

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission
Minutes
June 20, 2007

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, June 20th, by Dawn Higgins, Chairperson, at 7:35 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Candy DeFillippis, Rick Feldman, Kathy Seguine, Angela Wallace and Park Director Adam Payne. Commissioners Terry Finnegan, Angela Frye and Cheryl Turnbull were absent.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Rick Feldman, to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

Open Public Session

A motion was made by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Angela Wallace, to open the public session of the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Motion carried.

Jeff Bottger of T&M Associates was in attendance. Dawn stated she has a copy of the letter to be sent to Green Acres and it is ready to be signed by the Borough Manager. Jeff reported that if Governor Corzine and the DEP can reach an agreement, there will be another \$200 million made available to the state in November.

Tim Marshall of T&M Associates was in attendance to update the Commission on the pool feasibility study. Tim looked into the Borough Pool, Crystal Springs in East Brunswick and the Hackettstown Pool. Crystal Springs is an aquatic center with 19,000 square feet of water structures and 3½ acres of parking. They also have a sand beach, basketball nets and an area for volleyball. Their concession stand is leased out. Their memberships have declined over the years but their daily numbers have grown. The Hackettstown pool has 11,000 square feet of pool facilities and enough parking for 500 vehicles. This pool draws from a wide area of people, some being bussed in from the city. Their membership fees are similar to those of the Borough Pool; however, you have to be a member of the Hackettstown Pool in order to take swim lessons there. The Borough Pool has 6,400 square feet of pool area and 67 parking spaces with no space for bus parking. Tim stated the parking is undersized and feels it needs to be quadrupled. The site is a limitation as a large flat area is needed.

Rick asked about the number of daily patrons versus members of the other pools. Tim will research the ratio of residents versus non-residents and report back to the Commission. Rick asked if the Borough is using the space it has correctly and if not, what is the cost and payoff to use it correctly. Tim replied the Borough should start with parking which would cost approximately \$300,000.

Rick questioned why when doing the comparison of the pools they didn't look at Belvidere or Lopatcong which are similar to the Borough Pool. Tim explained that when doing the comparison he looked at stretching what the Borough currently has. In his professional opinion, a pool similar to Hackettstown's would be the Borough's next step.

Candy asked how the comparison took into account that the Borough's population is approximately 7,000 and the other towns compared are larger. Tim explained that pools are not only a town draw, but people

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also come from out of area. Candy asked who pays the insurance for the other pools. Tim stated that it is part of their operating budget.

Dawn asked if the current Borough Pool and topography are conducive to a next step. Tim replied that the size of the pool area needs to be doubled. Anything is possible; it's all a matter of money. Angela Wallace asked if the playground area could be used. Tim replied there is still the issue of the grade change. Adam suggested looking into the area behind the pavilion for tiered lanes.

Jeff Bottger stated the Commission needs to decide quickly what they would like done. Jeff recommends upgrading the filtration system, getting new picnic tables, new sidewalk, small slides for the pool and address the ADA compliance issues. Dawn stated she is concerned about what would happen to the filtration system if the pool is moved in the future. Jeff replied he doesn't have an answer right now since there are no plans for that as of yet. Rick asked that if only minor improvements are done, would the pool have enough parking. Jeff replied that there would be enough parking.

Dawn asked if the design the Commission had before with the 0-depth entry, heater, sprinklers and a bubbler, would give the Commission a revenue source. Jeff replied that it would. Rick feels the Borough does need more pool area, but also needs other things to bring people to the park such as basketball, volleyball, picnic areas, etc.

Borough Manager John Corica spoke to the Commissioners regarding the money available both from ordinances and Green Acres. Mr. Corica stated he is concerned that the filtration system is not listed on the Green Acres paperwork and feels it should be. Jeff assured him Green Acres will approve the upgrade.

Rick stated that to make the pool a real asset, the Commission would need to spend more money. Right now the Commission is doing twelve years worth of maintenance because it wasn't done over the years. Dawn is concerned if nothing is done, the pool may not be in operation next year.

Jeff told the Commission he needs an answer by the end of the month as to what they would like T&M Associates to do. John Corica suggested preparing a list of priority items to total \$283,000 and send the list to Green Acres to ensure the use of money from them. The Commission should then look at other important items to use the bond money. Councilwoman Woykowski recommends the Commission not wait until the last minute to decide, listen to Jeff's advice and don't spend all the money if the pool may be upgraded in the future.

Dawn asked if the Commission decides to keep the pool as a community pool, will T&M's design work? Jeff replied that it would. Mr. Corica asked if the pool has been grounded. Adam replied that it has been. Per Rick's request, Jeff will look at the specs to see if the pump house is a worthwhile building to renovate.

Jeff stated he will be at the bid opening should the Commission decide to go out to bid. Angela Wallace asked how long the bid should be open. Jeff recommends at least three weeks. John Corica recommended timing the closing of the bids so as to have time to review them prior to the next meeting after the closing date. Bids do not need to be approved by Council. The lowest responsible bidder is awarded the job. Dawn also stated she would like the Borough Manager to be at the bid opening.

Jeff told the Commissioners he appreciates the rapport he has with the Commission and Dawn thanked Jeff for his time. Dawn stated Jeff has a copy of the contract for T&M Associates. The Commissioners

thanked John Corica and Christina Woykowski for coming to the meeting. Councilwoman Woykowski stated she was again impressed with Jeff's candor and presentation. She feels he is confident in what he presented.

A motion was made by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Kathy Seguine, to close the public session of the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried.

The Commission took a short break until 10:00 p.m.

Dawn stated the Commission needs to make a decision about going out to bid. Candy stated she is not comfortable spending money on something that may be disposed of in the future. Dawn stated it may be years before that happens. Without the filtration system the Commission will basically have to close the pool.

Rick stated there has been a decrease in pool memberships, swim lessons, and Swim Team members this year. Revenue will be down this year versus last year. Daily patrons and concession sales may go up if the weather improves. Candy stated she is not comfortable with the way things are being done at the park and pool. Dawn noted that problems in the past with staff and water quality have been rectified. Rick stated there are many new people who were hired this year and there have been changes to the supervisors and lifeguards.

Dawn stated the filtration system is antiquated and has not been maintained over the years. She feels if it is not fixed there is a real possibility of closing the pool mid-season next year. It also needs to be made to code. Approximately \$16,000 was spent to open the pool this year, much of which went towards filtration system parts. Rick noted that the Commission lost \$5,000 - \$10,000 last year on the pool. He is also concerned with spending a large sum of money on just fixing something. He wants to see a pool that makes money by using the facility properly, by looking at more than just the pool.

Kathy would like to see the bathrooms fixed as well. The bath house could be upgraded as part of an alternate bid.

The Commissioners determined that the items to be included in the bid will be 1) the filtration system, 2) concrete apron, 3) picnic tables, 4) wading pool, and 5) slide. A motion to direct T&M Associates to go back out to bid for the pool project as directed by the Recreation Commission was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Kathy Seguine. Ayes: Seguine, Wallace, Feldman, Higgins. Nays: DeFillippis Motion carried.

Communications

There were no communications at this meeting.

Park Director's Report

Adam stated that baseball and softball seasons both ended on good terms. There seems to be progress towards field improvements. Men's Basketball has started and the teams seem to be happy with the condition of the court and backboards. The pool opened full time this week and swim lessons will begin on June 25th.

Dawn stated she will be meeting with Tom Brennen of Boyce Associates regarding the swings tomorrow. He will also look at the older playground equipment for code compliance.

The meeting recap was discussed.

Both Adam and Dawn stated they have not heard from Lucas Electric regarding the work to be completed at the park. Rick questioned the Swim Team blocks. Adam replied that Joe Kresser will be taking a look at the blocks.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported that numbers have not been loaded into the system as of yet. The Commission has spent approximately \$80,000 so far this year.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports at this meeting

New Business

There was no new business at this meeting.

Unfinished Business

Park Bricks

There is nothing new to report. The bricks are still at the park.

Pool Renovation Project Status Update

This was discussed with T&M Associates during the Open Public Session.

Pavilion Status Update

There is nothing new to report.

Washington Meadows Soccer Field Status Update

Dawn reported that both she and the Borough Manager have been trying to reach someone at the water company but no one will return their calls. The water meter can be installed in one day. Dawn reported Bob Miller has no new information regarding the delivery of the sod. Soccer games and practices will not be held at Vara Field again this season.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session at 11:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, real estate, and/or legal matters was made by Angela Wallace, seconded by Candy DeFillippis. Motion carried.

A motion was made to close the Executive Session at 12:37 a.m. by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Angela Wallace. Motion carried.

Commission Remarks

There were no Commission remarks at this meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:39 a.m. by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Angela Wallace.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff