

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Committee Minutes
May 27, 2009

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Committee was called to order on Wednesday, May 27, 2009, by Recreation Director Gary Masenior at 7:30 p.m. Also in attendance were committee members Paula Aron, Candy DeFillippis, Rick Feldman, Erica Kilkinney, Beth Uporsky and Adam Zimmer. Council liaison Patrick Boyle was absent.

Communications

Big Brothers/Big Sisters has requested to hold their annual Dustin Merunka Swim-a-Thon on Friday, July 17th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Gary approved this request.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Paula Aron, to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2009 regular meeting with the changes noted. Rick Feldman abstained. Motion carried.

Recreation Director Report

Finances

Gary stated that \$9,997 has been encumbered to date in salaries and \$26,367 has been encumbered as operating expenses.

Non-Park Related Activities

Gary stated Little League purchased a drag with the money they raised at the concession stand on Opening Day. They have made it available to us if needed.

Park Related Activities

Gary stated the junior girls' softball team has reserved the pavilion for their end of season party on June 13th.

Gary wants to have a float in the 4th of July parade and is in need of a donation of a flatbed truck. He would like one player in uniform from each youth sponsored activity on the float.

Secretary Report

Ann gave the total number of participants in karate, field hockey, soccer, swim team, swim lessons and pool memberships. She is helping to collect the remaining basketball uniforms and updating rosters daily.

Rick questioned the money available and requested the Borough Manager attend the next meeting to explain the finances as the committee is not sure how the system is working.

Program Liaison Reports

Beth stated there is a junior softball tournament this weekend and an All Star game on the 7th for the older girls.

Gary gave a brief recap of the field hockey director's meeting he attended on May 21st. Mike Dolobach will no longer be the director as he has no child playing field hockey this year.

Gary received both the mens' and youth basketball budgets.

Adam stated he straightened the grass lines with Andrew and Dave. Everything is working well. He changed the baselines to make them the correct lengths. The nets will be up tomorrow or Monday. Gary stated Musco is working on the lighting issues.

Paula stated she spoke to both Terry Finnegan and Todd Solecitto regarding frequently asked questions for soccer and mens' basketball and is continuing to work with them.

Audience Participation

Brian Hammond was in attendance to discuss the soccer program. Brian stated a youth soccer association was started last year. They sold sweatshirts and used the money for the end of season party. This year they will be selling sweatpants and he is willing to put money this year towards goals needed for Vara Field as well as buy training aides for the players. The goals he found are of the same quality, come with a warranty and are half the price of the goals originally suggested. Brian would like to have night games at Borough Park. Most of the soccer games can be played at Vara Field. Gary stated he is looking into having goals made. Beth stated she would be concerned with liability if something were to happen. Rick feels it is great what the group is doing and would like to see the association keep the money. He feels the Borough should find the money or the goals. Brian stated he is looking into a less expensive equipment supplier. Early practice started tonight. Brian stated all teams represented the borough very well last season. Many of the volunteers in the soccer program have played themselves so their experience helps the kids. Gary asked Brian for a budget. Ann will e-mail Terry Finnegan for one.

Bill Smith was in attendance to discuss the youth basketball program. Bill stated most of the money is spent on referees and league fees. He has been purchasing one ball and scorebooks each year for each team. Bill feels the fees will remain the same as last year and doesn't anticipate needing uniforms this year. Clinic information is distributed to the coaches as he gets it. Bill stated Forks Township has a travel team and there is interest in having a 5th grade borough team. Gary will look into this for more information. The committee discussed the possibility of having this as a new program. Bill stated the Steinhardt baseball field looks great; however, there is still a problem with the third baseline drainage issue. This will be taken care of at the end of the season. Candy suggested having younger baseball players attend and be recognized at a mens' baseball game. Bill explained how the all-star season will operate.

New Business

Lifeguard Meeting

Gary stated he will be holding a lifeguard meeting tomorrow to tell them what is expected, get their uniform size, etc. He has approximately twelve lifeguards to date and will be adding more for swim lessons.

Pool Coupons

Ann explained Councilman Cioni is looking for volunteers to distribute free pool passes to non-borough developments. Gary will call him regarding the distribution.

Unfinished Business

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act

Gary state the grates were installed as well as the anti-suppression devise on the baby pool. This act became a national law in December of 2008. Gary is still looking into how much advance notice was given. He is waiting for the Health Department to do their inspection. Rick feels we should have been told about this by the consultant as the Commission had met with them monthly. The Department of Health should have made the Commission aware the act was going to be made mandatory.

Railroad Avenue

Gary stated he has nothing new to report. He is looking into the length of time we have to utilize the grant.

5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Gary has nothing new to report.

Frequently Asked Questions

Beth supplied members of the committee with a template of frequently asked questions. Softball and youth basketball are done and on the website.

Potential Program Listing

Beth provided the committee with a list of potential programs. Gary asked the committee to continue giving him new ideas. Quoits and horseshoes will be implemented this year. Candy would like to invite the senior citizens to the park to participate in these events. Gary suggested putting an ad in the Messenger regarding the programs in the park this year.

Field Usage Request Form

This has been tabled until the next meeting.

Pool Repairs

Gary notified CFM of the repairs needed. They came to inspect and noted the crack in the baby pool seems to be a shrinkage crack on the service. Gary will continue to monitor the pool which has a two year warranty. He is currently discussing the cracks in the new decking with CFM and will continue to follow-up with them. All damage has been documented. Rick asked if it will be repaired before the season starts. Gary replied it will not as it will disrupt operation of the pool.

Vending Machines

Gary stated four machines will be in the park Friday morning and he will see how they operate with the existing electrical supply. The input to vending machine contents can be discussed at the next meeting. Gary will not be opening the concession stand until we open for the regular season.

Gary shared information from a memo from the borough Manager dated March 25th stating salaries for part-time and seasonal employees will remain at or below their 2008 levels. Gary stated first aid courses are being set up. Right to Know training will be scheduled as well. Andrew will be sent for CPO training.

Recycling Containers

Gary stated inexpensive containers will be purchased to start. He found containers where local businesses can advertise on them.

4th of July

The committee discussed options for events in the park on the 4th of July which included a movie, dip 'n dance, horseshoes, quoits and/or badminton tournament, mens' baseball pick-up game, and arts and crafts. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Committee Comments

Rick stated he is disappointed the pool did not open Memorial Day weekend as it has for years and feels it is a disservice to the borough residents. Gary explained that all of the rain earlier this month delayed the painting of the pool. The pump was pumping water at only a quarter of its normal capacity. It took four to five days to balance the pool chemicals which brought us right up to Memorial Day. Beth remembers hearing of a problem

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with the pump many years ago. Gary stated the pool is currently losing an inch of water a day. Rick stated there have been leakage problems for years. Gary is looking into where the leak is coming from. The pool will be open on May 30th. Gary feels we should look into a back-up power supply for the DE filter in case of a power failure.

Candy asked about any recent vandalism in the park. Gary replied one garbage can was knocked over, but that has been the only thing within the past two weeks. Police have increased their patrol and have been asking kids to leave the park at dark.

Recreation Director Comments

Gary had no further comments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:05 p.m. by Rick Feldman, seconded by Paula Aron.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff