

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Committee Minutes
August 12, 2009

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Committee was called to order on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, by Recreation Director Gary Masenior at 7:35 p.m. Also in attendance were committee members Paula Aron, Rick Feldman, Adam Zimmer, and Council liaison Patrick Boyle. Beth Uporsky arrived at 7:50. Candy DeFillippis and Erica Kilkinney were absent.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Paula Aron, to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2009 regular meeting with changes as noted. Motion carried.

Audience Participation

Terry Finnegan was in attendance to discuss the soccer program. There are currently 150 children registered for soccer. There are not enough players for the Division 3 team, so those players were given the option to play for the Township. Terry stated there was a kick-off event at Borough Park in July and the soccer season will begin the Saturday after Labor Day thru mid-November. They would like to play on Vara Field but practice at Borough Park and Memorial School. He would like to practice until 8:30 pm under the lights at Borough Park four nights per week. Terry feels Vara Field is in good shape and is one of the better fields in the area. Gary stated the water cannon is ready to use when it is needed. Terry discussed with the committee what supplies are needed for this season. Paint is the biggest expense. Gary requested a letter be given to Ann outlining exactly what the league needs.

Brian Hammond noted that rained out games have been played at night at Borough Park in the past. He suggested the Soccer's Youth Association could pay the difference for those 7th/8th graders who decide to play for the Township. Beth wants it to be clear it's the decision of the Youth Association to pay the balance of the Township's fee since this has not been done for any other sports.

Terry is still looking for sponsors for the whistle and clinic team and will let Ann know by Friday. He will also provide Gary with a game schedule once he has it. Gary asked both Brian and Terry to stay for the communications discussion as they are in regards to soccer.

Communications

Gary received a letter from Ernie Chavez of the West Jersey Soccer Club thanking him for the use of Steinhardt Field for their week-long soccer camp that was held the first week in August. Mr. Chavez would like to barter for using Vara Field next year, as they need a bigger field. He wants to use the field for free and provide instruction to the borough coaches and select players, but is open to negotiations. Terry feels an F license course would be more beneficial to the coaches. Helping only select players could be a problem as the recreation program is open to everyone.

Gary received an E-mail from the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph's Church requesting to hold a soccer challenge for children ages 11-14 on September 27th. They would like to use either Vara Field or the Middle School depending on attendance. Brian and Terry both said they would work with the group. Terry will get back to them. Terry stated there will be a problem in general at Vara Field with balls going over the fence.

Beth stated the committee had previously spoken about rededicating Vara Field since this is the first year the field will truly be used. Terry feels if we are going to do that we should make it look nice. He also feels the Borough should fix the cracked sidewalk. Gary said this is under discussion and agrees it is a hazard. Rick feels it is unnecessary to rededicate the field. Beth feels it would be nice to have the family there for the first home game. Gary feels we should leave the decision up to the family.

Gary asked Terry to coordinate the lining of the fields with Andrew and Dave. He thanked both Brian and Terry for their time and information.

Recreation Director Report

Finances

Gary stated that as of today, approximately \$62,292 has been expended for salaries and approximately \$19,540 has been expended for operating expenses with approximately \$16,615 still encumbered.

Park Related

Gary stated he has passed the final sanitary health inspection. The only recommendation was to replace the door on the men's room stall which has been broken for the past six years. He also passed the recycling inspection. Councilman Boyle asked if the recycling cans would be put away during the winter months. Gary plans on having the cans available year round.

Rick asked where Gary is at regarding the pool repairs. Gary replied the meeting with CFM needs to be rescheduled. Certified letters have been sent to CFM outlining the problems. Rick questioned why T&M was not brought in, as they were the consultants on the project. Gary replied nothing will be done until the end of the season. He would prefer to deal with CFM first. Rick feels T&M should oversee the repairs to be certain CFM's decision is the best solution. Gary will speak to the Borough Manager. Rick asked if the pump in the well is fixed yet. Gary replied he is waiting until the end of the season.

Secretary Report

Ann stated that Movies in the Park will be ending with this Friday's movie. Saturday rain dates were not as well attended as Friday nights. Field Hockey will be starting their practices next week. Ann gave the results to date on the pool coupons. Only 50 of the 1,000 coupons were redeemed so far and three of those families became members this season. Ann stated she will update her report at the end of the season if more coupons are redeemed between now and then. The committee feels contradictory information on the coupon in regards to usage dates may have had something to do with the results. Gary will be calling other pools to see if they were negatively affected this season. Beth would like to see the comparison of daily admissions.

