

WASHINGTON BOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION

August 3, 2005

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, August 3rd by Dawn Higgins, Vice Chairman, at 7:40 PM.

Roll Call

In attendance were Commissioners Erin Czarnecki, Candy DeFillippis, Dawn Higgins, Rick Feldman, Joe Kresser, Jamie Prendergast, and Park Director Adam Payne. Absent were Terry Finnegan and Angela Wallace.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 20th Recreation Commission meeting was made by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Joe Kresser. All approved.

Audience Participation

A motion was made by Rick Feldman to open the Public Session of the meeting to audience participation. Motion seconded by Joe Kresser.

Andrew Turner spoke as a resident of the Boro, and not as an official Council member. He presented an idea for possibly funding the Pool Renovation project. His idea was as follows:

\$522,000 needed for the Pool Renovation

\$283,000 loan from Green Acres, with financing charges of \$23,000/yr

\$239,000 needed

If another Green Acres loan received of the needed \$239,000, an additional \$19,000/yr financing charges would occur.

Find out the actual cost of running the pool per year, including Staff, Supplies, Maintenance.

Andy suggests that the Boro fully fund the pool at \$100,000 per year operating budget. Give each taxpayer a membership for 4 people, with a 5th and beyond at an extra fee. If someone argues that "I don't use the Pool", the answer would be that he is already paying the loan fees. Extra programs such as Non-Resident fees, camp, etc would be used for other park maintenance costs and paying down debt.

The question what about renters? (a significant portion of the Boro population). A feasibility study is needed to determine interest and usage of the pool.

Andy has brought this idea to the Recreation Commission, and noted that the Highlands Act considers Washington Boro a small urban center, which includes

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some wetlands which must be protected. If Washington Boro was chosen as a pilot project, there might be additional funding available.

Commissioners Joe Kresser and Dawn Higgins agreed to form a sub-committee to look into Andy Turner's idea.

A motion was made to close the Public Session of the meeting by Joe Kresser, seconded by Jamie Prendergast.

Correspondence

1. A letter was received from a resident requesting refund for the fees paid for Summer Camp for her two sons, for Sessions 5 and 6. Jamie Prendergast made a motion to approve the refund of \$375, seconded by Joe Kresser. All approved. Motion passed.
2. A letter was received from a former resident asking for a refund of Pool Membership fees (\$115) because his family had to leave the Boro suddenly, July 6th, when their home on Belvidere Avenue burned down. They are now staying with a relative in Elizabeth, NJ. The Commissioners recalled that the family also had two daughters signed up for Swim Team, with a registration fee of \$40 each. A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Joe Kresser, to refund the \$115 Pool Membership fee, plus the \$80 Swim Team fees, for a total refund of \$195. All were in favor, motion passed.

Executive Session

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

Treasurer's Report

The combined sales for the Snack Bar and Front Gate hope to reach \$10,000 by the end of the season.

Reduced Rate Pool Fees

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Joe Kresser, to offer reduced fees for Pool Membership for the remainder of the season. The fees would be \$50 for Boro residents, \$75 for non-residents. All in favor, motion passed.

Park Director's Report

The pool has experienced strong attendance so far this season due to the long heat wave. Two full time maintenance workers are in place and expect to continue into the fall. It has been a successful year for the Swimming Lesson program, and for the Swim Team. Summer Camp had difficulties with personnel turnover.

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Unfinished Business

Summer Camp

Summer Camp was started as a community service, and needs a professional Child Care Director. The original Summer Camp Director unexpectedly resigned for another position the first week of camp. It was difficult to find a suitable replacement on short notice and several parents who work were depending on the camp for their children.

Rather than eliminate the program yet, camp will be reviewed and discussed by the Commissioners later in the year before a final decision is made.

Soccer Field

The soccer field needs to be ready and lined by next week. Field Hockey starts Tuesday, August 9th. The field must be lined and ready.

National Night Out

National Night Out was held last week and Dawn Higgins manned a table in front of Boro Hall with recreation information. The night was not well attended. However, the winner of the Soccer Ball was Tristan Libey (835-2698).

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 by Rick Feldman, seconded by Jamie Prendergast.