



RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes

March 5, 2025

7:30p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Chairman Michael Onuska, who determined that this meeting was called in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Notice of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the official newspapers, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL:

Michael Onuska, Chair Person (√); Bill Jacques, Vice Chair Person (√); John Pennett, (√); Mary Ann Weber (√); Suzanne Stiles (); Curt Dahl, Council Liaison (); Pierce Jubin (); Robert Weck (√); Dámaris Gray, Coordinator (√)

CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of the February 5, 2025 Re-Organization meeting minutes
A motion to approve the February 5, 2025, meeting minutes was made by John Pennett and seconded by Mary Ann Weber, all present were in favor.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: 2025 Events through June (attached hereto)

Damaris Gray gave a brief summary as follows:

- Edmonds & Associates (Parks & Recreation Module – Website
Due to the fact that fees will not be charged for use of the courts, the Parks & Recreation Module – Phase 1 for Tennis & Pickle Ball reservations went live on March 4th. She also informed the residents will need to make an account and sign up through the new Recreation portal. Further, per the Administration, the current policy is that Mobus Field Court reservations are **only available to Watchung residents** and that residents of other towns are free to use the courts when they are not reserved. Email blasts and social media postings with sign up details has also been circulated. Robert Weck suggested to have signs posted at the Tennis & Pickleball Courts with QRcode to signup and reserve the courts.
- June 23rd to August 1st - Summer Camp – Camp will be held at Mobus Field. All weekly trips and transportation have been confirmed. This year the camp offers free swim lessons Tuesdays and Thursdays at Big Blue Swim School in Watchung. We are waiting to confirm Tennis and Pickleball lessons for Monday and Wednesday mornings. Our goal is to open registration both online and in-person by March 17. Michael Onuska suggested a media release waiver also be required to take pictures and send to parents and for future promotional purposes.
- April 5th - Easter Egg Hunt - \$500.00 check issued by the Lions Club was received. 6,000 plastic eggs were ordered and received. Volunteers are still needed. Bunny costume will be dried cleaned.

- May 17th - Community Picnic – Request for donations will be sent out in March. Event flyer to be sent out in mid-April.
- June 21st - Block Party – Flag Day theme, Red, White and Blue Inflatable Rides, Trackless Train. Lost in Place Band confirmed. Waiting on Watchung Education Foundation regarding Fundraiser (Wine & Beer Garden) Food trucks still have to confirm.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Attached hereto)

Jude Escano – Watchung Hills Select Youth Basketball Team won both the 2024/25 Hoop Heaven 7th/8th Grade Division Championship and the 2024/25 Clark 7th Grade Boys White Division Championship! They will be honored by the Mayor and Council at a future meeting.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:

None to report since last meeting.

REPORTS OF CHAIR PERSONS -

Men’s Basketball – John Pennett gave an update as to the participants attending Friday nights and is very pleased with the turn out each week.

No reports were given for the following:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Items to add to Capital Improvement wish list –Mike Onuska added to a suggestion made by Robert Weck previously, in regards to building a multi-purpose rink at Camp Endeavor or behind the Mobus Field Pavilion, to be used year-round for street hockey, soccer and in the Winter as an ice rink.
- Lighting around Watchung Lake – Michael Onuska inquired as to a response from DPW regarding reporting of faulty lighting. He also stated that he reported a pole on Brookdale that was out. Damaris Gray will inform the Borough’s Administrator of the matter, to get this issue resolved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mary Ann Weber and seconded by John Pennett. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm. The next meeting is scheduled to be held Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 7:30pm at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard. Michael Onuska - Chairman, informed that he may not be at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dámaris Quiñones-Gray

Recreation Coordinator/Recording Secretary

Accepted: 5/7/2025