

**RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 15th, 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 7:37pm by L. Monetti secretary 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

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 (P); C. Dahl (A);

CONSENT AGENDA; S. Stiles made a motion to approve the February 1st, 2023 meeting minutes. M. Weber second the motion, all were in favor.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT;

Easter Egg Hunt; The Watchung Lion's Club continues to support the egg hunt. They have made a donation to the event in the amount of \$500.00 and will help out with distributing the eggs. They would also like to have a table in hopes of recruiting new members to their organization.

Little League Opening Day is scheduled for April 29th.

Summer Camp; Camp sign up will open for early registration on Monday, April 3rd at a cost of \$250.00 per child per week. Early registration will continue until Friday, April 28th. The weekly registration amount will go up to \$275.00 starting on May 1st and will then be open to Warren, Green Brook and Long Hill residents. Weekly trips have been reserved for Friday's as follows;

Week 1 – Iron Peak in Hillsborough
Week 2 – Pump It Up in Roselle Park
Week 3 – Field Station Dinosaurs in Bloomfield
Week 4 – Powerhouse Studios in East Hanover
Week 5 – Iron Peak in Hillsborough
Week 6 – Urban Air in Avenel

Desiree Somerville has agreed to return as the camp director and several camp counselors will be returning from last summer. The borough is looking for an assistant director and 2 more counselor positions are available. An advertisement has been placed in the Echo Sentinel, on our website, facebook page and at Watchung Hills Regional High School for the available positions.

Dealaman Bus Service has been contacted for the trips but has not yet confirmed their availability.

C: M+C, JD + EG 5/11/23

Community Picnic; Donation letters have been sent to area businesses asking for their support. To date Martha from Chick-Fil-A has confirmed that they would like to participate and give out chicken nuggets at the event. Sue Tucker mentioned she would like to have a table for the Watchung Chamber of Commerce. Meeker Sharkey has confirmed they will supply the pizza and the PTO offered to donate \$50.00 toward 10 cases of water and \$150.00 for sand art supplies.

CORRESPONDENCE; Easter Egg Hunt Flyer

UNFINISHED BUSINESS; The Commission discussed the upcoming events. L. Monetti announced that Freddie Hayeck's brother offered to greet the children as the Easter Bunny at the Easter Egg Hunt event. M. Onuska suggested purchasing soccer balls and kick balls as prizes for the golden eggs and bubbles for the younger children. A. Baitel suggested Target gift cards as they are always a welcomed prize and small packs of jelly beans for the Easter Bunny to give out as a treat. S. Stiles suggested Belvita breakfast cookies as a grab and go snack for the event. L. Monetti suggested Duncan coffee and hot chocolate if it's a cold morning and mini waters and juice packs for refreshments.

Details for the Community Picnic were discussed. L. Monetti mentioned she invited the Girl Scouts to handle the sand art table. S. Stiles mentioned she would look into having the Boy Scout teach knot tying and check into the possibility of supplying the expansion bridge again this year. A. Baitel suggested having a face painter and offering only a simple design. L. Monetti mentioned offering watermelon again as it was such a big hit at last year's event.

NEW BUSINESS; Councilman C. Dahl is working on putting together a charity softball event including the Police, Fire Department and Rescue Squad. A date has not yet been set. The event will be held at Phillip's Field.

Mayor Jubin's "Wellness Campaign" was discussed. A. Baitel suggested holding a "Yoga on the Green" class or having a challenge course event and giving out achievement patches or a physical fitness award to anyone completing the challenge. S. Stiles suggested holding a "Polar Bear Plunge" event in one of the lakes.

M. Onuska recommended adding street lights to Brookdale Road. He mentioned that residents walk in the evening sometimes after 9:00pm and it is a safety issue and a crime deterrent. He also suggested checking the lights in the evening around Watchung Lake to see if any lights are out or if additional lighting is needed.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL;

Easter Egg Hunt;

Build-a-Sign - Banner	\$66.77
Fun Services – DJ & Game Host	\$550.00
Amazon – 4000 Plastic Toy Filled Eggs & Game Prizes	\$886.03

Summer Camp;

NJ Hills Media Group – Camp Counselor Advertisement	\$80.48
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Trip Deposits;

Field Station Dinosaurs	\$692.50
Urban Air	\$404.99
Iron Peak Sports	\$810.00
Powerhouse Studios	\$1,175.00
Pump It Up	\$800.00

Temporary Restroom;

Scarano Inc. - January	\$125.00
Scarano Inc. - February	\$125.00

Travel Basketball;

C. Zaikov – Referee Reimbursements	\$3,000.00
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Recreation Basketball;

C. Zaikov – Referee Reimbursements	\$240.00
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Membership Dues;

Costco	\$60.00
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REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE

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

C. Zaikov reported that 2 of Watchung's travel basketball teams made it into the championship division. He mentioned that the season ends on Saturday, March 18th. Craig also reported that the youth basketball program has ended and with registrations of over 60 students the program was self-supported.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The next meeting is scheduled for May 3rd at 7:30pm and will be held at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Coordinator/Recording Secretary