Program Liaison Reports

Adam reported Men's Baseball would like to participate in a Fall Ball team and would like permission to use the field. Beth asked if the team would be a recreation sponsored team or an outside team. Gary would like to see this as a Borough sponsored activity. Fees would need to be established and he would like Adam to provide him with an outline of what the program will cost and how many players. The committee discussed paying referees and umpires with cash or a check on the day of the game. Councilman Boyle stated he asked this question at a council meeting and was told it could not be done, as the fees need to be approved in a public meeting. Adam then stated the league would not be able to join the Borough as a recreation sponsored team because the umpires will not accept the voucher system. Gary suggested the possibility of drafting a resolution to Council to establish a cash account to pay referees and umpires. Gary approved the use of the field for Fall Ball, leaving the team set the way it is. Beth questioned the nets. Gary replied they will be taken down at the end of the Fall season.

Gary stated he will re-do the FAQ's for the pool. Rick will submit the Swim Team FAQ's.

New Business

Website Meeting

Beth reported the meeting went well. The website committee discussed ways to improve the website, things to be added including a picture of the week, a sports calendar, and who to contact with questions. They will also work on improving the navigation of the website.

Unfinished Business

Gail Payne Account

Beth will provide Gary with a number where the Payne family can be reached.

Winning Mood Soccer Camp

Rick questioned the relationship between West Jersey and Winning Mood. He would like them to come to a meeting to speak to the committee. Beth feels the fee structure should be followed for future uses of the field.

Railroad Avenue

Councilman Boyle noted that Council was indeed notified about receiving the Green Acres grant. Rick will provide Gary with a copy of an E-mail he received regarding the grant. Per Rick's request, Gary read the statute that pertains to selling food on Green Acres property.

5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

This has been tabled.

Frequently Asked Questions

This was discussed previously.

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 a future meeting.

Vending Machines

Gary stated he has only received one complaint in the past two weeks. A check was received for May, June, and July profits in the amount of \$299.65. Beth would like to see a reconciliation of what was sold from the vending machines and asked if the machines will be there all winter. Gary replied he is not sure at this point.

Committee Comments

Beth feels the sports liaisons should be more involved in sign-ups, league meetings, etc. That should be the job of the committee. She also feels the role of the Youth Association should be clearly articulated. The role of the committee should be that all liaisons act consistently.

Rick stated the committee needs to look at the ordinance to see what the role of the committee members actually is. Rick questioned the recreation finances spreadsheet that was referenced in question two on the Borough Manager's response to committee questions. Gary stated he will be working with Ann to get the items charged to the proper accounts. Rick also questioned the intent of the letter the Borough Manager sent to all

committee members. Beth feels the Borough Manager was hoping to improve communications with the committee. Councilman Boyle agrees and stated we need to move forward. He feels the letter puts issues in the past and shows the Borough Manager is ready to move forward as well. Both Gary and Councilman Boyle feel it was a positive letter.

Councilman Boyle provided the committee with answers to questions he presented at a council meeting. In regards to money being left in the pool renovation project, the answer is yes and no. Money was approved; however, it was not fully funded. We borrowed funds needed to complete the project. Rick stated \$453,000 should have been earmarked for the pool project and feels there is still money out there that has not been spent. The commission was told we spent more money than allotted. We need to find out what happened to the money. He feels the committee could advise on how the money should be spent. Beth feels Rick has a lot of knowledge on this and his questions should be put into writing and become part of the minutes. Councilman Boyle recommended having questions prepared for the borough manager prior to him attending the recreation meeting. Beth asked Councilman Boyle to schedule a meeting between himself, Gary, Rick and the Borough Manager. The results of that meeting could be presented to the committee.

Councilman Boyle stated that in regards to water usage at the pool, the June water bill was \$214.75 and the July bill was \$219.00.

Beth would like to send the Borough Manager best wishes for a speedy recovery on behalf of the committee

Recreation Director Comments

Gary agrees with Councilman Boyle that the committee should have questions to the Borough Manager before he attends our meeting. Gary stated there was a comment at a council meeting regarding a phone call made to one of the councilmen regarding someone swimming in the pool before it opened. Gary researched this and found it to be two children, a swim instructor and a lifeguard having a make-up swim lesson.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:10 p.m. by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Beth Uporsky.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff