

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Committee Minutes
June 24, 2009

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Committee was called to order on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, by Recreation Director Gary Masenior at 7:30 p.m. Also in attendance were committee members Rick Feldman, Erica Kilkinney, Beth Uporsky and Council liaison Patrick Boyle. Candy DeFillippis arrived at 7:40. Adam Zimmer arrived at 8:00. Paula Aron was absent.

Communications

Gary received a verbal communication that the Dustin Merunka Swim-a-thon has been changed from July 17th to July 27th.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Rick Feldman, seconded by Beth Uporsky, to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2009 regular meeting as submitted. Rick Feldman abstained. Motion carried.

Audience Participation

There was no audience participation at this meeting.

Recreation Director Report

Finances

Gary stated that approximately \$15,000 has been encumbered to date in salaries and approximately \$28,000 has been encumbered or expended for operating expenses.

Secretary Report

Ann gave the total number of participants in karate, field hockey, soccer, swim team, swim lessons, elite basketball and pool memberships. The session 2 swim lesson schedule is being put together and letters will be mailed out early next week.

Program Liaison Reports

Erica stated Arts & Crafts started Monday during swim lessons and showed the committee samples of what they are making.

Gary stated swim lessons began this week and are going rather well. There have been a few complaints of cold water and not being allowed to sit on the deck. Gary noted 1½" of water is being added to the pool each day. Parents would like the baby pool open during all swim lesson times. Rick asked if the swim instructors are lifeguard and CPR certified. Gary replied they are not for swim lessons but are being certified. Candy feels they should be. Rick replied it wasn't a requirement, but the commission required it as it made for more experienced instructors. Gary stated that prior to the first swim lesson, all lifeguards and the swim lesson instructor met to discuss the requirements of the Red Cross training. They spent one hour in the pool in a program with the swim lesson coordinator. Gary stated a body board, hooks, ring and tube are set up at all sessions. He is still hiring lifeguards; therefore, uniforms have not been ordered yet. Candy asked if the time clock is being used. Gary replied it is not and explained that the lifeguard rotation schedule is working very well.

New Business

Winning Mood Soccer Camp

Gary informed the committee that Ernie Chavez would like to use the field from August 3-7 for a soccer camp. He would provide training to our coaches and teams in lieu of payment for using Vara Field. Gary asked the committee for their input. Rick stated they have never dealt with this group as a commission. Gary will call him and get more information as well as invite him to the next meeting. Beth would like to get input from Terry Finnegan and Brian Hammond regarding the training of the coaches.

Gail Payne Account

Gary asked the committee for suggestions as to what to do regarding the donations received in memory of Gail Payne. Beth stated the money was intended for tennis courts near the pavilion and suggested getting in touch with the Payne family. Gary will look into the matching funds which were to have been received from Drew University.

Vara Field

Gary stated he spoke to Terry Finnegan and he would like to play all soccer games at Vara field with practices at Borough Park under the lights. Beth stated she would like to re-dedicate Vara Field now that it is completed. Rick feels this is not a good idea since it took so long for the field to be completed. Gary suggested inviting the family to the first soccer game for a small opening ceremony.

Health Inspection

Gary stated there was a three hour sanitary health inspection at the park today. They inspected the park, pool area, pool house, concession stand, playground and pavilion. For the first time in seven years, we passed with 100% approval. Candy questioned the playground. Gary stated we are in compliance. The steps by the swings were taken out. John Burd is a certified national playground inspector. Gary will be recertified this year.

Unfinished Business

4th of July Parade – June 27th

Candy stated there will be a wagon pulled by a tractor in the parade this year. After a brief discussion, it was determined we need it to hold approximately 15 children representing each sport.

4th of July Events

Gary is preparing for the 4th of July Celebration in the Park. The dumpsters have been moved to the other side of the shed to make room for a horseshoe pit which will be built next week. Anyone interested can meet Gary at the park to help set up. Gary noted there has been no vandalism in the park for the past two weeks. He has been patrolling the park and speaking to the kids he finds hanging around. The police have also been patrolling more frequently.

Railroad Avenue

Gary has nothing new to report.

5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Gary has nothing new to report.

Frequently Asked Questions

The committee is still working on the frequently asked questions for the website.

Street Hockey Practice at Vo-Tech

Gary stated he has still not received a written request in regards to this.

Field Usage Request Form

This has been tabled until the next meeting.

Pool Repair

Gary was experiencing problems with the chlorinator which has been repaired by CFM at no charge. They also inspected the baby pool and acknowledged it is a problem with the construction. Gary is discussing options with CMF. The cracks in the deck are beginning to widen and split. Rick will help Gary look into the timing of the deck's completion. Gary is monitoring the leak in the pool and has a few ideas as to where it is, but will be able to find out for sure at the end of the season once the water is pumped out. Candy asked if the water company could come in to see if it is anything they can repair. Gary replied we don't use borough water much. Rick asked if the problem with the pump was corrected. Gary replied it has not been. He wants to wait until the end of the season so it doesn't stop working altogether. It works now, but flows slowly. Rick suggested calling T&M for their input. Gary will give them a call. Gary stated 6-8" of water is being pumped out of the pump house every day. Gary will provide Councilman Boyle with a sample of the water to be tested to help determine where it is coming from.

Vending Machine Input

Gary stated nothing has changed. We are still having the same problem. The company was in earlier this week to do some repairs to the machine and 15 minutes after they left we were having problems. Today the coin receptacles were changed and 20 minutes later there were problems. Gary will bring this to the Borough Manager's attention tomorrow. Rick questioned the electrical capacity of the vending machine area. Gary replied there is enough however; we need to unplug one machine to plug in the scoreboard for Men's Basketball. Gary would like to address the park's electricity and would also like to look into an underground line for filling the pool without running the two hoses.

Baseball Field

Adam stated the field looks good. The nets have still not been put up. Adam stated the fire truck was there at the end of April but the driver had to leave early. He has been having trouble getting help from the fire department. When they could help, the field was too wet and the truck would have sunk. The team came and tried doing it themselves. To date, no games had to be forfeited. Adam suggested hiring someone to put the nets up as the next home game is Sunday. The trees are overgrown where the nets will need to go and therefore they won't fit. Rick suggested Taylor Rental. Candy suggested checking with a local tree service. Beth questioned the commitment from the Fire Department to council to put the nets up and take them down at the end of the season. Rick stated the amount of money we first thought we needed for the program was approved by council but never used. He suggests we use that money to get the nets up within the next 48 hours. Gary will look into this.

Beth left the meeting at this point.

Gary suggested having the baseball team as a recreation department sponsored team next year. He feels one of the benefits will be they could go under the borough's insurance. He also feels it will be easier to get help. The borough would collect the money and pay the bills. Adam agreed with this. Candy feels for years the field has been underused. Gary and Adam discussed possible teams that can play there to bring people back to the park. Adam asked if there was any news regarding the lights. Gary replied he just got the lighting program and will contact Musco.

Committee Comments

Candy stated she has a contact who will sell flowers to us at wholesale prices for a flower sale at the Easter Egg Hunt.

Rick questioned why the Borough Manager did not come to our meeting. Gary replied he didn't think it was necessary as he met with both he and Ann. Rick questioned the expended salary money Gary reported and feels we should have spent more money in the last two weeks. Rick questioned the reports.

Candy asked if the committee can see what was spent where. She feels the committee cannot advise if it's not known where the money is being spent. The committee discussed the trust and operating accounts. Rick stated the commission could transfer money; however, a department cannot.

Councilman Boyle stated he is disappointed the Borough Manger has not attended a committee meeting. He will ask him if the committee can get reports. He would like to see the Manager attend one meeting per quarter.

Recreation Director Comments

Gary had no further comments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:30 p.m. by Rick Feldman, seconded by Adam Zimmer.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff