

**RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 3rd, 2021**

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://zoom.us/j/3331540373>

Meeting ID: 333 154 0373

Dial by your location:
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:32 pm by Craig Zaikov, Vice 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 (A); C. Zaikov (P); J. Pennett (P); M. Onuska (P); M. Weber (P); S. Stiles (P); A. Baitel (P); F. Hayeck (P)

OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE:

Mayor K. Balla read the Oaths of Allegiance for the following members who were sworn in as members of the Recreation Commission for a 5 year term.

Craig Zaikov
Mike Onuska
Freddie Hayeck

CONSENT AGENDA: S. Stiles made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting. J. Pennett second the motion. All were in favor.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The Snow Sculpture Contest is now over and the Borough has received a total of 13 entries. Each entry was unique and most included a picture of the children so the purpose of getting the children outside during this pandemic was a success! The Commission must now decide on a first, second and third place winner. The Commission determined the following businesses would be supported with the gift card as follows;

Wasu Shushi - \$100.00
Marino's Pizza - \$50.00
Duncan Donuts - \$25.00

C: M, C, J, D, E, G - 4/20/21

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (Continued)

The Borough has received two emails to date inquiring about the Summer Camp program. The program was proposed at the budget meeting along with the Music in the Park, Comedy in the Park, a Movie in the Park and the Pumpkin Painting event. Since the meeting it was brought to my attention that the school would like to partner with Recreation to run a Juneteenth Celebration in collaboration with the PTO and BOE. Also proposed was an extension of Operation Pride which is the town's clean-up day and run by Traffic and Beautification. The program could also be partnered with the Environmental Commission as they will have tree saplings to give out. Recreation could include a spring craft like painting terracotta pots and planting flowers or seeds. For Juneteenth which is June 19th the school would like to have a celebration focused on culture with music and food trucks and again have the Recreation Commission supply some type of cultural art project for the children. They would like to include the Art Center for the music, PTO which could supply Food Trucks and the school would have a speaker. The Commission was in support of all programs listed.

It was a unanimous vote to use the band "Lost in Place" again this year for the *Music in the Park* event if they are available.

Field Use;

Mr. B submitted a field use application for two Volleyball programs that he would like to hold again at Blackadar Field. The programs will be run in two consecutive series starting in the spring running from March thru the end of May from 3:30pm – 6pm. He has also submitted a request to use the Watchung Lake for the Fishing Camp which he would like to run from June 28th to August 27th excluding the first two weeks of August. The Borough is waiting for the approval of the Phillip's Field lease agreement contract from the Board of Education before approving the Volleyball programs on Phillip's. The Fishing Camp has not yet been approved.

US Sports was interested in running a few outdoor sports programs at Mobus. They were hoping to have a tennis program approved for some time in March. Unfortunately US Sports was not able to supply an AED unit during the programs that was recommended by OEM and therefore their permit was not approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Oaths of Office – C. Zaikov, M. Onuska, F. Hayeck

Budget Proposal for the 2021 Recreation Programs and Events

Mr. B's field use application and COVID plan for the Fishing Camp

Snow Sculpture Contest Entries

NEW BUSINESS:

S. Stiles offered to put together a link for the Commission to view and decide on the winners for the Snow Sculpture Contest.

The Commission discussed the details of the Spring Craft Day as well as the Juneteenth event. It was decided to offer a terracotta pot painting project. A. Baitel suggested using paint pens instead of a traditional paint and brush method. L. Monetti mentioned that we can have a mandatory sign up link with a cut off amount to regulate the number of participants. All were in favor.

M. Onuska suggested using a wait a see approach to running other programs and events for 2021 due to the health concerns. All were in favor.

REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE: No Reports

Recreation Basketball
Boys Traveling Basketball
Somerset County Activities

Special Events
Girls Traveling Basketball
Adult Basketball

Volleyball
Tennis

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business J. Pennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. M. Onuska second the motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 7th, 2021, 7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/
Recording Secretary