

WASHINGTON BOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes December 8, 2004

Call to Order

The meeting on December 8th of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:36 PM by Chairman Terry Finnegan. In attendance were : Erin Czarnecki, Candy DeFillippis, Rick Feldman, Terry Finnegan, Jamie Prendergast, and Angela Wallace. Late arrivals were Pete Jacobson and Dawn Higgins. Absent was Joe Kresser.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Review of Past Minutes

The minutes from November 3rd were approved by a motion made by Jamie Prendergast and seconded by Angela Wallace.

Correspondence

- A letter was received from Paul Jeffries of the United Soccer Academy stating that the fee for the Spring Soccer program would be \$80.00. It was decided by the Recreation Commission to change to a flat fee of \$150.00 for the Spring program. Notice will be give to Mr. Jeffries of this change, noting that an Insurance Certificate will be required.
- A Mrs. Shelley Pavone, owner/operator of Creative Basics Child Care in Glen Gardner, has asked if a group of 25 to 30 children, ages 3 years to 7, would be able to use the Borough Swimming Pool on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon from June 27th to August 26, 2005. She would like half an hour of instruction, half an hour of swim time on these days. It was noted that the Borough Swimming Lesson Program would also be going on at this time. Terry Finnegan will find out how much Flemington charges for the use of their pool by various groups, and also what the breakdown of ages would be for the Child Care program.

Audience Participation

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Jamie Prendergast, to open the meeting to the public.

Jim Sheldon, President of the Business Improvement District for the Borough of Washington, spoke about a new idea for the proposed development of the Railroad Avenue Park. Jim's suggestion was that a Skate Park be included in the plan, as it would give kids who are currently hanging around downtown a place to go. There might even be a school bus stop after school at the park, as a convenience to the kids. He also suggested that the kids who are skateboarders actually be included in the development of the skate

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park area, and that the owners of the Gravity Skate Shop in town would be helpful in giving information on how skate parks work. The question of supervision and liability insurance was brought up, as something that would have an impact on costs. Jim Sheldon stated that he was bringing up the topic of a skate park early so it may be considered in the planning of the park.

While Jim Sheldon was in attendance, another topic was mentioned, that of the Welcome Sign at the intersection of Routes 31 and 57. Several of the Commissioners asked if a signboard, preferably an electronic one, could be added to the Welcome sign. This would then be available to advertise Borough and recreation activities.

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Angela Wallace, to close the Public Session of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Feldman stated that the budget was in good order, and we were all right on accounts at this time. However, there will be an unexpected future expense: the main slide at the park has a large crack and must be replaced. The replacement cost for the slide itself will be about a thousand dollars, plus installation charges. Commissioner Candy DeFillippis asked if it would be possible for larger size children's equipment to be installed. This would be very expensive, Rick declared.

New Business

Web Site

The Borough web site is being developed, and more information is needed to understand how the Recreation Commission can most effectively participate, as they will probably be the most active user. Minutes, agendas, forms and applications may be available at the site, but at this time no credit card charges for application fees can be transacted.

Unfinished Business

- Fingerprints
The list of coaches for every activity must be given to the Board secretary so she may keep after those who have not yet had fingerprinting done. There was a problem with the police ineffectively completing one volunteer coach's fingerprinting, causing the volunteer to have to return to the Police Desk. Also, volunteers who have gone to the police station when someone is in custody have been refused fingerprinting service.
- Railroad Avenue Park Proposal
Rick Feldman reported that his committee plus Alan Fisher, Borough Manager, and Bob Miller, Borough Engineer, met with the four companies who have submitted proposals for the development of a park at Railroad Avenue. The proposals ran from

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\$17,430 to \$63,000. Some of the bids went beyond the actual scope of work suggested. T&M Associates has been recommended with a bid of \$19,300. Some factors in the committee's decision were the reasonable price, the exceptional presentation and responsiveness of the firm, and the fact that the firm has won awards in the area of park development. It was noted that this proposal is for only the preliminary work in getting the concept of the park to the design stage. This conceptual development plan should take from six to eight weeks; the next request goes to Council for approval.

A motion was made by Dawn Higgins to recommend hiring the firm of T&M Associates to develop the conceptual plan for Railroad Avenue Park. This was seconded by Jamie Prendergast. All were in favor, none opposed.

- **Borough Park Pool Repair/Redesign**
Chairman Terry Finnegan recommended that all Commissioners read through the proposals and have their decision ready for the next meeting. Determine what are the benefits of a new plan? There is a current existing plan with Wade Associates – is it binding? Is there enough money in the budget to go forward to the design phase?
- **Pavilion in the Park**
The Kiwanis organization has given Mr. Nissen another payment for more work done on the pavilion, including shingling and roofing. However, the project remains unfinished, and will remain that way probably until next spring. The materials left at the site are a possible hazard for anyone using the park. Terry will contact Mr. Nissen and demand that the materials which include scaffolding be removed from the work site. Dawn recommended the Borough Attorney send Mr. Nissen a formal letter regarding this. Terry will contact Mr. Cushing, Borough Attorney, to spur Mr. Nissen on to either completing the project or removing the materials. The Borough Manager should also be involved in this effort.
- **Recreation Supervisor**
No suitable candidate has yet been found. Also, the YMCA is not interested in the position at this time.
- **Street Hockey**
So far 82 youngsters have signed up. There are 18 in 6th to 8th grade group; 64 are in the K to 5th grade. A few 5th graders will be moved up to fill in for teams in the 6th to 8th grade section.
- **Washington Meadows**
 - a) The field has been top dressed, but this seems to be inadequate. Pete and Jamie will walk the field to physically check the condition and make a punch list to discuss with Bob Miller.
 - b) **Sign Donation**
There are 21 signs which the Recreation Commission has approved. However, no money has been received from these signs. There must be a discussion with the

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Little League on what money has been paid to allow the signs to be placed, and is there an annual fee for the signs. Rick will look into this.

- Proposed Amendment to the By-laws
An amendment is being considered to change the by-laws to hold Recreation Commission meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. This would allow for shorter meetings as well as greater flexibility in handling business matters as they arise. An amendment must be voted on one month before it becomes effective. A motion to amend the by-laws to meet twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays, was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Dawn Higgins. Motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the December 8th meeting at 11:47 PM by Dawn Higgins, seconded by Angela Wallace.

The next scheduled meeting of the Recreation Commission will be on Wednesday, December 22nd at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Noonan