

RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Sept. 7th, 2022

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 7:34 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 (A)

CONSENT AGENDA; A. Baitel made a motion to approve the May 4th, 2022 meeting minutes S. Stiles second the motion. All were in favor.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT; See Attached

CORRESPONDENCE; Movie Night Flyer

UNFINISHED BUSINESS;

The movie night is planned for Friday, Sept. 9th. L. Monetti mentioned that the PBA will be supplying the event with 2 ice cream trucks from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. The movie should start between 7:00pm and 7:30pm or as soon as it is dark enough to see the screen. L. Monetti mentioned the movie is geared to an older audience this year as in the past the movie choices were all animated. The commission will be serving popcorn and refreshments during the movie. M. Weber and J. Pennett mentioned they will be available to help out at the event.

L. Monetti mentioned that Mr. B reached out to volunteers from his fishing camp to see if they would be available to help out at the Fishing Derby. She also reported that Mr. B will be donating bait for the event. Dave Mobus offered to give out the trophies. S. Stile and A. Baitel mentioned they will be available to help out at the event.

The Commission discussed the details of the following events; Movie Night, Fishing Derby, Harvest Festival/Chili Cook Off. L. Monetti mentioned that the mayor agreed to hold the Chili Cook Off during the Harvest Festival event. F. Hayeck mentioned he is in contact with the Girl Scouts and they may be interested in participating in the event. A. Baitel mentioned that the PTO ran a Chili Cook Off several years ago and suggested offering a \$100 gift card for the first-place winner. M. Weber and S. Stiles mentioned they will be available to help out at the event. A. Baitel mentioned her son Noah will also be available to help out at the event.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL;

Juneteenth;

Amazon – Craft Supplies \$94.59

Community Picnic;

Marino's Pizza – 45 Pies \$450.00
Fun Services – Amusements, Grill Rental, DJ, Freezer Rental \$7350.00
Signs By Tomorrow – Community Picnic Banner \$207.11
Bardy Farms – Hay for Tractor Ride \$55.92
L. Monetti – Picnic Supplies, Food and Refreshments \$1031.21

Mayor's Regatta;

Crown Trophy of Green Brook – 2 Trophies \$27.00
Meeker Sharkey – Additional Insurance \$4.00

Summer Camp;

Pump it Up – July 1st Camp Trip Final Payment \$1729.50
Power House Studios – July 8th Camp Trip Final Payment \$1628.00
Wild West City – July 15th Camp Trip Final Payment \$1776.80
Cinamark – July 18 Rain Day Camp Trip \$415.33
Turtle Back Zoo – July 22nd Camp Trip Final Payment \$140.00
Tree Top Adventure – July 22 Camp Trip \$450.00
Aramark – Camp Trip Lunch @ Turtle Back Zoo \$530.99
The Fun Plex – July 29th Camp Trip Final Payment \$1168.00
Crayola Experience – August 5th Camp Trip Deposit \$586.20
Urban Air, Avenel – August 12th Camp Trip Full Amt. w/Lunch \$2064.74
C. Calabrese – Registration Refund \$225.00
The Brooklyn Press – Camp T-Shirts \$1512.02
Round Top Swim Club – Registration 1ST Installment \$5000.00
Round Top Swim Club – Registration 2nd Installment \$5000.00
A Burns – Fingerprinting \$44.13
J. Rhyner – Fingerprinting \$44.13
Justin Drew's - Fingerprinting \$44.13
Veronica Kolacz – Fingerprinting \$444.14
L. Monetti – Mileage Reimbursement \$54.75
Cinemark – 6/27/22 Rain Day Camp Trip \$399.90
Oriental Trading – Camp Crafts \$104.95
Walgreen's – Digital Thermometer \$41.47
The Brooklyn Press – Camp T-Shirts \$251.00
Desiree Sommerville – Camp Snacks \$32.88
Desiree Sommerville – Garwood Lanes Rain Day \$531.48
Desiree Sommerville – Rita's Ice \$117.27
Sports Engine, Inc. – Background Checks \$41.00
Warren Township – Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic \$177.50

Miscellaneous;

Somerset County Park Commission – Therapeutic Recreation \$1450.00
Angelo Scarano Inc. – Temporary Restroom \$125.00

Movie Night;

Fun Services – 20 Ft. Screen, Attendant, Projection & Sound \$1400.00

REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE;

Recreation Basketball
Boys Traveling Basketball
Somerset County Activities

Special Events
Girls Traveling Basketball
Adult Basketball

Volleyball
Tennis

ADJOURNMENT;

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, **October 12th**, 2022, 7:30PM
at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/
Recording Secretary

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

September 7, 2022

Juneteenth; The Recreation Commission supported the event by donating craft supplies and helping out at the event. The Idea Committee offered the event with music and refreshments. The DJ taught the residents different ethnic line dances on the basketball courts. The committee offered information about the history and the mayor participated by offering thanks and a special prayer he shared with the congregation. About 30 people attended the event.

Community Picnic Event Notes; The event was originally planned to be held at Bayberry School on the macadam and back by the playground where the bounce houses were to be set up. This decision was made because of the playground being closed at Mobus Field. When the forecasted temperatures were predicted to be 95 degrees a decision was made to move the event back to Mobus so that we would have access to a water source and supply a water slide for the children at the event. This decision was well received as over 200 residents attended the event. Our service organizations were all there participating in different capacities. The Rescue Squad handed out the ice cream that was purchase with the Recreation budget. The Fire Department gave out fire hats to the children. The police helped residents with parking. The Recreation Commission helped with the decorations and set up of the event, prepared the hot dogs and popcorn and kept the refreshments supplied on ice throughout the event. Meeker Sharkey donated the pizza and their employees handed out the individual slices. The manager of Chick-Fil-A participated with a donation of chicken nuggets and brought sub sandwiches for all the volunteers. The library, Art Center, Weikert Realty and Wilson Memorial Church had tables and supplied a craft and give-a-ways. The Big Blue Swim School, a new business in town, supplied a fun water bucket game. Fun Services supplied the DJ, 2 water slides, a 3 in 1 sports game, a clown toss game, a water gun trailer with prizes, a commercial bubble machine with attendant, a 6-foot grill and ice cream cart. 350 hot dogs were purchased from Costco along with 6 large watermelons which were cut and handed out by councilmembers Christine Ead and Freddie Hayeck. Also purchased from Costco was 3 boxes of an assortment of chips, 3 boxes of Welches gummies, 8 cases of 40 - 16oz bottles of waters, 3 cases of juice packs, 8 cases of soda, along with 10 boxes of ice cream and popsicles. The total monetary donations for the event were \$1850.00. Weldon donated \$1,000, Big Blue Swim School \$100.00, Meeker Sharky \$450.00, PTO \$200.00, Wilson \$100.00. The total cost of the event came to \$9,575.31 minus the donations of \$1,850.00. The total cost to the Borough came to \$7,725.31. As the PTO ran another event at a different location there weren't as many residents at the event as in previous years.

Field Use;

Wedding at the Gazebo – Sunday, October 23rd 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Watchung Lake Gazebo – Center for Jewish Life, holiday ritual – Monday, Sept. 25, 4 – 5pm

Flag Raising Ceremony – Ukrainian National Women's League – August 25, 3:00pm Borough Hall

Summer Camp; The camp supported a total of 56 families, 1 from Warren, 1 from Long Hill and the rest were from Watchung. A total of 85 students were enrolled in the 7-week program with 44 students in each week. The before and after care option was utilized by at least 1 or 2 students each week. As it was difficult to fill the counselor positions the borough raised the hourly rate from \$12.00 to \$15.00 in order to be competitive with the surrounding towns which proved to be beneficial as we were able to then fill all available positions. The planned trips went well as the children enjoyed the experiences offered. There were three days of inclement weather during the seven-week program and since the camp was held under two tents the children went to a movie twice and bowling at Garwood Lanes one of those days. The camp director had a no cell phones use policy during camp and so the children played outdoors all-day swimming, engaging in a sport like tennis, basketball, volleyball etc., played on the playground equipment or worked on a craft that was offered each day. The borough collected \$69,200 in registration fees and with all expenses including the cost of the staff, trips with lunch included, Wednesday Snack Shack lunches provided and rain day trips the program was self-supported with a credit difference of only \$151.45. The feedback from parents was that their children have a wonderful camp experience and that they will definitely enroll again next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/
Recording Secretary