

# WASHINGTON BOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes October 5, 2005

## Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, October 5th by Terry Finnegan, Chairman, at 7:35 PM. In attendance were Commissioners Jamie Prendergast, Dawn Higgins Candy DeFillippis, Terry Finnegan and Park Director Adam Payne. Absent were Erin Czarnecki, Angela Wallace, Rick Feldman and Joe Kresser.

## Review of Past Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 17<sup>th</sup> meetings was made by Dawn Higgins, seconded by Jamie Prendergast. Motion passed.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was made by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Jamie Prendergast. Motion passed.

## Correspondence

The Borough Manager, Richard Sheola, will be in attendance at the next Recreation Commission meeting, which will be October 19<sup>th</sup>. He has requested that Chairman Terry Finnegan send a memo of the points the Recreation Commission would like to discuss with him at that meeting. The following items for discussion will be included in the Chairman's memo:

1. the Boro Manager's role in hiring and firing Boro employees
2. the question of whether the Chairman of the Recreation Commission has the right to deal with the Boro Engineer directly
3. would the Boro Manager and Council appoint an official liaison to the Recreation Commission
4. when will office space be available at Boro Hall for the Recreation Commission
5. what has Council decided to do about the development of Railroad Avenue Park
6. will the Recreation Commission be asking for additional Green Acres funds? This must be first approved by the Council
7. what is the status of considering the idea of a full-time Park Director?
8. the condition of the pumphouse to be evaluated by Boro Engineer Robert Miller
9. the need for improved condition of the new Meadows fields as agreed to by Centex
10. change from Exit to Entrance/Exit to Boro Park at Broad Street as discussed with the Boro Engineer Robert Miller
11. final completion of the Pavilion project
12. requisition process
13. deteriorating and dangerous condition of the light stanchion by Route 31 at Boro Park (Note: Necessary improvements of the light stanchions will be going out to bid; however, the anchoring bolts are coming out of the ground on the leaning stanchion by Route 31. The Recreation Commission considers this an emergency situation.)

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### **Park Director's Report**

Adam Payne, Park Director, reported that the fall cleanup has started, and progress is being made at clearing the unsightly weeds and brush on the hill. Grass cutting has been kept to a minimum because of the drought conditions. New locks have been put on the back gate to the softball field and the grandstand. As far as winterizing the pool, one more estimate is needed before a decision can be made. Winterizing *must* be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup>. John Burd has assured Adam that the Road Department will be fixing the plumbing problem in the pool area this week.

Jim Manon will winterize the chlorinators for the pool, and Wyckoff Distributors will fix the old pool cleaner so there will be two pool cleaners available for use next year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

There was no Treasurer's Report at this time.

Terry Finnegan has reviewed the financials for the pool and pool activities from the past summer, and reported that the pool deficit was reduced to \$10,000+, which is the lowest deficit in recent years. Labor costs ran about the same as previous years, but revenues increased in all categories. It was a successful summer at the Boro Pool for 2005.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

#### **Field Hockey**

Commissioner Candy DeFillippis reported that all is going well with Field Hockey.

#### **Soccer**

Commissioner Jamie Prendergast said the light timer at Boro Park needs to be changed, due to the earlier darkness of the fall season. The Park Director will adjust the timer.

### **New Business**

#### **Secretarial Position**

The advertisement for the secretarial position for the Recreation Commission has been running in the newspapers, and replies are coming in. Dawn Higgins has agreed to be on the committee to screen candidates.

#### **Park Director Evaluation**

An evaluation of the Park Director will be done by Commissioners Terry Finnegan and Rick Feldman. Other Commissioners will be asked for their input.

#### **Dedication of Pavilion**

Dedication of the new pavilion will be planned for the Saturday of the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the spring, which falls on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The Kiwanis Club will be asked to take part.

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### Commission Remarks

Commissioner Dawn Higgins gave a report on the committee to which she participates with the Mayor, Boro Manager, and Councilwoman Christine Woykowski. The purpose of the committee is a fact finding mission on how a municipality with a similar type of government as Washington Boro operates their Recreation Department with a full time Park Director. The first town visited was Livingston. However, the size of the town was much larger than Washington Boro, with a population of 30,000 and an average income of six figures. There are 3 or 4 parks in Livingston, and a large municipal pool. The Livingston Park Director reports directly to the Manager and has a staff of several people. The Recreation Committee is an advisory board only, and meets as needed.

One question Commissioner Higgins shares with the rest of the Washington Boro Recreation Commission is, *what does the Mayor, Council, and Boro Manager expect and what are they looking for in a Recreation Commission?*

Commissioner Higgins would like to go to the New Jersey League of Municipalities meeting in November, and will consult Commissioner Feldman to see if the budget allows for it.

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:50 PM by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Dawn Higgins.

Respectfully submitted by Judith M. Noonan