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE:

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

C. Zaikov mentioned that since the schools are not allowing access to their gyms for the basketball program, games could be held at Hoop Heaven in Bridgewater or the Peak Sports Academy in Mountainside but they will be in need of insurance to enter into the Jersey Basketball Association leagues. J. Pennett mentioned that Warren Township had tryouts and that 4th, 5th & 7th grade girls will be mixed with Warren students.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business B. Jacques motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, M. Onuska second the motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, December 2, 2020 7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/
Recording Secretary