

**RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:45pm by C. 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 ( A ) T. Sims ( A )

**CONSENT AGENDA:** C. Zaikov made a motion to approve the April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting minutes, M. Weber second the motion. All were in favor.

**VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:**

|                                                             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Project Graduation                                          | \$500.00 |
| L. Monetti – Egg Hunt Gift Cards, Supplies and Refreshments | \$223.37 |

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

**Summer Camp;** The Borough has received 72 Summer Camp registrations to date collecting over \$61,000. Weeks 4 and 5 are now full at 44 registrations each. The \$25. weekly discount option has expired and the program is now open to Warren, Green Brook and Long Hill Township. Five camp counselor positions are still available. The hourly salary for counselors was increased from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour in order to be competitive with the surrounding towns. All camp trip locations required a deposit to secure our reservation and the cost of the trips have each increased in the past year so we may not include a rainy-day trip this year in order to not incur additional costs to run the program. In 2019 \$5200.00 was spent to include 8 rain day trips with the bus transportation. Once we get closer to the start of camp, we will have a better idea if we have the extra funds to run rain day trips.

**Easter Egg Hunt;** Due to inclement weather it was decided that the event should be postponed until Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> which was a good call as it rained heavy the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended with approximately 220 people that participated in the activities. 4000 eggs were distributed and all of them were collected in about 15 minutes. The ages were split into two groups instead of three which was much better as the crowd dispersed easily into the fields and all the children were able to collect eggs. The DJ played appropriate music for the event and came with her own supplies for the games. Waters, juice packs, grab and go snacks were purchased from Costco as well as coffee and hot chocolate from Duncan Donuts. F. Hayeck had agreed to greet the children as the bunny but since he was not well the morning of the event his brother agreed to take over for him. The total cost of the event came to \$2004.67. Since the Lion's Club donated \$500.00 in 2020 for the egg hunt event and the Borough did not have the activities due to COVID the donation was applied to this year's event. Costs included signs, the DJ, 4 - \$25.00 Gift cards, over 60 small game prizes, 4000 eggs, decorations, snacks and refreshments.

C.M+C, JD + EG - 9/8/22

**Community Picnic;** The school has given us permission to use Bayberry School grounds for the event as the playground equipment has not been accessible since Hurricane Ida and the grounds look unsightly with the addition of the orange fencing. The BOE gave the Borough permission to place the bounce house on the grassy area by the playground at Bayberry as well as the petting zoo from Kafka Farms if available. A triple game truck has been reserved for the event as well as a DJ/game host. Meeker Sharker has agreed to supply and distribute the pizza again this year. The library and the Art Center plan to have a table supplying a craft for the children. Wilson Memorial also plans to supply the event with a craft. They will be supplying the event with a rock painting table. The Municipal Alliance plans to make a donation to Borough to help offset some of the costs. Cinamark offered to donate the popcorn. Chick-Fil-A plans to have a table to give out chicken nuggets and coupons. Fun Services has an entertainer that does a bubble show that has been reserved. We will rent a 6-foot grill for the hot dogs and the Rescue Squad has agreed to hand out prepackaged ice cream. Sue Tucker is looking into getting support from the Boy Scouts or Caldwell Banker to help support our event.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

M. Onuska announced that the PTO was running a similar event on the same day as the Community Picnic. He mentioned that the PTO event will be held at Meadow Brook Country Day Camp in Long Valley from 11:00am – 3:00pm. The event will be free to PTO members. L. Monetti mentioned that due to commitments with vendors and volunteers it would be difficult to reschedule either event and so both events will run simultaneously in hopes to attract enough participants for each event. A. Baitel offered to attend future PTO meetings starting in September so that the Recreation Commission and the PTO will be informed of what each group is offering the town and so that duplicate events won't be run in the future. Also, she will mention that the Recreation Commission is open to working together with the PTO as we have done in the past with the Movie Night and Ice Cream Social.

L. Monetti mentioned that they are still looking for participants for the Mayor's Regatta event. S. Stiles mentioned she may be interested in participating in the event as a representative of the Recreation Commission. L. Monetti reported that the water still needs to be tested to make sure it would be safe for the event and the town is in the process of looking for a lifeguard. A. Baitel mentioned that she knows of a student that has a life guard certification and has experience may be available.

**REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE:**

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

L. Monetti mentioned that Phillip's Field was treated for the geese issue prior to the Egg Hunt but Mobus Field may not be treated since the playground area has been closed to residents.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business S. Stiles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm, J. Pennett second the motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 7th, 2022, 7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

*Linda Monetti*

Recreation Coordinator/Recording Secretary