

**RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 10, 2023  
(Postponed from May 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

**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**

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***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***

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Pierce Jubin was sworn in as an alternate member of the commission.

***ROLL CALL***

L. Monetti ( P ); B. Jacques ( P ); C. Zaikov ( P ); J. Pennett ( P ); M. Onuska ( A ); M. Weber ( P ); S. Stiles ( A ); A. Baitel ( P ); C. Dahl ( P ); P. Jubin ( P )

**CONSENT AGENDA:** C. Zaikov made a motion to approve the March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes M. Weber second the motion. All were in favor.

***COORDINATOR'S REPORT;***

***Easter Egg Hunt;***

The Watchung Lion's Club contributed \$500.00 to the egg hunt to help offset the cost of the event and their member M. Finne donated an additional \$100.00 toward the golden egg prizes. It was estimated that over 500 people came out for the event this year. The DJ has always been a great addition to the event as the egg hunt itself only lasts about 10 – 15 minutes. Many children participated in the games after the hunt and Tony Hayeck made for a great Easter Bunny. The Girl Scouts attended selling cookies for their troop, the commission supplied coffee, hot chocolate, waters and snacks and everything was consumed within the first hour but it was a nice addition to the event for the residents. A few families arrived late as expected so we always hold back about 500 eggs to distribute to the late comers. Mayor Jubin planned to start the hunt at 11:15am giving time for the late comers but the children were impatient and crossed the line before the mayor could sound the airhorn. Many small prizes were purchased for the games to add to the excitement of the day. Families enjoyed the extra time as the DJ didn't stop the music and games until about 12:45. Thanks to Curt, MaryAnn, Suz and her son Logan all eggs were distributed out in the fields and everything was set up before 11:00am.

**Summer Camp;** Camp registration opened on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and all weeks were completely full within the first few weeks of being offered. A waiting list was started and over 20 students are now on that list hoping for openings. The camp will no longer be available to surrounding towns.

Several counselors have agreed to return this summer with only one position available for a camp counselor and/or assistant director remaining. An advertisement has been going out periodically as a resident email and social media. As we are looking for students 18 years or older, we are hoping once colleges are out for the summer, we would find another counselor to fill that position.

Dealaman Bus Service is no longer available to accommodate our camp. Barker Bus Services has agreed to supply the camp with their transporting services for our Friday trips as well as any rainy-day trips on an as needed basis.

**Community Picnic;** A 1994 newsletter mentioned the Recreation Commission will hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Memorial Day Picnic. That means this year will mark 30 years since the town first started holding the town's picnic. Over the years it was difficult to find volunteers for the event since it was held on a holiday weekend and so the commission decided to hold the picnic the week before and renamed it to Watchung's Community Picnic. As years past the picnic has grown with more community business involvement and the town was able to add more elements to the festivities. As this is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the first picnic was held in 1993 I was able to find some fun elements to celebrate. The DJ will play a variety of 90's music, we will include some fun prizes for games that were popular in the 90's and hopefully we will get some residents to join in with some popular dances like the Macarena and Cotton Eyed Joe. I found some 1993 banners and decorations to add to the festivities. Now 30 years later the town is still offering the picnic as a free event for the town and mostly funded by area businesses and organizations who have agreed to support the event. This year is no different as Weldon, Chick-Fil-A, Meeker Sharkey, Watchung's Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scouts, PTO, Weichert Realty, Wilson Memorial, the Watchung Library and Art Center, Levin Management Corp., Performance Rehab and Watchung Hills Municipal Alliance have agreed to participate, volunteer their time or supply a donation for an activity or food option. Long time resident Ralph Diem offered to supply the tracker rides, the PBA offered to supply the event with lemonade, the Rescue Squad offered to hand out the ice cream and the Fire Department will supply extra waters. Since the grounds are still very soft after the construction of the playground most of the festivities will be held on the tennis courts, basketball courts and macadam as well as the pavilion. The rain date will be on Sunday same time noon to 3:00.

**CORRESPONDENCE;** Community Picnic Flyer

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS;** The commission discussed the upcoming events and options to incorporate the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

**NEW BUSINESS;** The commission discussed adding a Yankee game trip, Music in the Park or another event option. J. Pennett made a motion to include a "Music in the Park" event this year using the band "Lost in Place" if available on September 9<sup>th</sup>, M. Weber second the motion. All were in favor.

**VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL;**

**Summer Camp;**

Urban Air – Camp Trip Week #6 (Full payment)	\$1970.55
Barker Bus Company – Friday Trip Transportation	\$3,570.00
L. Ferroni – Round Top Member Discount Applied for 3 children	\$840.00

***Temporary Restroom;***

Scarano Inc. – April	\$125.00
Scarano Inc. – March	\$125.00

***Community Picnic;***

Amazon – Decorations & Game Prizes	\$121.84
Taylor Rental – 6 ft. event grill	\$210.00
Build-A-Sign – Event Banner	\$66.77
Oriental Trading – Sand Art Supplies	\$332.07
Amazon – (2) Tables, (2) Tents, Pop Corn & Craft Supplies	\$928.67
Fun Services – Amusements, DJ & Ice Cream Cart	\$8,000.00

***Travel Basketball;***

Darrow’s Sporting Edge – Basketballs	\$239.97
B. Morris – Referee Reimbursement (20) Games	\$1,200.00

***Miscellaneous;***

Amazon – Tennis Court Nets & Squeegee	\$602.65
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***Easter Egg Hunt;***

L. Monetti – Snacks & Refreshments, Misc. Supplies	\$235.65
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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. Dahl, president of Little League, reported that 40 families had moved over to the Warren teams in recent years so he made an appeal to Warren Township to get back the students of Watchung. He mentioned that the league hadn’t had a parade in over 4 years and so he wanted to bring back the parade. He stated that they had about 75 people participate in the parade this year. Curt mentioned that the newly formed board raised money to support the league and with the towns help they were able to renovate the Snack Shack, bring back the parade, and start a Watchung only team for pre k, kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. He also mentioned that Minor’s 3rd & 4th grade teams as well as Major’s 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams will be combined with Warren. In his comments he stated that Mayor Jubin threw out the first pitch, that they had a DJ and that several games were played that day. At the event Brad Elicker was awarded a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to our fields for over the past 20 years.

J. Pennett reported that the Women’s Volleyball has had between 8 & 16 players weekly and that Men’s Basketball has had between 8 & 15 players attend on a weekly basis.

***ADJOURNMENT***

As there was no further business B. Jacques made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39pm, M. Weber second the motion. The next meeting is scheduled for September 6th at 7:30pm and will be held at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

*Linda Monetti*

Recreation Coordinator/Recording Secretary