

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Committee Minutes
August 26, 2009

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Committee was called to order on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, by Recreation Director Gary Masenior at 7:35 p.m. Also in attendance were committee members Candy DeFillippis, Erica Kilkinney, and Council liaison Patrick Boyle. Paula Aron, Rick Feldman, Beth Uporsky and Adam Zimmer were absent. A quorum was not present at this meeting.

Review of Past Minutes

This was tabled until the September 9th meeting.

Communications

There were no communications at this meeting.

Audience Participation

There was no audience participation at this meeting.

Recreation Director Report

Gary stated he feels the information he receives from the Recreation Committee is important, as they are the eyes and ears of the town. He needs their suggestions and recommendations regarding both new programs and ways to make existing programs better. Gary noted there have been some negative comments recently in regards to the dislvement of the Recreation Commission. Gary stated moving forward, discussions about the disbanding of the Commission and the establishment of the Committee from either the board or audience will not be discussed at the committee meetings as he want the meetings to be positive. Also, there will be no discussion of budgets prior to this year's. Gary stressed he feels an advisory committee is important and wants to have positive discussions moving forward.

Non-Park Related

Gary stated Vara Field has been watered with the water cannon and is ready for Division 5 soccer games. Whistle games will be set up at Steinhardt Field. Gary noted Terry Finnegan had requested Division 4 teams play at Borough Park, Regulation soccer field won't fit at the park. Gary needs him to go to the League to ask for a waiver for the field to be ten yards less. We may need to use the Middle School field. Gary recently purchased two new goals for Division 4. The goals have football goal posts attached to have flag football game at the park. He would like to see flag football for older kids and adults as well as games in the summer.

Park Related

Gary stated the pool will close on Sunday, August 30th. School starts next week, before Labor Day, which is earlier than in the past. Gary feels this will be more cost efficient than running the pool all week and opening again for Labor Day Weekend.

Secretary Report

Ann stated she has been working with Terry Finnegan and Lynne Klausfelder to get soccer and field hockey started. Councilman Cioni asked for a contact number from each committee member to be placed on the website.

Program Liaison Reports

Candy stated she will be stepping down as Field Hockey liaison as she cannot devote time to it at this point.

Gary thanked Erica for running an outstanding Arts & Crafts program. He has received positive feedback and people are looking forward to it next year.

Candy stated resident Dorothy Bowlby told her Gary did a fabulous job running the pool this year and Dorothy feels it is the best it has been run in the past 3 to 4 years.

Gary stated Men's Baseball has completed their season at the park and will now be fielding a fall ball team.

New Business

Borough Manager Meeting Attendance Questions

Gary stated he would like to have questions for the Borough Manager in advance to his attendance at the committee meeting. Questions regarding the transition from a Commission to a Committee or prior year budgets will not be entertained. Questions should be relevant to current programs and/or the current budget. Gary asked that questions be brought to the next meeting.

Fingerprint Process

This has been tabled until the next meeting. In the past, fingerprinting of coaches has been done only once. Candy feels background checks should be done yearly.

Unfinished Business

Vara Field Dedication

Gary stated he received a call from Joe Kresser who is a good friend of the Vara family. Mrs. Vara requested a re-dedication not be done. Gary will honor the family's request.

Gail Payne Account

Gary stated he has still not received phone numbers for the Payne family.

Railroad Avenue

This has been tabled until the next meeting.

5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

This has been tabled.

Frequently Asked Questions

Ann reported that Rick will send the Swim Team FAQ's shortly.

Street Hockey Practice at Vo-Tech

Gary stated he has still not received a written request in regards to this. Councilman Boyle feels we should begin looking into this program before the sign-up dates.

Field Usage Request Form

This has been tabled until a future meeting.

Gary stated pool memberships were way down this past season. He will start questioning members who joined the pool last year but not this year to find out why memberships were so low. Gary suggested possibly lowering

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fees next year or bringing non-resident fees closer to the Borough membership rate. The pool is currently running at 25% of its capacity. There are an average of 100 people per day at the pool. We need to double the attendance, possibly by offering a discount for those who sign up early. Gary feels the park needs to be advertised more.

Sports Liaisons

Gary stated the ordinance stated committee members be liaisons to sports. This has been tabled until the next meeting.

Committee Comments

Candy questioned the pool's skimmer based on a recent news article. Gary explained how both pools are configured and assured her they are safe.

Recreation Director Comments

Gary had no further comments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:20 p.m. by Candy DeFillippis, seconded by Erica Kilkinney.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff