

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Committee Minutes
February 11, 2009

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Committee was called to order on Wednesday, February 11th, by Chairman Rick Feldman at 7:34 p.m. Also in attendance were committee members Paula Aron, Candy DeFillippis, Beth Uporsky, Adam Zimmer and Council liaison Patrick Boyle. Rebecca Copenhaver and Erica Kilkinney were absent. The Oath of Office was administered to Paula Aron and Adam Zimmer.

Committee Reorganization

Reorganize??

Rick stated that the committee just organized on October 29, 2008 and only held two meetings since then. He questioned the need to reorganize at this point. A motion was made by Beth Uporsky, seconded by Paula Aron, to nominate Rick Feldman as Chairperson, Adam Zimmer as Vice-Chairperson and Candy DeFillippis as Secretary. They will be keeping the positions they currently hold. All committee members agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Adam Zimmer to hold committee meetings on the last Wednesday of the month. Beth suggested having more meetings if the season warrants. Rick agreed, but would like to make the schedule official. After discussing different days, a motion was made by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Beth Uporsky, to hold committee meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. All committee members agreed. Motion carried.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Candy DeFillippis, to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2008 regular meeting as submitted. Motion carried.

Park Director Report

There was no Park Director report at this meeting.

New Business

Fee Schedule

Rick explained that Council has asked the committee to review the pricing schedule and make recommendations. Beth questioned the idea of the swim team joining the pool. She looked around to other towns and feels our fees are in range with everyone else. She feels we would lose many of our swim team participants if they were made to join the pool. The committee discussed the pros and cons.

Rick feels fees should not be raised due to the economy and recommends lowering them slightly to help the community. Candy agreed. Rick suggested only lowering the Boro fees because of the tax base. A motion was made by Adam Zimmer to suggest to council all fees be rolled back \$5.00 due to the economy for Washington Boro residents. Dawn Higgins feels the committee should do a PR blitz and radio spot on WRNJ regarding the price rollback to show its effort in giving relief to the community. She feels the prices should be rolled back for everyone. Rick agreed with Dawn. He also recommends leaving the baseball field usage fee open until more information is available to make an informed decision.

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Councilman Boyle asked if the topic of swim team participants joining the pool has been brought up before. Rick replied that it was discussed twice but never happened because it was thought not to be feasible. Dawn recommended giving documentation along with the proposal to council.

The committee recommended decreasing the fees for all sports \$5.00 for both Boro and non-Boro residents. A motion was made by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Beth Uporsky, to accept the fees as recommended. All committee members agreed. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Baseball Field

Adam provided the committee with needs for the field in order to play Mens' Baseball. The committee discussed how to accommodate Womens' Softball, Girls' Softball, Little League and Mens' Baseball on the fields. Candy asked if Adam could find contractors to donate their time if the Boro were to pay for the materials. Adam replied that he would do the work to the field himself with the help of other players. The Fire Department has offered to help put up the netting. Beth discussed the portable mound usage for all teams. The base length is different for each sport and would need to be moved. The backstop needs to be moved back and should be portable to accommodate everyone. Councilman Higgins suggested netting could possibly be used as the backstop. Rick asked what's to stop us from playing all the sports there this year. Beth replied only the cost. Rick asked if Girls' Softball could use the field with the changes suggested. Beth replied all four games could be accommodated between the two fields. Dawn reminded the committee that the money needs to be discussed soon. There is a small window of time to get the fields ready and communicate to the league.

Rick asked how the committee should handle the process of getting this done. Councilman Boyle suggested Rick discuss it at the next council meeting. He asked Adam if the changes suggested are from a league code book. Adam replied it is what he saw that needs to be done from his experience. Rick stated he would like to present this to Council on Tuesday. Everyone agreed. Councilman Boyle told the committee to go to the Boro Manager regarding any work that is to be done at the park.

Park Director Comments

There were no Park Director Comments at this meeting.

Committee Comments

Candy asked if there are any prospects for the Park Director position. Rick stated the position has not been advertised for yet. Candy told the committee the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 4th and will need help from the committee members.

Adam stated he looks forward to working with Patrick, welcomed Paula, and thanked everyone for listening to his concerns regarding the baseball field.

Beth welcomed Paula to the committee.

Rick asked everyone to read over their copy of the ordinance which created the committee and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting. He feels there are some concerns that need to be addressed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:11 p.m. by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Paula Aron.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff