



**RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
December 6, 2023  
VIA ZOOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by Bill Jacques, Chairperson who determined that this meeting was called in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Notice of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the official newspapers, and posted at Borough Hall.

**ROLL CALL:**

Bill Jacques, Chair Person (✓); Craig Zaikov, Vice-Chair Person (✓); John Pennett ( ); Michael Onuska ( ); Mary Ann Weber (✓); Suzanne Stiles (✓); Allison Baitel ( ); Curt Dahl, Council Liaison (✓); Pierce Jubin (✓); Dámaris Gray, Coordinator (✓)

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to approve the October 11, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Mary Ann Weber and seconded by Bill Jacques

**MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN** – Bruce Ruck, President – Board of Health gave a brief history of the Mayors Wellness Campaign, specifically Watchung Walks initiative implemented two years ago. A discussion was held regarding a collaborated effort to get the residents more active with the MWC. Some suggestions included: two members from Board of Health and two members of the Recreation Commission to work together to come up with ideas for future activities; Family Run at the Community Picnic; Learn how to play Pickleball and tournaments; and baseball games. The Recreation Commission will discuss this further at the next schedule meeting.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Debriefing of past events**

Report attached.

**BY LAWS:** Suze Stiles and Mary Ann Weber volunteered to meet before the next meeting to update the existing By Laws.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (All attached hereto)

Discussion was held regarding Mary Osborne – Member of Watchung Seniors and her complaint regarding lack of activities for Watchung Seniors. Mary Ann informed that the Senior group that meets in Watchung has various activities planned throughout next year and offered to provide the information to Dámaris. Bill Jacques suggested inquiring if Warren's Senior Program can be opened to Watchung Residents.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Bocce Ball Ribbon Cutting** – Discussion was held but date is still to be determined.

**Softball Games – Mayor/Council, PD, FD, EMS, etc.** – Curt Dahl informed that a date in May will be selected and more fields will be used to add more teams/games.

## **Page 2 - UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued):**

**Cornhole Tournament (fundraiser for new fire truck)** – Curt Dahl stated that the Fire Department does not want to hold the tournaments to raise funds. Tournaments will be held in the future.

### **VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:**

Crown Trophy (outstanding balance from 2022)	\$116.00
Angelo Scarano, Inc. (Portable Restroom)	\$125.00 (extra unit Harvest Festival)
Angelo Scarano, Inc. (Portable Restroom - November)	\$125.00
Amazon - Recreation Softballs	\$72.49
Amazon – Lanyards for Event Volunteers	\$42.23
Amazon – Candy, Popcorn etc.	\$311.09
Amazon – Sand art, fog liquid, hotdog foil, etc.	\$398.06
Damaris Gray – Harvest Banners	\$53.73
Damaris Gray – Harvest Sponsors/Donors Banners	\$53.97
Fun Services Entertainment - Harvest Festival	\$7,500.00
Bill Hance - Watchunghoops.com – 3-year renewal	\$66.51
Bill Hance – Harvest ice cream/snacks at BJ's	\$239.83
Bill Hance – Harvest gift cards	\$193.94
Marino's Pizza – Harvest 50 pies (offset by donation)	\$500.00
Amazon - Pickleball Racket/Ball set	\$53.58
Amazon – 8 Cornhole sets	\$959.92

### **REPORTS OF CHAIR PERSONS:**

**Boys Traveling Basketball** – Craig Zaikov announce that the Youth Basketball season has officially begun and will run until late February/early March 2024.

### **No reports given for the following:**

Recreation Basketball  
Special Events  
Girls Traveling Basketball  
Men's Basketball  
Volleyball  
Tennis

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**2024 Meeting Dates/Re-organization Meeting in February** – the following proposed meeting dates were accepted:

February 7<sup>th</sup>   March 6<sup>th</sup>   May 1<sup>st</sup>   June 5<sup>th</sup>   September 4<sup>th</sup>   October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December 4<sup>th</sup>   February 5, 2025

**2024 EVENT SCHEDULE** - the following proposed meeting dates were accepted:

Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, March 16	Rain date: Sunday, March 17
Community Picnic	Saturday, May 18	Rain date: Sunday, May 19
Juneteenth	(TBD)	Get date from
Mayor's Regatta	Saturday, June 22	Confirm with Mayor
Summer Camp	Monday, June 24 (begins)	Friday, August 2 (ends)
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Patriot Walk	Thursday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	
Movie Night	Friday, September 13	Check with Bayberry
Fishing Derby	Saturday, September 28	Rain date: Sunday, September 30
Harvest Festival	Saturday, October 26	Rain Date: Sunday, October 27

Discussion was held regarding the Harvest Festival being held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, but it was decided to schedule it for October 26.

**Music in the Park** – “Lost in Place” band was suggested and a tentative date of August 17<sup>th</sup> was proposed pending their availability.

**International Day** – Further discussion will be held – TBD

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Maryann Weber and seconded by Bill Jacques. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled to be held Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Dámaris Quinones-Gray*

Recreation Coordinator/Recording Secretary

Accepted: 2/7/24