

**RECREATION COMMISSION
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
February 1st, 2023**

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 regular meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:35pm by C. Zaikov, Vice-Chairperson of the Recreation Commission who determined the meeting had been called in accordance with the N.J.S.A. 20:4-6 et seq. Notice of this meeting was given by annual notice to the official newspapers, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE

MaryAnn Weber

ROLL CALL

L. Monetti [P]; B. Jacques [A]; C. Zaikov [P]; J. Pennett [A]; M. Onuska [P]; M. Weber [P]; S. Stiles [P]; A. Baitel [A]; C. Dahl [P]; T. Sims [A]

APPOINTMENTS

M. Onuska nominated B. Jacques for Chairperson and C. Zaikov for Vice-Chairperson, S. Stiles second the motion, all were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA: S. Stiles made a motion to approve the October 19th, 2022 meeting minutes. M. Weber second the motion, all were in favor.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT;

Harvest Festival; The 2022 event that consisted of the new playground ribbon cutting along with the Chili Cookoff event, including our service organizations, was a huge undertaking but well worth the efforts as over 700 people came out to enjoy the day. Thankfully we were able to maintain a steady flow of food options and refreshments for such a large crowd as that is always the challenge. With the help of several volunteers, including some of our council members, the event ran very well. We went through 55 pizza pie, 350 hot dogs, a case of popcorn, 350 individually wrapped ice cream bars and over 30 cases of water. The Municipal Alliance donated 200 pumpkins for the event and \$1,400.00 in monetary donations. The borough purchased an additional 200 pumpkins and with all purchases including the DJ and amusements the cost to the borough came to \$8,412.00.

C: HRC, JD, EG - 3/16/23

Summer Camp; Round Top Swim & Tennis Club has reached out to the borough anticipating the summer camp will be run at their facility again this year. D. Somerville has been a wonderful asset to our program as the camp director and has agreed to run the camp this summer for a six-week program. She would be available this year from June 26th through August 4th from 9am to 4:00pm without the addition of before and aftercare as only one or two students utilized the option on a weekly basis. Also since the 4th of July is a Tuesday this year, she will only be available for three days that week, July 5th, 6th and 7th. Since the program will be run for less days in total, in order to offset costs, the borough will need to raise the price of the camp by an extra \$25.00. In past years a week at the Watchung camp cost residents \$225.00 for early registration and \$250.00 thereafter. I am proposing a \$25.00 per week increase. So early registration will increase to \$250.00 with registrations starting April 3rd and cost \$275.00 starting May 1st when the camp will be open to Warren, Green Brook and Long Hill Township. Camp will include weekly lunches on a Wednesday from the Round Top snack shack and Friday lunches will be included weekly in the trips that will be held every Friday. The cost of the camp has continued to be less than most camps in the area. If rain is expected for the majority of a day and since the camp is held primarily outdoors, there would be extra funds available within the registrations collected to offset a trip to the movies, bowling or a skate park.

Mayor's Wellness Campaign; Mayor Jubin has organized a "Watchung Walks" program to encourage residents to meet up for a walk around the lake, Monday nights at 7:00pm. This program was implemented in May of 2022 which invited residents to participate by meeting at the Mobus Field walking around the Watchung Lake together as a group to encourage community friendships and a healthy habit of walking. He is hoping to implement more programs within this "Wellness Campaign" with the support of the Board of Health and the Recreation Commission. He is looking for suggestions and ideas to implement either alone or as additions to our existing events that would be a good fit for his campaign.

Tennis, Pickleball & Basketball Resurfacing; The borough has applied for a grant to supplement the cost of resurfacing the tennis and basketball courts as well as stripping for 3 pickleball courts and separating them from the two remaining courts by a net or fence barrier. Once the courts have been resurfaced the Recreation Commission can implement tennis and pickleball lessons for our residents.

CORRESPONDENCE

Event and Meeting Dates for 2023

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission discussed programs, events and meeting dates for 2023.

Mayor Jubin joined the meeting to read the Oath of Allegiance for M. Weber and announced that he would like to establish a Wellness Committee to incorporate programs and events around his "Wellness Campaign". He mentioned that the committee would consist of members of the Recreation Commission and the Board of Health along with community members involving the schools and the scout's that would establish programs, events and initiatives to back the efforts of supporting wellness in the community.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

Harvest Festival;

Gray's Florist – Pumpkins, Mums, Corn Stalks	\$528.85
Lindaberry Farms – 200 Bales of Hay	\$1,600.00
L. Monetti – Refreshments, Hot Dogs, Ice Cream, etc.	\$860.21
Harold Kafka – Petting Zoo	\$1,000.00
Marino's Pizza – 55 Pies	\$750.00
L. Monetti – Prize Gift Cards	\$653.11
C. Ead – Coffee & Donuts (For Volunteers)	\$37.50
Scarano Inc. – Temporary Restroom	\$150.00

Travel Basketball

Jersey Basketball League – 2 Teams	\$400.00
Avidally – watchunghoops.com website season set up	\$225.00
League Athletics – Hosting Fee	\$250.00
Darrow's – Team Jerseys	\$1,172.50
Darrow's – Shorts & Jerseys	\$719.00
C. Zaikov – Referee Reimbursements	\$960.00
Scarano Inc. – Nov. & Dec. Temporary Restroom Rental	\$250.00

REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE

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

C. Zaikov announced that the Travel Basketball program has 3 more games before play-offs start. He also mentioned that the Youth Basketball program is being offered at the high school for Juniors and Seniors with 60 to 65 participants involved in the program. He reported that they play 3 games per night.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business M. Onuska made a motion to adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm, M. Weber second the motion.

The next regularly scheduled meeting March 15th at 7:30pm and held at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/Recording Secretary