

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

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, March 21st, by Dawn Higgins, Chairperson, at 7:42 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Candy DeFillippis, Rick Feldman, Terry Finnegan and Park Director Adam Payne.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Terry Finnegan, to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

Communications

There were no communications at this meeting.

Open Public Session

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Terry Finnegan, to open the public session of the meeting at 7:46. Motion carried.

Troy Wyant was in attendance to discuss Men's Basketball which he has been organizing for the past three years. Troy reported that participation is growing each year and this year he expects to have twenty-five teams enrolled. Sign-ups were discussed and scheduled for May 18th, 25th and 26th. Troy reported that one team will not be allowed back this year due to aggressive behavior of their spectators last year. Rick Feldman will make sure the League has a table and first aid kit, including ice packs. Troy stated this will be his last year organizing Men's Basketball and told Dawn he will try to find someone to replace him. Candy asked Troy to put information into a notebook to be passed along to his replacement next year. Dawn thanked Troy and told him the Commission appreciates his help.

Bill Smith was in attendance to follow-up on some Little League issues. Bill hopes to have a schedule for Adam by mid-April. Bill informed the Commission that letters were sent to solicit sponsors and the signs were mentioned in the letter. Little League would like to hang the eight signs of the team sponsors. There are other signs of sponsors, but not team sponsors. Rick stated the Commission will allow Little League to hang the eight signs of the team sponsors, and the Recreation Commission will handle the remaining signs. Adam stated he will be receiving ten tons of dirt. Bill offered to share the cost of the dirt but Rick replied the Recreation Commission will pay for it. Candy asked if Little League has a Code of Conduct. Bill replied that they do and it is handed out at the beginning of the season. Bill stated they could use one big, one small and one flathead shovel that can be stored in the shed at Steinhardt Field. Terry asked if Little League will be lining the fields. Bill stated they will work with Adam on this.

A motion was made by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Terry Finnegan, to close the public session of the meeting at 8:20. Motion carried.

Park Director's Report

Adam had more vandalism to report. There was a break-in at the Pool House and damage was done to the office, hallway and snack bar. The estimated cost to repair the damage is just under \$2,000.00. Dawn stated she has spoken to the police and charges have been made. She suggests the Recreation Commission send a letter to the judge requesting that those responsible do community service at the park and their parents pay restitution. Candy feels those responsible should also apologize to the Recreation Commission. Adam stated that work will begin this weekend with the help of some community service workers. The ceiling will be repaired and the light fixture will be put back up to code. Work will be done on the grand stand at a later date. The leak in the office will be looked at as well. Dawn also reported she met with Essex Fencing but is still waiting for an estimate. She was told the poles are in good shape, however, the material is not pool grade fencing.

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Adam reported DPW could not fix the pipe at the park because of the recent snow storm, but repairs have been rescheduled for Tuesday. Adam stated he is awaiting delivery of a tractor from Rymon and they are anticipating it to be in by the end of next week. Adam told the Commission that latex paint doesn't hold up in the pool and that John Burd has a contact that can get the paint he needs. Rick and Terry would like Adam to look into exactly why the rubber-based paint is not allowed to be sold in New Jersey. Terry asked Adam about the filtration system. Adam replied there has been no change. Dawn stated John Burd can help by removing the sand.

Candy mentioned that the concrete in the pavilion is cracking and Kiwanis is still looking to have a dedication ceremony. Rick stated he would rather not dedicate the pavilion. He also told the Commission that Joe Kresser has begun staining the pavilion.

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's Report at this meeting. Rick reported that the auditors will be giving a report to the Borough Manager tomorrow and Council will be having a meeting on Tuesday to discuss it. It will probably be at least another two weeks before there is a budget.

Commissioner Reports

Easter Egg Hunt

Candy reported the egg hunt has been postponed until March 31st because of the weather.

Swim Team

Dawn reported that the Swim Team Parent's Association met and will meet again at the end of the week. Officers were elected and Dawn asked them to come to the Commission's April 4th meeting.

Fire Department's Anniversary Celebration

Dawn reported that she, Angela Wallace and Candy met with the fire and police departments regarding the fire department's 125th anniversary celebration to voice the Commission's concerns. It was decided a third police officer will be hired to watch the pool. A second fence will be placed around the beer garden to prevent passing beer to minors. Those in attendance with a bracelet from the beer garden will not be allowed in the pool regardless of how much they have been drinking. The fire department will not park their trucks on the field, but will use the old Acme and Smith Motors parking lots instead. They anticipate being at Borough Park around 2:30 pm. and ending around 7:00 p.m. They have arranged for cleanup and have extra fire police for crowd and traffic control. No trucks will be parked on Youmans Avenue or Broad Street. They are looking into a moonwalk and DJ or band. Dawn reminded them if they are going to have food vendors, they need to contact the health department, provide the Recreation Commission with proof of insurance and obtain a permit. Rick stated he is against having a policeman at the pool. Both Rick and Terry are against Council administering an alcohol waiver without first speaking to the Recreation Commission.

New Business

April Meeting

Dawn stated she would like to hold the April 18th meeting at Borough Park so the Commission could do an assessment of the park. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Children's Day

All Commissioners were in favor of having a Children's Day at Borough Park. A discussion took place of possible events including a Fun Bus, water games with the lifeguards, Mad Scientist, Lizards and Things or Eyes of the Wild, some of which were a great success in the past.

Unfinished Business

Sign-Up and Fee Schedule

This has been tabled until the next meeting.

Playground Equipment

Dawn reported that the playground installation will be completed by the end of the week.

Park Bricks

The Commissioners feel the bricks from the streetscape project can be used for a French drain at the pavilion or a pad by the swing set in the park for picnic tables. Dawn reported that John Burd is willing to help the Commission with the bricks. Terry feels the bricks should be removed from the park if they are not going to be used soon. Rick agrees the bricks should be removed due to the ongoing vandalism problems in the park and feels the Commission should prioritize the projects the bricks can be used for. Rick reminded the Commission that the Borough Engineer still needs to come and address the run-off problem at the pavilion. Dawn stated Adam is putting together a list of things to be done and will forward the list to the DPW to see if there is anything they can help with.

Pool Renovation Project Status Update

Dawn, Rick and the Borough Engineer will be interviewing four consulting companies tomorrow. The Borough Engineer has been given the proposals and Dawn feels he will be very helpful in the interview process.

Pavilion Status Update

Dawn stated there is nothing new to report at this time.

Washington Meadows Soccer Field Status Update

Dawn reported that before leaving, Mr. Sheola notified Mr. Cushing's office that the Commission needs notice before any sod is delivered to the field. Water is still a problem there.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was not necessary at this meeting.

Commission Remarks

Terry asked about the removal of the shrubs in the park. Dawn reported that John Burd will be removing the shrubs. Dawn met with Adam and John in regards to the two departments working together. Terry also questioned the damaged ballpark fence. Dawn stated the fence will be fixed after March 31st by Lucas Electric. Rick mentioned that the sidewalk by third baseline has also been damaged by Lucas Electric's truck.

Terry questioned the storm water pipe at Borough Park. The Commission was told it doesn't need to be replaced. There haven't been any problems with it after the recent storms.

Dawn informed Adam that the Commission will be completing his performance evaluation. The evaluation procedure was discussed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:03 p.m. by Terry Finnegan, seconded by Candy DeFillippis.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff