

**Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey**  
**Recreation Committee Minutes**  
**February 25, 2009**

**Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Committee was called to order on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, by Chairman Rick Feldman at 7:30 p.m. Also in attendance were committee members Paula Aron, Candy DeFillippis, Erica Kilkinney, Beth Uporsky, Adam Zimmer and council liaison Patrick Boyle. Rebecca Copenhaver was absent.

**Review of Past Minutes**

A motion was made by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Candy DeFillippis, to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2009 regular meeting with changes. Motion carried.

**Park Director Report**

There was no Park Director report at this meeting.

Rick stated that the park director position was discussed at the last council meeting and an ad will be placed on nj.com and on the borough website. Councilman Boyle stated they are hoping to have someone in place within one month. He is not sure if the position is full or part-time, but would like to hear the committee's comments on what they feel it should be. Adam stated this was previously discussed and it was decided a full time recreation supervisor was needed to have the department run seamlessly.

**Unfinished Business**

**Baseball Field**

Rick stated he discussed the committee's thoughts with council. Councilman Boyle stated it was discussed at the budget workshop this past Sunday. Some of the council members want a guarantee in writing for some of the things promised like the netting being installed by the fire department. The biggest concern some had was the usage fee for the field. Council will continue to discuss. Council had questioned the number of home games. Adam replied there will be ten home games not including play-offs and all-star games.

Rick stated the committee needs to know if council is willing to put money into the field as they are hoping to start games on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Boyle stated that council is still discussing this, but he expressed to them that much of the work to the field would be done by volunteers. Rick discussed the fees of Washington Township. Beth feels the construction of the field will take quite a bit of time. The field would need a portable backstop if we are removing what is there and feels the diamond needs to be moved so the backstop isn't against the grandstand. Adam feels there is still plenty of room for the portable backstop, which will be made of tightly woven netting. Beth and Adam discussed options for filling the holes in the outfield where the helicopter lands. Rick state the DPW may be able to help with equipment and/or time. Beth stated that perhaps the committee should consider this a project for next year since teams will be practicing soon. Rick asked when council will let us know their decision. Councilman Boyle said it may be at Tuesday's meeting. Beth asked if council needs any additional information from the committee in order to make an informed decision. Rick stated he presented the following itemized list to council last week.

**Men's Baseball**

<i>Poly Fencing Cap</i>	\$400.00
<i>Rakes</i>	\$ 50.00
<i>Paint Marker</i>	\$125.00

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<i>Chalk Marker</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>
<i>Drag</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>
<i>Base Sets</i>	<i>\$425.00</i>
<i>Home Plate with Anchor</i>	<i>\$ 75.00</i>
<i>Pitching Rubber --Adult</i>	<i>\$ 70.00</i>
<i>Pitching Rubber—LL</i>	<i>\$ 20.00</i>
<i>Netting for field</i>	<i>\$950.00</i>
<i>Movable backstop</i>	<i>\$650.00</i>
<i>Dugout repair material</i>	<i><u>\$450.00</u></i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$3565.00</i></b>

Rick will supply another copy for council and Adam will get a letter from the fire department stating their intentions. Beth stated construction will need to be completed by March 15<sup>th</sup> so as not to interrupt practices. Councilman Boyle stated that if the committee agrees, he will e-mail council so they will have the information prior to the meeting. Adam would like permission from the committee to use the outfield for their first practice. Rick stated he will need to speak to the acting Boro Manager. Adam asked Ann to give a copy of the baseball schedule he provided at the last meeting to the acting Boro Manager. Beth stated softball and baseball will need to coordinate their schedules as well.

**Fee Schedule**

Rick stated he presented the committee's proposal to council and read his presentation to the committee as follows:

*Good evening Mr. Mayor and council members. At your last Council meeting you requested that the Recreation Committee review the proposed fee schedule for activities sponsored by the Borough of Washington and for me to present them to you tonight.*

*At your last meeting, council spoke about the difficult economic times we face and passed a motion requesting that all its vendors not raise prices this year. With tax increases on the horizon for the regional school district, the borough school district, the county and the borough our community is in dire need of relief. The Borough of Washington has always provided an active and diverse selection of activities for its families. Much of the work is provided by volunteers, with adults committing to coaching, acting as team parents, and the like. The Recreation Commission had always provided equipment and facilities underwriting whatever costs that could not be gleaned from activity fees along with a borough contribution. The town has always made a commitment to provide activities for its citizens, and as late as two years ago continued its promise to fund recreation by committing monies for the pool renovation. All parents are feeling the pinch of this worsening economic climate. Many parents are finding themselves out of work. Families are facing the threat of foreclosure and many will have to do without the simple necessities of life let alone pay for their children to participate in recreation activities in town. It is the Committees' unanimous belief that all fees for 2009 be reduced from the previous years levels with one exception. A copy of the proposed fee schedule was sent to the acting borough manager for distribution to you and for your review, discussion, and anticipated approval. These activities are the foundation from which our town's recreation programs can grow. If they are cancelled for lack of funds or if participation falls to unworkable levels than we as a community will lose. Our youth will lose even more as we will put them at risk. These are activities that provide for the development of self-esteem, athleticism, and team work—all important for the healthy development of our youth. We must not let the citizens of our community down—especially our children.*

Following is the proposed 2009 Fee Schedule as presented to Council:

## Washington Borough Recreation Department Sign-Up and Fee Schedule 2009 - Proposed

### Girl's Softball: Ages 2nd thru 8th Grade

January 16	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Boro Residents: \$30 per person, Not to exceed \$60 per family
January 17	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Non-Residents: \$35 per person, Not to exceed \$70 per family
January 24	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	
January 31	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	

### Karate/Self-Defense - Session 2: Ages 5 thru 12

March 6	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Boro Residents: \$35 per participant
March 7	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Non-Residents: \$40 per participant
March 14	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	

### Easter Egg Hunt: Ages 3 to 6th Grade

April 4 2:00 p.m.  
Washington Borough Park  
Raindate: April 11

Free

### Swim Team: Ages 5 to 18

March 27	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Boro Residents: \$45 each person, not to exceed \$125 per family
March 28	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Non-Residents: \$90 each person, not to exceed \$250 per family
April 4	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	

### Swim Lessons: Ages 2 1/2 and Up

April 24	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Boro Residents: All Levels - \$40
April 25	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Non-Residents: All Levels - \$60
May 2	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	

### Pool Membership

Sign up at any time beginning March 27

Boro Residents: Family - \$130; Individual - \$65; Senior - \$5
Non-Residents: Family - \$220; Individual - \$90; Senior - \$5

### Soccer: Ages 5 to 8th Grade

May 8	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	\$35 for 5, 6, and 7 years old
May 9	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	\$40 for 8 years and up; not to exceed \$90 per family
May 16	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	

### Field Hockey: Ages 2nd to 6th Grade

May 8	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Boro Residents: \$35 per person, not to exceed \$70 per family
May 9	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Non-Residents: \$45 per person, not to exceed \$90 per family
May 16	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	

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**Karate/Self-Defense - Session 3: Ages 5 thru 12**

May 8 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Boro Residents: \$35 per participant  
May 9 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Non-Residents: \$40 per participant  
May 16 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**Men's Basketball**

May 15 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
May 16 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
May 23 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**Team Sponsor \$600**

Boro Residents: \$55  
Non-Residents: \$65  
High School Students: \$30

**Movies in the Park**

Friday Evenings in July and August

**Free**

Movies begin at dusk (approx. 8:30 p.m.) at Boro Park  
Bring a lawn chair or blanket

**Youth Basketball: Ages 3rd to 8th Grade**

October 9 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Boro Residents: \$40 per person, not to exceed \$80 per family  
October 10 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Non-Residents: \$50 per person, not to exceed \$100 per family  
October 17 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**Street Hockey: Ages K to 8th Grade**

October 9 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Boro Residents: \$35 per person, not to exceed \$70 per family  
October 10 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Non-Residents: \$45 per person, not to exceed \$90 per family  
October 17 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**Grand Illumination Ceremony**

TBD 5:30 p.m.

**Free**

**Holiday House Decorating Contest**

Judging to end December 18th

**Free**

**Karate/Self-Defense - Session 1 - 2010: Ages 5 thru 12**

December 11 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Boro Residents: \$35 per participant \*  
December 12 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Non-Residents: \$40 per participant \*  
\* Prices subject to change per 2010 Fee Schedule

**Baseball Field Usage Fee**

TBD

Late Fee of \$10.00 will apply after the last sign-up date for each activity  
All sign-ups are held at Borough Hall; 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington NJ Second Floor  
With the exception of swim lessons, early registration via mail or drop-off is encouraged.

**Forms may be mailed to the Recreation Department, 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882  
Registration forms are also available on the Borough website: [washingtonboro-nj.org](http://washingtonboro-nj.org)  
Please call 689-8290 with any questions.**

Councilman Boyle stated that council wanted to raise fees for all programs. After their discussion, all 2009 fees will remain at the 2008 rate with the exception of the pool. Pool fees for 2009 have been raised. He gave the new pool fees to the committee as agreed to by council. Council will look at the pool figures at the end of the season and will change the fees accordingly. Rick asked the basis for the fees. Councilman Boyle stated they are based on the recommendations of the out-going Boro Manager. Rick asked how council agreed on these figures. Councilman Boyle stated usage, operating cost and the Green Acres loan were all taken into consideration. Rick stated it has been determined the community cannot have a pool that is self-sustaining.

The committee discussed the new fee schedule. Beth stated she is disappointed fees are being raised without a stated formula and feels it reflects poorly on the new council. Rick and Candy agreed. Beth asked for a statement from council regarding their reasoning. Candy asked how the recession is affecting the Boro and would like to know if industries in the Boro are having lay-offs. Councilman Boyle stated this will be discussed at an upcoming council meeting. Beth would like a message to go back to council that this is very disappointing, as the committee provided recommendations to help the community. It would be more acceptable if fees stayed flat. Council and committee should work together to discuss the fees.

Dawn Higgins asked if any more budget meetings are scheduled. Councilman Boyle stated they are, but not until after the next council meeting. Dawn stated that as an extremely involved individual, she commends the committee's ability to make decisions that affect their neighbors with the little information they were given. She too is disappointed in council with their decision regarding the fees. Councilman Boyle pointed out that the previous Boro Manager's recommendations were substantially higher and that council scaled them down. Dawn stated council had asked the committee to make recommendations but the information was not part of their budget meeting. She hopes council understands the seriousness of this. The committee is really trying hard and council should take their recommendations seriously since the committee took the time to make them. She is concerned other recommendations will not be taken seriously in the future.

Beth asked if we could put off publishing fees until council reconsiders them and that perhaps Rick could offer assistance. Rick feels council's decisions were made without information. No one asked the people who new the rationale of previous pricing. Candy feels people in this town want their government to work for them. The Boro Manager and council need to be sure people have recreation in this town.

### **Field Usage Fee**

Adam stated the township charges \$250.00 for ten games and feels this is reasonable. The committee discussed the fees for baseball, softball and Little League. There needs to be a daily and/or event fee as well as fees for Steinhardt and Vara Fields. This has been tabled until the next meeting. Beth will research the fees of Mansfield, Independence, and Lopatcong by the next meeting.

### **Meeting Schedule Finalization**

The committee discussed deleting the second meeting in November and December as they are very close to Thanksgiving and Christmas. A motion was made by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Paula Aron, to approve the 2009 meeting schedule for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month with the exception of November and December when the committee will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday only. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Ordinance #1-2008 Review**

The committee discussed Ordinance #1-2008 which created the Recreation Committee. Rick stated for the new members that the ordinance was enacted early in 2008 and abolished the Recreation Commission. Recreation is now managed by paid professionals, not by volunteers. The ordinance was to be based on input of the commission and council, however, the ordinance does not reflect the commission's feelings, only those of council and the Boro Manager. Rick would like the committee to discuss the ordinance because it is not being adhered to by council and feels there are things that are in statutory violation. Beth stated she would like the committee to concentrate on both the strengths and weaknesses of the ordinance with the purpose of strengthening the document and then make recommendations to council.

Adam Zimmer left the meeting at this point.

Beth stated she feels it is hard to promote a program without having a voice in the budget. She feels employees should not report to volunteers and likes having a paid park director in charge of the parks and sports. Beth stated there is no allotment as to what to do when there are vacancies of the paid professional positions. Also, the duties of the recreation secretary are left out of the ordinance.

Rick feels the committee needs more responsibility in order to accomplish anything and that the Boro took an extra set of eyes away from watching where recreation money is being spent.

Candy stated that March is typically when everything gets started and there is no one in place. Paula understood council would seek advice from the committee on aspects they have expertise on and feels there should be teamwork between the two groups. Beth stated the committee needs to work with council as to what money is available for supplies, field usage, etc. The committee members could provide expertise, but need to rely on council to get information necessary to run the programs. Beth feels that because there is no recreation supervisor, the secretary is doing pretty much everything. She also thinks the committee members should have a key to the supply room at Boro Park. Paula asked Councilman Boyle to help the committee get keys and the thing necessary to run the programs. The committee needs to get ready for the spring events in the absence of a park director.

Rick stated the ordinance doesn't work and needs to be changed. Candy agrees. Rick sees no problem with the employees reporting to volunteers and feels the ball has been dropped regarding finances. Rick asked Councilman Boyle to advise council the committee is working on making the ordinance a better working document. Rick would like to know if council will be reaching out to those who were involved with the budget in the past. Candy stated one of duties of the committee listed in the ordinance is to review the annual budget, yet no one was invited to any budget meetings.

This discussion has been tabled until the next meeting.

### **Park Director Comments**

There were no Park Director Comments at this meeting.

### **Committee Comments**

Candy thanked Councilman Boyle for listening to the committee and appreciates him being the liaison and for his honesty. She stated there is pride in sitting on a committee that helps the community. Candy stated she understands there is a plan to put vending machines instead of a concession stand at the pool. She feels this

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would be a bad image for the park with no pride or personalization. She is very concerned and sees this as a step downward.

Beth thanked Councilman Boyle and Dawn Higgins for attending the meeting. She will be glad to continue to strengthen the ordinance and feels the committee can give council recommendations to make the concession stand profitable. She also doesn't like the idea of vending machines. Beth stated she spoke to Andrew Turner last week and will be meeting with him to hear an idea he has regarding pool passes. Beth will follow-up with the committee on their meeting. Rick suggested Andrew come to a meeting to discuss his idea.

Paula stated she is looking forward to the committee working with council and feels it is a work in progress.

Rick agrees with Beth and Candy regarding the vending machines. He feels it reduces the stature of the town and having vending machines is a horrible idea.

### **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff