

WASHINGTON BOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes January 4, 2006

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, January 4th, by Terry Finnegan, Chairman, at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Erin Czarnecki, Rick Feldman, Terry Finnegan, Dawn Higgins, Jamie Prendergast, Angela Wallace and Park Director Adam Payne. Candy DeFillippis arrived at 7:48 and Joe Kresser arrived at 7:55.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 16th meeting was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Terry Finnegan. Motion passed. After a few changes, a motion was made by Jamie Prendergast to approve the minutes from the December 7th Meeting, seconded by Erin Czarnecki. Motion passed.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this meeting.

Open Public Session

Commissioner Dawn Higgins thanked all the families who participated in the Holiday House Decorating Contest. Dawn explained that the borough was divided into five sections for judging purposes. Each winner received a gift basket provided by Ladybugs located in downtown Washington as well as a free family pool pass for the 2006 season. Mayor Van Deursen and Councilman Turner were on hand to congratulate the winners and hand out the gift baskets. The winners were 1) The Allen Family of Nunn Avenue; 2) The Bell Family of Wilson Terrace; 3) The Miceli Family of W. Warren Street; 4) The Wandling Family of Davis Street; and 5) The Wisneski Family of Youmans Avenue. The Mayor thanked all families on behalf of the Council and Commission.

Treasurer's Report

We have about \$4,000 left. We've gone over on our salaries, but this uncertainty should decrease next year due to the new Park Director position. The part-time Park Director's overtime was an issue, but this is the first year it was done this way.

This year we've also had extensive plumbing bills. \$7,000 in bills from 2004 was carried over into 2005. The new budget should be available mid-February. It's been requested that capital expenditure be moved over and used for picnic tables, playground equipment, improvements to Washington Meadows baseball field and for bike racks. We've asked for money for new lights for the baseball field and to renovate the grandstand and grandstand bathrooms.

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Park Director's Report

Adam Payne has ordered infield dirt for the softball field. A rototiller will be rented to straighten out the old field. The old pool cleaner has been fixed and will be picked up. Link Plumbing will be contacted to replace the multiport valve for the baby pool. Since the pool filter will not be replaced this year, Adam feels it will be a struggle to keep it working and it will require a lot of attention. A lock has been placed on the dumpster to prohibit illegal dumping.

Commissioner's Report

Karate

Karate classes begin this Friday, January 6th.

Youth Basketball

The first game of the season is Monday, January 9th. There was a good turnout for the boy's teams, but we're having trouble with girl's basketball. We barely got one team of 6th - 8th grade girls. We need to reach out to them better.

Girls Softball

A flyer needs to be mailed to schools and past participants.

Street Hockey

Starts Monday, January 9th. We are up 10% in sign-ups. The NJ Devils will come to our awards banquet.

New Business

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Erin Czarnecki to elect Angela Wallace as Secretary. Joe Kresser seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Angela Wallace to re-elect Rick Feldman as Treasurer. Erin Czarnecki seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jamie Prendergast to re-elect Dawn Higgins as Vice-Chairperson. Angela Wallace seconded the motion. Five were in favor, one opposed and one abstained. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Rick Feldman to re-elect Terry Finnegan as Chairman. Dawn Higgins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sign-Up and Fee Schedule

Girl's Softball was discussed and we lowered our prices. We would like to run a clinic for the girls. Angela Wallace will call Mike Quinto to see if he is willing to do this. The money collected should be put back into the program. We need more clinics. We need to research prices and people to be discussed at a later meeting. Another possibility to enhance program participation is a Spring Fair where we highlight our programs and offer information about them. We could also try adding new sports, like lacrosse.

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The rest of the Sign-Up and Fee Schedule will be reviewed at our next meeting.

Softball Sign-Ups

Angela Wallace and Ann Kilduff will be at sign-ups on January 20th, Erin Czarnecki and Ann Kilduff on January 21st and Ann Kilduff on January 28th.

Green Acres Loan Application

Jeff Bottger will do an outline of Phase 1 for the project on Railroad Avenue. The approximate price will be \$500,000. This is the maximum grant the State will give. It will be introduced at a Council Meeting on February 7th. We will have the outline at our next meeting. The application will be available for the public's review the week before the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Full Time Park Director Ordinance

Mayor Van Deursen and Councilman Turner were in attendance for this portion of our meeting. A preliminary ordinance was presented to the Recreation Commission for their review and comments. It will be introduced at Council's next meeting. The ordinance was written in Council's perspective; now Council would like the Recreation Commission's perspective. Many Commissioners feel the ordinance needs to be clearer and reworded so no one can interpret it differently. It needs to be written clearly for future Commission and Council members.

Council states that the Park Director position should not take responsibilities away from the Commission unless they deem it. They say the Park Director will adhere to the policies set by the Recreation Commission as well as run the day-to-day operation of the pool. Commissioners feel that the wording of the ordinance suggests a lot of bypassing of the Commissioners, especially the Treasurer.

The Recreation Commission wants to be sure the Park Director is clear on who he or she reports to. There should be one point person for the Park Director to come to. The Park Director will be a department head. There will be employees handling the pool, park, etc. Therefore, since the Park Director will be hiring these people, it should be listed in the ordinance that the person hired will need to hire others.

The Recreation Commission would like Mr. R. Cushing, Municipal Attorney, to assist us in the process of completing this ordinance. The ordinance goes into the code book to legally define the position. The job description will give more details of the job, for example, grant writing responsibilities.

Mayor Van Deursen and Councilman Turner left our meeting at this point.

Plans for Pool Renovation

Wayne Wade Associates agreed that the bids for the filtration system we had received are too high and suggested we reject them. We will send out for bids again in May. The bid

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specifics will be reviewed at our next meeting. We need to list line items (wading pool, slide and water fixtures).

Executive Session

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:55 p.m. by Rick Feldman, seconded by Dawn Higgins.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff