

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission
Minutes
February 7, 2007

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, February 7th, by Dawn Higgins, Chairperson, at 7:44 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Candy DeFillippis, Rick Feldman, Angela Frye, Gary Pohorely and Angela Wallace. Terry Finnegan arrived at 8:07.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Gary Pohorely, seconded by Rick Feldman, to approve the minutes from the January 17th meeting. Motion carried.

Communications

A memo was received from Barbara Van Why regarding training programs. Any interested Commissioners should see Barbara for the course catalog.

A donation request was received from Warren Hills Project Graduation. All Commissioners were in favor of sending a donation. Rick Feldman will review the budget and make a recommendation as to the donation amount.

Open Public Session

A motion was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Rick Feldman, to open the Public Session of the meeting at 7:50. Motion carried.

Josh DeVoe of the Washington Borough Fire Department was in attendance to discuss the Fire Department's 125th Anniversary celebration to be held on June 7, 2008. The Department would like to hold the celebration at Borough Park. He anticipates approximately 50 fire companies participating. The parade would start at 1:00 p.m. with activities in the park starting around 3:00 or 4:00. Candy DeFillippis stated there is no alcohol allowed at the park. Mr. DeVoe stated he spoke to the Borough Manager who told him he needs to send a letter to Council asking them to waive that rule for the day. If approved, they would set up a beer garden that would be properly fenced off and supervised. Rick Feldman stated that if work is done on the field, the trucks would not be allowed on it. Mr. DeVoe said they could work around that if needed. All Commissioners were in favor of the Fire Department using the park for this event.

Councilman Dave Higgins suggested the Fire Department and Recreation Commission hold a joint fundraiser. A discounted pool pass could be offered to those families attending the parade and proceeds split 50/50 between the two departments. Dawn Higgins will look into whether there is a limit as to how many people are allowed in the pool.

A motion was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Gary Pohorely, to close the Public Session of the meeting at 7:59. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Feldman reported on the budget meeting this past weekend with Council. Capital funding was secured for the watering apparatus for Vara Field, general improvements for Steinhardt Field and for replacement mats in

the bathhouse. Money has been allocated for a grant writer. Rick and Dawn will meet with Council again this weekend to try to get approval. Dawn will e-mail the results of the meeting to the Commissioners.

Gary Pohorely asked if the Commission could use the BID's grant writer. Dawn explained that the BID's grant writer is specifically for them and deals with business grants, therefore, the Commission cannot use them. Candy DeFillippis asked why the Treasurer's Report to Council showed different numbers than what Rick's report shows. Rick is looking into this.

Commissioner Reports

Girls Softball

Angela Wallace reported that Girls Softball Signups were held and there are fourteen 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders registered and only seven 5th and 6th graders. More 5th and 6th grade girls are needed to have a team. Angela has an e-mail into Beth Uporsky regarding uniforms.

Street Hockey

Angela Frye reported that the Devils have offered complimentary tickets for all hockey players. The hockey banquet is scheduled for April 4th at Memorial School.

New Business

Sign-Up and Fee Schedule

Dawn Higgins stated that during the budget meeting, Council recommended raising the fees of all sports. After a brief discussion of the Swim Team fees, Terry Finnegan suggested inviting the Swim Team parents to a meeting to discuss this. This discussion has been tabled until the March 7th meeting. Dawn and Rick will author a letter to the Swim Team parents inviting them to this meeting. Swim Team sign-ups will be rescheduled.

Green Acres Update

Dawn Higgins reported she left a message with Kathy Shaw asking what will happen with the Green Acres money. Gary Pohorely stated he spoke to Cecile and was told the Commission has until November 28th to start the project. If the fence is replaced, it would be an acceptable start to getting this project underway.

Park Director's Report

Adam Payne reported there are still vandalism problems in the park. Last week someone broke into the pool by cutting the fence and threw an umbrella stand into the pool. Adam told the Commission what needs to be done to fix the pool's filtration system. Terry Finnegan asked if Adam could fix it by himself and Adam replied he needs at least one more person. He explained it is a very delicate procedure and the system itself is antiquated. Because of this, Dawn would like Adam to get estimates from professionals to complete this job. Terry Finnegan stated a higher mesh fence is needed. Adam will get estimates on this. Angela Frye asked about the previously reported leak. Adam reported there is a crack in an underground pipe and all water has been turned off for now.

Security Cameras

Rick Feldman stated Council has approved the use of cameras in the park. Dawn reported Washington Township has received money to purchase surveillance equipment. They have offered to give half to the Borough.

Unfinished Business

Pavilion Status Update

Dawn reported the Borough Manager sent an e-mail to the Borough Engineer asking him to meet with Dawn at the pavilion and give recommendations as to the work that needs to be done. The Borough Engineer will be in touch with Dawn within the next few days.

Railroad Tracks

Dawn spoke to the Borough Manager about having a fence near the railroad tracks at the park. Mr. Sheola has called the railroad company and will follow up with a letter. Dawn stated Mayor VanDeursen suggested he send a letter to Norfolk Southern and stress the safety issues.

Washington Meadows Soccer Field Status Update

Issues will be taken care of in the Spring.

Borough Park Stadium Light Status Update

The damaged fencing from the light installation has not been repaired. Lucas Electric will be back in the Spring to repair the fence. Dawn doesn't want to sign off on payment until all items, including the grass seed, have been completed.

Broad Street Entrance

Dawn stated she asked the Borough Manager to put it on the calendar to have the lines painted and to remove the "Do Not Enter" signs in order to make the Broad Street opening both an entrance and exit. Candy DeFillipis stated she would like to see this remain an exit only for safety reasons.

Park Signs

Signs have been ordered.

Pool Renovation Project Status Update

The Commission is waiting for the bids to come in.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was not necessary at this meeting.

Commission Remarks

Dawn Higgins suggested having meeting packets ready ahead of time. Ann Kilduff will e-mail the Commissioners the agenda, minutes and Park Director's report the Friday before a meeting. Packets will be available at Borough Hall for those Commissioners not having e-mail.

The Commissioners discussed a memo from Gary Pohorely in regards to the research he did on the pool project. Gary would like to see the pool completed in the near future. Gary suggested bidding out the concession stand. Dawn feels the concession stand needs to be upgraded in order to do this.

Terry Finnegan feels more bids are needed for the pool and discussed re-bidding. Terry questioned where the \$25,000 mentioned in the RFP comes from. Rick Feldman will look into this.

Dawn reported that the advertisement for the Park Director position has been sent out. The Swim Team Coach position will be advertised for soon.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:46 p.m. by Angela Wallace, seconded by Terry Finnegan.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff