

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Committee Minutes
May 13, 2009

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Committee was called to order on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, by Recreation Director Gary Masenior at 7:30 p.m. Also in attendance were committee members Erica Kilkinney, Beth Uporsky and Adam Zimmer. Paula Aron arrived at 7:35 and Candy DeFillippis arrived at 7:45. Rick Feldman and council liaison Patrick Boyle were absent.

Communications

There were no communications at this meeting.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Candy DeFillippis, to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2009 regular meeting as submitted. Motion carried.

Audience Participation

There was no audience participation at this meeting.

Recreation Director Report

Finances

Gary stated that approximately \$7,000 has been encumbered to date in salaries and approximately \$14,000 has been encumbered as operating expenses.

Non-Park Related Activities

Gary stated the park and pool have been de-winterized. The softball coaches are aware the bathrooms are now open. A few problems have been noted around the pool due to the construction. There are four cement squares that have cracks in them and there is a crack across the baby pool. Neither of these will affect operations and Gary will discuss them with CFM. The pool is still covered under the two year warranty.

In regards to the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, all grates have been purchased and are ready to be installed. The grates are only 30" apart on the baby pool, so an anti-suppression devise will be installed on Monday. Beth asked why this was not done when the pool was renovated. Gary explained the plans were prepared in 2007. The Virginia Graeme Baker Act went into affect in December of 2008. Adam feels the contractor should have known about the Act and revised the plans accordingly. Gary stated he is looking into when the information was available as it may not have been until after the pool was installed.

Park Related Activities

Gary stated two sets of lights are out at Borough Park and is hoping to have them repaired by the June 7th Girls Softball All-Star Game. He is looking into getting the software to control the lights.

Gary asked if anyone had keys to the park. All committee members replied they do not.

Gary stated he gave Dave Hackney of Little League approval to buy a drag for the park with the money raised at the concession stand on Opening Day.

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Gary stated he visited the golf course at Fairway Estates and contacted the owner in regards to holding a tournament as a fundraiser, forming a junior and senior league, and sponsoring a golf instruction recreation program. He will continue pursuing this over the next few weeks. Gary is also looking into the use of their tennis courts which are owned by the complex. Gary will speak to Ralph Fiore regarding use of the tennis courts at the high school.

A boy scout working on his eagle badge will be doing a recycling project at the park. Gary will set up a program for him including signs and patrolling the park in the off season.

Gary stated Erica volunteered to head up the arts and crafts program at the park and will be assigning her an assistant. Gary will be using lifeguards to run informal sports programs such as pick-up baseball and basketball games, swings, quoits, etc. Gary would like to hold a three-on-three basketball tournament over a weekend. Two horseshoe pits will be built underneath the tree by the fireplace.

Adam left the meeting at this point.

Gary stated he will re-do the shuffleboard and hopscotch area and will purchase quoits.

Gary stated that while the park and pool cannot be completely green because of the pool chemicals, he will try to make it a green environment in conjunction with the recycling program.

Candy stated that she would like to do something in the park in conjunction with the October festival downtown. Gary asked for more ideas for programs with either low or no start up costs.

Adam returned to the meeting.

Secretary Report

Ann stated she has received pictures from the NJ Devils taken at the end of season street hockey party and will add them to the website. Ann learned how to use the field usage calendar on the website. A certificate of insurance has been prepared so the swim team can practice at Centenary College. Ann gave the total number of participants in karate, field hockey, soccer, swim team, swim lessons and pool memberships. Ann noted that swim lesson sign-ups were low. During the swim lesson sign-up period, \$1,665 less revenue was received than during last year's sign-up period.

Program Liaison Reports

Gary stated he invited Bill Smith to the meeting to discuss youth basketball. Bill is unable to attend due to another commitment, but will attend a future meeting.

Beth stated the junior softball team will be competing in a tournament in Harmony and the senior girls will be in an Independence tournament. Beth asked Ann to call and schedule softball pictures.

Gary would like to know as soon as possible what is needed for each program so he can plan accordingly. Andrew Uporsky cleaned and inventoried the supply room to see what we currently have to avoid duplication. It will be the responsibility of the coaches to maintain the room. Beth stated there have been problems in the past getting uniforms returned. Gary will prepare a letter, possibly having the liaisons responsible for collecting them at the end of the season.

Adam stated men's baseball is going well. The Gravediggers currently have two wins and two losses. Sunday will be their first home game. The outfield net will be put up tomorrow or early Sunday. Rain has delayed the installation.

New Business

5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Gary explained that if an improvement plan was in place when the Borough applied for Green Acres funding, a \$500,000 grant would have been awarded instead of a loan. A plan needs to be prepared between now and the end of the summer. Gary will contact T&M Associates.

Railroad Avenue

Gary stated he has no new news. He has gathered a lot of information, including site plans. Candy noted two options were planned. Beth asked why a football field was included in the plans. Candy replied it was to be used by the Redskins.

Swine Flu

Gary stated we will proceed until the situation is alleviated. We will maintain regular pool chemical levels. He recommends washing all surfaces and bathrooms with a 10% bleach solution. Candy stated there were viruses last year from municipal pools, including the Borough's. Infants and toddlers needing diapers are to wear swim diapers rather than disposable diapers.

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Gary would like to do a free day for any volunteers and their families. The date is yet to be determined.

Vandalism in the Park

Police are still recommending cameras in the park. Vandalism has been slowing down as there have been more people in the park which deters the vandals. Gary has been patrolling regularly and will begin limiting skateboarding to certain areas in the park. Signs will be installed.

Signs for Vara and Steinhardt Fields

Dogs will not be allowed to be walked on either Vara or Steinhardt fields. There has been a problem with people not cleaning up after their dogs.

Unfinished Business

Street Hockey

Gary has nothing new to report as no one has met with him yet.

Field Usage Request Form

This has been tabled until the next meeting.

Easter Egg Hunt

Gary provided the committee with the newspaper article and pictures of the Washington DC program "Peeps Are People Too". Gary feels this will be a fun program to initiate.

Vending Machine Input

Gary stated the vending machines will provide a guaranteed income. The company will be completely responsible. This discussion has been tabled until the next meeting.

Recycling Containers

Gary stated he will be ordering a few recycling cans to get the program started. We already have the recycling dumpster at the park.

Little League Bleachers

Gary stated that the bleachers are to code per the Zoning Officer. He will look into grounding the bleachers, backstop and benches.

Gary would like to construct doors on the dugouts at Borough Park to curb vandalism as this is one of the most highly vandalized areas.

Committee Comments

Candy suggested providing 4th of July events at the park. The field hockey director's meeting and clinic were discussed. Gary stated he would like to attend the meeting.

Beth would like to invite the two softball coaches to the next meeting.

Recreation Director Comments

Gary stated the pool has been painted. We are behind schedule because of the rain, but will try to open for Memorial Day weekend. It depends on how the pool stabilizes. Water will be taken out of the well. The pump house has been de-winterized and all chemical were delivered. CFM will train Gary on Monday on the new filtration system.

Gary asked the committee to bring sport specific frequently asked questions to the next meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:00 p.m. by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Beth Uporsky.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff