

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission
Minutes
February 21, 2007

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, February 21st, by Dawn Higgins, Chairperson, at 7:40 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Rick Feldman, Angela Wallace and Park Director Adam Payne. Angela Frye arrived at 7:47 and Candy DeFillippis arrived at 8:15. Dawn Higgins reported that Gary Pohorely has resigned.

Review of Past Minutes

After a few changes, a motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Angela Wallace, to approve the minutes from the February 7th meeting. Motion carried.

Communications

A note was received from Barbara Van Why regarding County Employees walking around Borough Park on or about April 18th, National Walk Day. Per Dawn's request, Adam Payne will mark out a mile walk at the park for this event.

The Commission was copied on a memo dated February 8, 2007 from the Borough Manager asking the Right of Way Department of the Erie Lackawanna Railroad to consider installing fencing to separate the railroad tracks from Borough Park for the safety of the children.

Angela Wallace received information for Softball Coach Certification to be held on March 7th. She will forward the information to those who need it.

Open Public Session

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Angela Frye, to open the Public Session of the meeting at 7:49. Motion carried.

Bill Smith was in attendance representing Little League. Bill stated that Little League will help maintain Steinhardt Field and help line the fields. He would like to get keys in order to access the rakes to redo the fields between games. Rick Feldman will look into getting keys for Little League. Bill said Little League will provide the port-a-john and leave it unlocked. The scoreboard needs to be looked into as the season gets closer. Little League is not planning on selling signs at this time as the majority of the Little League representatives are not in favor of splitting the cost of the signs with the Commission. Bill and Rick both asked that if either group decides to sell the signs in the future, they would let the other group know. Opening Day will be April 21st and Bill anticipates practices starting April 1st. He will give Adam a schedule as soon as he has one. Dawn suggested Little League may want to go before the school board asking them to maintain the Taylor Street field. Bill stated that Little League may need to buy bats this year. Rick asked him to come to the Commission to see if any money is available if that is the case. Bill reported that Little League is being run collectively this year by him, Bill Gleba, Rick Albanese and Mike Dante.

Laurie Ann and Robert O'Leary were in attendance regarding an incident at a street hockey game this evening involving their son and feels it wasn't handled properly. Dawn Higgins stated she has received calls about a team playing too rough and asked Angela Frye, Street Hockey Commissioner, to watch a game. Angela was at

this evening's game and could verify that players were playing roughly. Mrs. O'Leary agreed that games sometimes do get rough but the referees aren't calling penalties. Changes need to be made program-wide so no team is isolated. Referees need to be educated in the rules, penalties need to be called and rules need to be enforced. Per Dawn's request, Mrs. O'Leary will provide the Commission with Pohatcong's contact person at the Devils.

Brian Barends, street hockey assistant coach, questioned 4th graders playing with 8th graders. Rick Feldman stated this is something the Commission has looked into before and will look into again. Candy DeFillippis feels that if the referees are in charge, there should be no problem with the younger and older children playing together. Mr. Barends asked how much money is put back into the hockey program. Dawn explained that money received goes towards all sports and events sponsored by the Commission. Mr. Barends feels the program needs more structure. More equipment is needed and coaches need to be made aware that mouth guards are required. He feels the coaches are hindered and need to have more practice time.

Tracy Terminelli, street hockey parent, stated there will be bad feelings among the children if some children get called out for penalties and others don't. She feels that time should have been taken at the skills assessment to go over the rules and show the players the difference between right and wrong.

Joe Miller, street hockey coach, stated he is a trained coach and questioned whether the other coaches have training. Angela Frye stated the coaches are all volunteers.

Dawn stated the Commission needs to make sure rules are enforced for all teams. The referee, structure and equipment situations will be addressed immediately. The Code of Conduct needs to be enforced. She wants all volunteers to know their time is appreciated and the Commission realizes the coaches have the best interests of the children in mind.

A motion was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Angela Frye, to close the Public Session of the meeting at 9:02. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports

Street Hockey

Angela Frye stated she has been to all but one game this season. She too had received a call regarding a team playing roughly. She stated the coach was on his cell phone during the incident in question. Angela asked the referee to keep an eye on the player and referee agreed the child was rough. There have been reports of roughness on more than one team. Dawn Higgins would like to have a meeting with her, Angela and the referees. She also requested Angela set up a meeting with the coaches on Sunday.

Rick Feldman stated the coaches have the responsibility to teach their team what is right and wrong along with the referees. Rick feels the following should happen next: 1) the proper rules need to be obtained; 2) a meeting with the referees needs to take place; 3) a meeting needs to take place with the coaches and referees to go over the rules and give them their responsibilities; 4) letters need to be sent to all the parents telling them what happened and what will be happening; 5) the Commission needs to find out what equipment is needed and make sure children have it; and 6) the Commission should look into purchasing mouth guards for all players this year.

New Business

Summer Recreation Program

Dawn Higgins asked the Commissioners to look over the brochure everyone received for ideas regarding programs and pricing and be prepared to discuss ways to enhance the Borough's summer program at a future meeting.

Park Director's Report

Adam Payne reported that he has been clearing the sidewalks at the park and is concerned with someone falling on the ice. Dawn suggested getting signs marking the park as "seasonal"; therefore the sidewalks won't need to be cleared. Adam met with Rudl Fencing, but was unable to get an estimate on replacing the fencing because of all the snow on the ground. They are scheduled to meet next week and Rudl will provide a proper estimate. Adam stated John Bush from Rudl told him the current fence is not a legal pool fence. Adam is receiving calls from camps looking for summer pricing. Per Dawn, Adam will make a list of those interested and follow up with them once pricing has been established. Adam will get a latch with a lock to fix the lock on the pump house door.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Feldman stated he and Dawn met with Council, but he has no new information to report. Rick and Dawn need to meet with Council again.

Unfinished Business

Pool Renovation Project Status Update

Dawn reported the project is not any further than last reported. She stated Terry Finnegan spoke to the Mayor and Council asking to start the rebidding process. Mayor VanDeursen called Dawn to clarify, as she understood the Commission as a whole agreed to wait. Dawn confirmed this and feels the Commission has the same goals in mind and has every intention to complete the Pool Project. Dawn clarified for her, as Terry stated in an e-mail to the Mayor, that he was speaking as an individual, not as a Commissioner. Dawn feels Terry missed a lot of very useful information from Jeff Bottger and also from the meeting with Mr. Bottger, Mr. Sheola and Mr. Turner. Terry was unable to attend these meetings. Terry was also absent when the contents of the RFP were discussed. Dawn feels this information would help Terry understand how the Commission came to make the decisions it has made.

Dawn explained the \$25,000 mentioned in the RFP that was a major concern to Terry and Gary Pohorely. That amount is for the Recreation Consultant only. The amount of \$25,000 was a recommendation from Rick Feldman and Dawn going along the guidelines from Jeff Bottger's figures of \$15,000 - \$17,000. Dawn stated the town would put in their budget up to \$25,000 for a consultant and that this was approved by the Borough Manager.

Rick Feldman asked if anyone disagrees with what has been done on this project. No one said they did. Candy stated the Commission is not sure where to go right now and should be sure of the pool design before moving forward.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was not necessary at this meeting.

Commission Remarks

Candy DeFillippis stated she has some concerns with the Fire Department's 125th Anniversary Parade next year: 1) concerned that if fire trucks park on Broad Street they will block the view of residents exiting their driveway; 2) concerned with the no alcohol rule being waived. This will set precedence to other groups wanting to do the same and 3) most concerned with the pool staff, which is primarily teenagers, monitoring people going into the pool if they've been drinking. Dawn Higgins suggested Candy write down her concerns and Dawn will pass them along to the Borough Manager. Rick Feldman agrees with Candy's concern that the pool staff would have a hard time monitoring those drinking alcohol and would like Mr. Cushing to come to one of the Commission's meetings to discuss this.

Rick Feldman suggested leaving items on the agenda even if there is nothing to report. This will give information to future Commissions when looking back through past minutes.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:25 p.m. by Angela Wallace, seconded by Candy DeFillippis.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff