

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

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, March 7th, by Dawn Higgins, Chairperson, at 7:56 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Candy DeFillippis, Terry Finnegan, Angela Frye, Angela Wallace and Park Director Adam Payne. Rick Feldman arrived at 8:59.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Terry Finnegan, seconded by Angela Wallace, to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

Communications

A request was received from Paul Jeffries of United Soccer Academy asking to use Borough Park in the Spring and Fall for their Soccer Squirts program. A motion was made by Terry Finnegan, seconded by Angela Wallace to allow United Soccer Academy to use the fields on the dates requested. All Commissioners were in favor. Motion carried.

Terry Finnegan stated he has been getting calls asking about the Swim Team. He inquired about a letter to the Swim Team parents from the Recreation Commission that was never sent. Dawn Higgins explained that before a letter could be written, the Swim Team Parent Association decided to meet and solve any issues amongst themselves. Candy DeFillippis stated she would like the Association to come to one meeting each month while they are preparing for the season. Dawn will ask the Officers to come to our next meeting.

Open Public Session

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

Park Director's Report

Adam Payne reported he is looking into getting a chlorinated rubber-based paint for the pool as it holds up much better than latex paint. Candy DeFillippis stated the bulletin board has come down. Adam will store it until the pool opens. Adam is in the process of getting fence estimates. Dawn Higgins will meet with Essex Fencing on Monday. Terry Finnegan feels the fence should be eight feet tall. Adam will get estimates on both a six and eight foot fence.

Commissioner Reports

Street Hockey

Angela Frye reported that her contact at the NJ Devils is mailing her a copy of the hockey manual for her review. He offered to come down and review the manual at the start of next season with the coaches and referees. Angela asked about the Devils providing all equipment and found that was not true. They also do not provide training as previously told to the Commission, they just speak before the start of the season if requested. The Devils are not against mouth guards being used, but noted that helmets have facemasks to provide protection. Angela met with the referees of the older league to review the playbook and penalties. Angela will look into certification or training for the referees next season. Terry Finnegan feels the referees should be paid \$30.00 per game next season instead of the current \$15.00 they are receiving. Codes of Conduct and clock stopping at the end of games also need to be addressed next season. The Hockey Banquet will be held at Taylor Street this year due to a scheduling conflict.

Girl's Softball

Angela Wallace reported there are two full teams with 15 girls on each team. She would like practices to begin April 1st. Angela will be ordering new uniforms for the players. The 5th/6th grade girls will have shorts and the 3rd/4th grade girls will have pants. Dawn Higgins asked Angela to have our current bats assessed. Adam will clear the infield for practices.

Easter Egg Hunt

Candy DeFillippis reported the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 24th at 2:00 p.m. with a rain date of March 31st. There will not be an Easter Bunny, but Candy is looking into having cookies and juice available for the participants.

New Business

Money Mailer Ad

Commissioners agreed to advertise the pool in both April and May with a Money Mailer ad. Pool membership pricing was discussed. Rick Feldman stated that prices remained the same for at least three years, and a price increase will help cover the rising cost of supplies. A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Terry Finnegan to raise the price of a borough resident family membership to \$125.00, borough resident individual membership to \$60.00, non-resident family membership to \$195.00 and non-resident individual membership to \$85.00. Senior memberships for both residents and non-residents will remain unchanged. All Commissioners were in favor. Motion carried.

Frequently Asked Questions on Website

A memo was received from Kristine Blanchard stating the website committee is currently working on updating the Borough website to include frequently asked questions of each department. This was discussed and Ann Kilduff will prepare the questions and forward them to Kristine.

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's Report at this meeting.

Unfinished Business

Sign-Up and Fee Schedule

The 2007 Sign-Up and Fee Schedule was discussed and Swim Team sign-up dates have been set for March 23rd, 24th and 31st. Ann Kilduff will make the changes to the schedule and post. Candy DeFillippis suggested teams can fundraise to help raise money for shirts, etc. Terry Finnegan stated shorts are needed for Youth Basketball.

Playground Equipment

Dawn Higgins reported that the new playground equipment will be installed at Borough Park during the week of March 12th. It is estimated installation will take two to three days to complete.

Pool Renovation Project Status Update

Dawn Higgins, Angela Wallace and Rick Feldman previously reviewed the Recreation Consultant proposals and will meet with the Borough Engineer, asking him to explain the differences so an educated decision can be made. Dawn stated they will interview the companies and she hopes to have a recommendation at the next meeting. Terry Finnegan asked where the money will be coming from to pay for this. Dawn stated that depending on budget approval, the Commission can break it down into projects. Terry would like the firms who submitted proposals to come to our next meeting so the Commission can interview them as a whole. Dawn stated this decision needs to be expedited and would like to continue with the sub-committee. Per Terry's request, Dawn will supply him with a set of the proposals.

Dawn spoke to Kathy Shaw and this can partially be funded thru Green Acres. To retain the Green Acres money, Kathy Shaw recommended writing to Green Acres explaining the current situation and the Commission's expectations. Green Acres is most likely to approve an extension if the project will be started within a reasonable amount of time. Terry Finnegan stated the Commission needs a commitment from Council that they are willing to fund any additional monies. Dawn reported Council was in favor of the feasibility study.

Pavilion Status Update

There is no new information to report. Dawn Higgins will ask the Borough Engineer to look at the pavilion issues, for example, the retention wall, for his recommendations. Dawn will ask Matt Noctor for a checklist of pavilion issues to review with the Engineer.

Washington Meadows Soccer Field Status Update

There is no new information to report. The water issue has not yet been resolved. Dawn Higgins will ask the Borough Manager to see that the fire hydrant is hooked up for the Recreation Commission's use to water the sod once it's placed. Also, the pipes in the ground are too small. Two inch pipes are needed from the street to the field. A plan is needed as to how to run the pipes and how much it will cost to be completed.

Streetscape Project

Dawn Higgins stated that the bricks removed as Washington Avenue is being redone have been donated to the Commission. Several pallets of bricks are currently being stored at the park. Due to recent vandalism in the park, Dawn will ask the Borough Manager to have the bricks removed from the park and possibly store them at the borough garage instead.

Questions to Borough Attorney

Dawn updated the Commission on some questions she asked of the Borough Attorney. Although the Commission currently has three vacancies, four members are still required to have a quorum. Dawn also discussed the Commission's concerns regarding the Fire Department's Anniversary Celebration at Borough Park. Mr. Cushing suggested Dawn and two Commissioners become a sub-committee and meet with the Mayor, Police and Fire Departments to discuss any issues before it needs to go to Council. Concerns were discussed and Terry Finnegan stated he is against the alcohol waiver. Dawn, Candy DeFillippis and Angela Frye will be on the sub-committee.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session at 10:34 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, real estate, and/or legal matters was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Angela Frye. Motion carried.

A motion was made to close the Executive Session at 10:36 p.m. by Angela Wallace, seconded by Rick Feldman. Motion carried.

Commission Remarks

There were no remarks at this meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:37 p.m. by Terry Finnegan, seconded by Candy DeFillippis.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff