

Minutes February 16, 2005

WASHINGTON BOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION

Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order by Terry Finnegan, Chairman, at 7:52 PM.

Roll Call

In attendance were Rick Feldman, Terry Finnegan, Joe Kresser, Jamie Prendergast and Angela Wallace. Candy DeFillippis arrived at 8:30 PM. Absent were Erin Czarnecki, Dawn Higgins, and Pete Jacobson.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 2nd meeting was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Joe Kresser.

Correspondence/Communication

1. A letter from the Warren County Women's Softball League was received, requesting permission to use the Borough Park ballfield for Monday and Wednesday evenings during the season of June 13th through August 17th. Permission was granted, and the Women's Softball League will be notified that the field use charge will be \$150. Three years of financial statements from the League as a non-profit organization will be required, plus a certificate of insurance.
2. A letter from Dave Dempski, Secretary of the Washington Township Youth Association was received, outlining the cooperative arrangement of publicizing the sports activities of Washington Borough, Franklin Township, Mansfield and Washington Townships to the Warren Hills Middle and High School students.
3. Terry Finnegan has received estimates from Faigon Electric and Aaction Painting and Contracting for the removal and repair of Lighting Fixtures at Borough Park. Figon will charge \$5,300 per pole to repair; Aaction will charge \$36,000 to remove, repair, and paint all poles. However, the Borough Manager says the budget will not provide funds for all work to be done. Terry stated that, as a start, the three poles that face Route 31 should be done this year. Rick Feldman stated that the Borough Council must decide if funds can be available for repairing the light poles, and when and how fast can this be done before spring sports begin. The Recreation Commission recommends that all light poles be repaired.

Audience Participation

A motion was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Jamie Prendergast, opening the meeting to the general public.

1. Doug Smith, representing the Men's Fastpitch Softball League, requested permission to use Borough Park ballfield for a Double Doubleheader Softball Tournament on Saturday night, June 4th at 5:30 PM, and Sunday morning, June 5th, at 9:00 AM. Permission to use the field with no charge was granted by the

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Board, subject to a Certificate of Insurance being provided. Doug Smith will contact the Recreation Commission with final details as the game time approaches.

2. Kevin McDonald, Coordinator of the Street Hockey Program, gave an update. The season for Street Hockey has been going quite well. The new gym at Memorial School is larger, giving the players more challenge. Enrollment is up for the youngest group, an encouraging sign for the future of the program. Taylor Street School is where the youngest players meet, and the rule has been no practice lasts longer than 7:00 PM. One problem has been the shirt sizes: in future, it should be noted on the application whether the shirt is a YOUTH S-M-L or an ADULT S-M-L. This would be a good idea to keep in mind for all programs. As an aside, Linda Burns has done a nice job of providing screen printed shirts for the program at \$6.00 each. Next year, Kevin suggests, the referees, who are at games twice a week from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, should be compensated after going through the required training. The current rate for referees is \$15.00 per game. This year, the referees are receiving gift certificates in the amount of \$75.00. There is one problem that has cropped up, that of parents not participating, only dropping off their children early, and not picking them up on time.
3. Jeff Bottger, from T&M Associates, presented two concept plans for the development of Railroad Avenue Park. Jeff started out by asking what were the needs for the park, as envisioned by the Recreation Commissioners? The following ideas were suggested:

Soccer Field	Football Field
Tennis Courts (4)	Walking Trails
Skate Park	Playground
Concession Stand	

The Railroad Avenue Park will be comprised of 15.9 acres, with 6 to 7 acres of mown area, and an overall 40 foot change in grade. There is an easement with the power lines, and it may be possible to have the power lines buried in the soft earth trench. The site has a nice configuration, with no obvious environmental restraints. The paths should be blacktop. Fitting in four tennis courts would be a problem, if the required size of the soccer and football fields is kept. A skate park area would need rails and sidebars, not very expensive, but would have to be enclosed and supervised. The question came up about the safety of young people having to cross busy Route 57 in order to get to the skate park. Would it be possible to fit a skate park in at Borough Park, in the area near the railroad? Jeff Bottger said he would be available to come back to the next Board meeting, March 2nd. New drawings would then be available, showing lights for one field, four tennis courts, and a tot lot. A few weeks after that detailed cost estimates would be available.

4. Resetting the Timer for Lights at Borough Park
Terry has supplied printed instructions for resetting the troublesome timer for lights at Borough Park.

Treasurer's Report

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No report was available at this time.

Unfinished Business

Rick Feldman brought to attention some information regarding the advertising of ages for the Land of Make Believe, a water park in Hope, northern Warren County. The advertising is aimed at ages 12 and under.

Executive Session

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Rick Feldman, seconded by Joe Kresser, to discuss a personnel matter.

A motion was made by Candy De Fillippis, seconded by Angela Wallace, to come out of Executive Session.

It was mentioned that the question of pool renovation funding may be in doubt, since taxes are going up in the Borough because of the school bond issue passing.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 11:02 PM by Rick Feldman, seconded by Candy De Fillippis.

Next meeting : March 2nd.