

WASHINGTON BOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes December 7, 2005

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, December 7th, by Terry Finnegan, Chairman, at 7:35p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Candy DeFillippis, Rick Feldman, Terry Finnegan, Dawn Higgins, Joe Kresser, Jamie Prendergast, Angela Wallace and Park Director Adam Payne. Absent was Erin Czarnecki.

Review of Past Minutes

The minutes from November 2nd have already been approved. The minutes from the November 16th meeting will be approved at the December 21st meeting.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this meeting.

Open Public Session

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

We are currently under \$20,000. It is expected we will have the same amount in our budget next year as we did this year.

A bid was sent out for pool filter renovations. Two New Jersey companies submitted bids. The first bid was \$111,000 and the second was \$91,000. Both bids were extremely high, as our original estimate was \$42,000. Wayne Wade Associates seems to think we would save \$10,000 to \$15,000 if we do both the pool and filtration system at the same time. We can request additional bids and possibly renegotiate with other vendors or those who previously bid. Before this happens, Wayne Wade Associates will look into why the bids came in so high. Perhaps we can advertise elsewhere, getting more bids from a larger area. Another consideration is having skilled people in the community doing the labor.

A bid was also sent out for our light project. Only one company bid and that came in at \$185,000 – four times what we originally estimated. We should look into having new lights installed. This may be cheaper than fixing the ones we have.

Park Director's Report

Adam will be getting estimates on a snow blower in order to clear the sidewalks in the park. We are waiting for an estimate on the removal of trees in the park. It should be available at the next meeting. The borough truck has a rusted oil pan and needs to be fixed. We are unable to use it at this point. There have still been a few times the office

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door has been left open and a light left on, however, nothing was missing. There was a problem with the door not shutting properly, but that has been fixed. We need to get a lock on the garbage can and also some chains to block the road to prevent people from driving through the park.

New Business

Street hockey is doing well. We have a lot of younger children (grades K-2) this season. Basketball has started and we are down in our numbers, especially 7th and 8th grade girls. We barely had enough players to have a team. Girls sports programs in general are in trouble. We need to have the schools encourage the children to participate in recreation sports, possibly during gym class. They could suggest to the children who don't make the school team to instead play for a recreation team. This would follow the guidelines of the school's wellness plan for their students, making sure the students are physically fit as well as academically fit. Younger teams, however, are growing in size. We should start building awareness in the lower grades, possibly holding clinics.

Special Meeting

A joint meeting began at 8:30 p.m. with the Recreation Commission, Mayor Van Deursen, and Borough Council to discuss the Park Director Position.

Council would like to develop an ordinance to make this a full-time position and feels we can start advertising immediately. This position needs to start March 1, 2006. As this is a big change for the borough, Mayor Van Deursen feels the Borough Manager should be present during the interview process since the Borough Manager will be working closely with the Park Director. This would be an advisory role; the Recreation Commission would do the hiring. Mayor Van Deursen would like to be there as well, but not have a vote.

The Recreation Commission and Borough Manager need to develop a job description. We need to ensure grant-writing responsibilities are included as well as being flexible to accommodate the borough's needs. The pool will be a big part of the job. This will be an unclassified (no test/non-competitive) Civil Service position. The Recreation Commission would oversee the day-to-day responsibilities of the Park Director. While the Park Director will report to the Recreation Commission, all employees will report to the Park Director. The Recreation Commission can make suggestions as to the Park Director's salary, but the Borough Manager will make the final decision. Both agree the salary will be about \$50,000. The salary for this position will come out of the Commission's budget. No fees will be raised to offset the Park Director's salary.

Council had a concern that since the Recreation Commission is currently all volunteer positions, it is felt that the Park Director should report directly to the Borough Manager for financial purposes. To do that, the Commission would have to be changed to a committee and only have an advisory role. Mayor Van Deursen feels proud and happy with the Recreation Commission and would like to keep it as it stands. The Recreation Commission feels it should retain its autonomy.

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The Recreation Commission was concerned that financial responsibility would be taken away from them. Council responded that accountability should still be in place, however, the Commission needs to be in adherence with the Borough's financial responsibility.

The Park Director position will enhance the programs currently offered in the Borough and provide better services to the community. It will be a more professional operation with constant interaction with the people. The Park Director's office will be located in Borough Hall.

Mayor Van Deursen thanked everyone for their good spirit of cooperation. The joint meeting ended at 9:40 p.m. Regular business of the Recreation Commission's meeting continued.

Unfinished Business

The Holiday House Decorating Contest has begun. Erin Czarnecki, Angela Wallace, Joe Kresser, Dawn Higgins and Terry Finnegan have agreed to be the judges. The contest ends on December 19th.

Executive Session

A motion was made to go in to Executive Session by Rick Feldman, seconded by Dawn Higgins. A personnel matter was discussed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:55 p.m. by Rick Feldman, seconded by Jamie Prendergrast.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff