

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission
Minutes
September 6, 2006

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, September 6th, by Dawn Higgins, Chairperson, at 7:36 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Rick Feldman, Terry Finnegan, Joe Kresser and Park Director Adam Payne. Candy DeFillippis arrived at 8:35 and Angela Wallace arrived at 8:47. Absent was Commissioner Angela Frye.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Terry Finnegan to approve the minutes from the August 16th meeting, seconded by Joe Kresser. Motion passed.

Correspondence

A phone call had been received from Julia Quelly. She was upset with the pool closing a few times in August. Dawn Higgins had left a message for Mrs. Quelly.

Open Public Session

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

Park Director's Report

Adam Payne reported the pool has been shut down for the summer and pre-fall clean-up procedures have begun. Cleaning and painting of the Snack Bar and Pool House has also begun. Adam stated the park truck has a bad fuel line and will have it fixed upon direction from the Borough Manager. Adam will get three quotes for winterizing the pool. Terry Finnegan instructed Adam to change the paint markings on the field – orange paint should be used for the whistle field, white paint for the soccer field and yellow paint for the field hockey field. Adam stated the dangerous playground equipment has been removed. Adam told Dawn about a leak in the equipment room when she asked why the movie equipment was drenched in water.

Adam will file a police report on the recent vandalism of the pavilion tables and get the necessary tools to anchor the tables before the weekend. Rick Feldman will get the mounting equipment and liners for the garbage cans at the pavilion. Dawn Higgins stated she requested a key to the pavilion electric box from the Borough Manager back in June but still does not have one.

Dawn Higgins stated she cut holes in the lids of two garbage cans to use for recycling because there aren't any regular recycling cans at the park. She reminded Adam that the recycling needs to go alongside the dumpster for collection. Terry Finnegan suggested getting a recycling dumpster for next year.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Feldman stated that it will cost approximately \$2,000 to winterize the pool and another \$600 to do the pavilion. Rick asked what expenses the Commissioners foresee. Terry Finnegan will get prices for

soccer shorts to Rick. Joe Kresser stated that the basketball backboards need to be painted and will get prices for next year. The basketball court will be fine for another year, but Joe will look into the lights. Dawn Higgins will ask Lucus Electric for a quote and feels money needs to be allocated for this in next year's budget. Adam Payne feels more storage space is needed at the pool. Joe Kresser agrees a shed is needed and would like to budget for this as well. We have \$25,000 in capital money, so Rick will put a proposal together for playground equipment. Terry Finnegan stated that surplus isn't allocated back to Recreation.

Commissioner Reports

Soccer

Terry Finnegan stated the soccer season begins on Saturday. Per Terry's request, Adam will be available to open the door prior to that so the coaches can hand out the uniforms.

Consignment Ticket Program

Tickets for local parks were sold on Fridays in August. Dorney Park was the most requested. The Commission made a \$42.00 profit. Dawn Higgins instructed Ann Kilduff to look into Fright Fest tickets for both Great Adventure and Dorney Park. Information on ski tickets will be available in October with tickets being available for distribution in December.

New Business

Codes of Conduct

Heather Meyerhofer provided Dawn Higgins with the Codes of Conduct used by Field Hockey in the past. The Commissioners agreed to use these as generic codes. Candy will ask Heather to hand them out to the field hockey players.

Unfinished Business

Pavilion Status Update

The handicap-accessible driveway to the pavilion has been paved; however, the Commission does not feel it is handicap accessible in its current state. Dawn Higgins stated in an e-mail to the Borough Manager that the sides were not back-filled and graded evenly with the surrounding grassy areas. It stops far short of the pavilion or sidewalk to allow a person with a cane or wheelchair to walk safely to the pavilion. It's very steep and looks as if rain will run right into the neighbor's backyard. Dawn also stated that this job did not follow the architect's drawings and asked what will be done to correct this. Dawn will follow up with a letter to Council since she has not received a response from the Borough Manager as of this date.

The tables at the pavilion have been vandalized. Some of the plastic on top of one of the tables has been carved out. There are also burn marks and profanity written on the tables. Adam will file a police report and also clean off the writing on the tables. Per Rick Feldman's request, Adam will put up a sign on the pavilion that states the park is closed at sunset.

Railroad Avenue Status Update

The Green Acres loan was denied. Dawn Higgins stated that Jeff Bottiger will speak to Council on behalf of the Recreation Commission. Green Acres told Jeff that if we reapply, we will go to the top of the list. Dawn will ask the Borough Manager to come to our next meeting to discuss this. In the meantime, Jeff will send us sample letters to send with the reapplication. The Commission also needs more letters of support from the community.

Washington Meadows Soccer Field Status Update

The field conditions remain the same. Rick Feldman stated his dissatisfaction with the way the Borough Manager and Borough Engineer are dealing with this situation.

Borough Park Stadium Light Status Update

The old lights will be down on Monday. Dawn was told the field will not be damaged. We will need to wait four to six weeks for the new lights to be delivered. At that point it will take five days to install the lights and another five days for wiring. Terry Finnegan stated we had asked the Borough Manager to wait until soccer season was over before beginning this project.

Pool Renovation Project Status Update

Only one bid came in for the project. It was from RJR Engineering for \$457,500.00. The total including the extras is \$706,000.00. Dawn has asked the Borough Manager why only one bid came in and where it was advertised. She has not received a response as of this date. Terry Finnegan would like Dawn to contact the Mayor regarding poor communication from the Borough Manager on this project, as the entire Recreation Commission is upset. Terry feels there are too many unanswered questions regarding this big project in the community. Joe Kresser feels that the whole sidewalk around the pool needs to be redone.

Ballfield Assessment / 5-Year Plan

Dawn Higgins stated that Jeff Bottiger is willing discuss a 5-year plan and also do a field assessment for \$1,000.00 per day. Soil testing is an additional \$25.00. Jeff estimates this will be a 1-2 day project. Terry Finnegan feels this would be money well spent. The Commissioners would like to have Jeff come to a meeting to discuss this plan before beginning. Rick Feldman stated the Commission should know what questions to ask Jeff beforehand, for example, 1) how long will the 5-year plan process take, 2) does this put the Commission in a different category with Green Acres and 3) does the Commission qualify for grant money instead of loan money. Joe Kresser feels maintenance of the fields and grandstand should be included in the master plan. Terry Finnegan feels the Road Department should help the Recreation Commission with some of the maintenance.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was not necessary at this meeting.

Commission Requests and/or Remarks

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:32 p.m. by Angela Wallace, seconded by Candy DeFillippis. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff