

**RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 1st, 2021**

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

Meeting ID: 333 154 0373

Dial In # - 1 (646) 558 – 8656

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:32 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); J. Pennett (P); M. Onuska (P); M. Weber (P); S. Stiles (P); A. Baitel (P); F. Hayeck (P) T. Sims (P)

CONSENT AGENDA: M. Weber made a motion to approve the June 2nd, 2021 meeting minutes S. Stiles second the motion. All were in favor.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (See attached)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

As this was discussed in a previous meeting and because there was a profit of \$3,784.56 from the Summer Camp program, M. Onuska suggested adding any income generated by Recreation programs to go back into the Recreation budget. He felt since the money was generated by running a Recreation program it could be used to support future programs or events instead of the money going back into the general fund of the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS:

L. Monetti reported that due to COVID-19 and the Delta variant and because schools had just opened, OEM and the BOH felt it was important to wait and see what the numbers were before approving any future events. Since the Pumpkin Painting Contest event had run safely last year, and during the pandemic, that program was approved.

C. Zaikov suggested that since the Fishing Derby and Movie Night are both outdoor events, he thought these programs would be safe to run as children will be in school and other programs are now being running like Pop Warner. F. Hayeck suggested that if the Fishing Derby was run and due to the conditions at Watchung Lake he was in favor of holding the event at Best Lake.

NEW BUSINESS: (Continued)

The Commission discussed the possibility of running a modified Harvest Festival event. M. Weber suggested offering grab and go single packaged foods at the event. B. Jacques mentioned that if residents are concerned about the virus, they could wear masks. A. Baitel suggested offering pony rides and wiping down the saddles in-between each child. F. Hayeck mentioned that if food safety is a concern, the Borough can use food trucks as they have been holding Food Truck Fridays for the entire Summer.

B. Jacques made a motion to recommend that the Recreation Commission run all outdoors events, the Fishing Derby, Movie Night and Harvest Festival. F. Hayeck second the motion. All were in favor.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:

Juneteenth Celebration;

Amazon – 100 Flags	\$63.55
Table Clothes	\$52.10

Summer Camp;

Amazon – 20' x 40' tent and camp cot	\$1922.81
Mildew Canvas Cleaner	\$40.71
Craft and Game Supplies	\$847.11
Face Masks	\$51.96
Tent Carpets & Misc. Supplies	\$709.39
Craft Supplies	\$16.98
Cold Packs	\$23.48
N. Patel - Refund for Week 4 – (2) Children	\$450.00
P. Patel - Refund for Week 4 – (1) Child	\$225.00
L. Monetti - 2 Pop Up Tents, Camp Snacks	\$197.21

Summer Camp;

Round Top Registration Fee & Wednesday Weekly Camp Lunch \$8253.50

Week 6 Reimbursement for Early Dismissal & Camp Closer due to excessive heat warning 8/11 & 8/12;

S. Pereira – 2 Children	\$135.00
D. Kwak - 2 Children	\$135.00
P. Siutsou - 2 Children	\$135.00
C Jbeily - 2 Children	\$135.00
I Hekler - 2 Children	\$135.00
B Gilligan - 2 Children	\$135.00
P. Jasapara - 2 Children	\$135.00
K. Roman - 3 Children	\$202.50
S. Saketos – 3 Children	\$202.50
T. Sims - 2 Children	\$135.00
L. Coletti – 1 Child	\$ 67.50
A. Mayer - 1 Child	\$ 67.50

REPORTS:

Recreation Basketball
Boys Traveling Basketball
Somerset County Activities

Special Events
Girls Traveling Basketball
Adult Basketball

Volleyball
Tennis
Summer Camp

T. Sims thanked the Commission for their involvement in the Juneteenth Celebration. She mentioned that they haven't found a location for the quilt that was created but they are open to suggestions. L. Monetti suggested putting it up at one of the school walls since the quilt squares were produced primarily by students. S. Stiles mentioned the event was well done and how the council's interaction was appreciated and how it made the event really fun. She stated that the bongo player and dancer was a great addition to the event.

T. Sims reported that the camp director and counselors did a great job with the summer camp program especially since they did not have the option of going on trips and taking the children out for rain days. She mentioned that the children had a great time and that with all the other options like swimming, basketball, tennis, games and crafts it was a well-run program.

C. Zaikov mentioned that he spoke with the superintendent of Valley View School about using the school for the basketball program. He stated that the school was not optimistic about allowing the program to run indoors but wants to see how things evolve, speaking in terms of the virus now that school is opening and children will be together again in a closed environment.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business M. Weber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. F. Hayeck second the motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, 7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/
Recording Secretary

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

September 1st, 2021

Music in the Park; The event was held on June 5th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Phillip's Field. Approximately 120 residents came out for the event. It was a very hot day which may have discouraged some residents from coming out. The food trucks were a nice addition to the event and supplied by the PTO. The total cost of the event was \$1500. which was the cost of the band.

The Juneteenth Celebration; Approximately 60 residents came out for the event. The craft brought out some very creative residents, as children and adults were both able to participated. The IDEA committee supplied a DJ, an authentic ethnic dancer and an amazing bongo player which created the atmosphere of a celebration. The food truck had some delicious selections with a cultural feel. It turned out to be beautiful warm summer day for the event. The Recreation Commission supplied the event with table clothes and markers for the craft. The total cost of the event was \$417.70. All other costs were covered by the IDEA Committee.

The Fourth of July Parade; The festivities started at Mobus Field where the Police, Fire and Rescue Squad gathered with their vehicles. Several families came with decorated wagons, strollers and most were dressed in patriotic clothing waving American flags. The Mayor led the parade on his motorcycle. Playa Bowls, a new business that recently opened in the Watchung triangle supplied the event with 3/\$50.00 gift certificates to their establishment as prizes for the most patriotic child, family and pet. The event started with a student from Valley View singing the National Anthem and the Mayor spoke briefly to the crowd with a short introduction. Prize winners were announced after everyone made their way around the lake and back to where the parade started. The Fire Department gave out waters and flags and the Police Departments newest members manned a table of washable patriotic tattoos. The CERT Team was also there to support the event and help give out flags which the Recreation Commission purchased for \$63.55. An estimated 40 people came out for the event.

The Summer Camp program; The program ended on August 13th and ran at full capacity with 24 students registered in each week. A waiting list was created in case of cancellations. As four students requested cancellations, refunds were only issued if there was a replacement. We were able to fill only three out of the four cancelled registrations. The program received good feedback from the parents and students who requested to attend camp for additional weeks. There was an early dismissal called for Wednesday, 8/11 and camp was cancelled on Thursday, 8/12 due to the extreme temperatures and the excessive heat warnings. Parents were understanding and reimbursements were issued for the time the camp was not open to those that were registered for that week. Most weekly registrations collected were for \$225. Week one was a 4 day week and cost \$175.00 for early registrations. If registered after June 7th the cost went up to \$200 for wk. 1 and \$250.00 for the rest of the weeks. Registrations collected came to \$32,100. The breakdown of costs are as follows; Staff - \$13,681.25, Round Top for registration and Wednesday lunches - \$8253.00, Reimbursements and supplies - \$6381.19. The total cost of the program came to \$28,315.44 and with the \$32,100.00 in revenue there was a difference of \$3784.56.

The OEM Coordinator made a recommendation to cancel the following programs;

The Fishing Derby; Watchung Lake has had some issues this year which caused flooding and mud buildup on the walkway where most residents like to fish. Mr. B moved the Fishing Camp to Best Lake and he mentioned that it may be better to hold the Fishing Derby at Best Lake as well since the mud is still an issue at Watchung Lake. The commission will need to determine which lake should be used for the derby. As the Blue Ridge Sportsmen group are not available this year to help out at the derby this year, Mr. B agreed to assist the Rec commission at the event.

Movie Night; Fun Services has been contacted for the screen and projection rental for the event. The cost of the screen package and attendant is \$1,050.00. The Commission will also need to get a movie license once a decision is made on what movie that will be shown during the event.

Harvest Festival; The Municipal Alliance would like to partner with the Recreation Commission this year for the event. It was estimated that they would have approximately \$1800 to \$2000 in their budget to add toward the events costs. They may not have another fundraising run as they did not get the involvement that they expected for the 2019 Municipal Alliance run so they are looking into other fundraising options.

International Night; The Mayor proposed holding an International Food Night event sometime in September which was approved by the council at the July 15th meeting. After he made some contacts to help organize vendors to participate he was informed by the restaurants he had contacted that it would be better to have more time for planning and so he asked to postpone the event to next year.

Field Use;

Mr. B found Best Lake to be more favorable for the Fishing Camp since the Lilly Pads seemed to be a constant issue at Watchung Lake as well as the mud build up in the area where he has always held his camp. He had requested permission to add fish to Best Lake if needed but found that was not necessary as there was a sufficient number of fish in Best Lake for his program. Mr. B mentioned that during the program the Department of Fish and Wildlife inspected the lake and found that there were enough Sunnies but they may want to stock the lake with more Catfish and Bass in the coming months.

On June 17th Julibeth Olivera applied to use Mobus Field. She requested to use the field to run a free Zumba class for several dates in July and August. Her field use was approved at the July 15th meeting but she has since cancelled the program.

Country Florist of Warren submitted a field use application to use the Gazebo for a wedding on August 14th. The Borough approved the event at the August 12th Mayor and Council meeting. It was later determined that they only needed to use the Gazebo for pictures and a permit was not necessary and therefore no fee was collected.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/
Recording Secretary