

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Committee Minutes
September 9, 2009

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Committee was called to order on Wednesday, September 9, 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.

Review of Past Minutes

A motion was made by Beth Uporsky, seconded by Paula Aron, to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2009 regular meeting as submitted. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Beth Uporsky, seconded by Erica Kilkinney, to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2009 regular meeting as submitted. Rick Feldman, Beth Uporsky and Adam Zimmer abstained. Motion carried.

Communications

There were no communications at this meeting.

Audience Participation

Mary Finnegan, 23 Youmans Avenue, was present to update the committee on the Community Garden. Mary stated she is looking into options for fencing. She is looking into donations and fundraising to pay for the fencing. An advisory board was recently created. Mary asked if there was any interest from the committee members in joining the board. Beth feels there should be a recreation representative member. Mary feels the Recreation Department will need to play a larger role to ensure the success of the garden in the future. Paula asked if the next Key Club president will take over. Mary stated this has not been discussed yet. Mary also stated that part of the general rules will outline the owner's responsibilities regarding the plots. She will speak to one of the teachers on the board to discuss the types of fertilizers, pesticides, etc. that can be used in the garden. Mary discussed the benefits and requirements of an organic garden with the committee members. Gary feels this is an admirable project and thanked Mary for her update. He would like to take on the project as a recreation sponsored activity once the project has received council's approval. Mary stated she will be at the next council meeting to discuss this and will return to update the committee.

Terry Finnegan, 23 Youmans Avenue, was present to discuss the soccer program. The Borough has six league teams, four whistle teams and one clinic program. He received clarification on the fields the teams will be using. Gary stated Vara and Steinhardt fields are ready. Borough Park will be done tomorrow. Terry stated the coaches are looking to use the lights at Borough Park until 8:15. Gary has contacted the light company. Terry stated the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge is scheduled for September 27th.

Recreation Director Report

Finances

Gary stated approximately \$71,000 has been expended for salaries, not including year round part-time employees. Approximately \$29,000 has been expended in operating expenses with another \$8,000 encumbered.

Non-Park Related

Gary stated field hockey played their first game at Borough Park. The remainder of the games will be played at Memorial School. We now have nine players. Steinhardt Field has been set up for whistle games this weekend. Goals have been moved to Vara Field for Division 5. A full Division 4 field cannot fit at Borough Park. We received a waiver from the league for the field size to be reduced. The new goals arrived. They can also be used for football in the future.

Park Related

Gary stated the pool closed on August 30th. The water is being drained slowly in the hopes of determining where the leak is. Gary stated 126 of the pool members in 2008 did not rejoin in 2009; however, there were 52 pool members in 2009 who were not members in 2008. Gary will reach out to the people to see the reasons why memberships were so low this season. The pool is currently operating at 25% capacity. He feels the rates should not have been raised and is looking to possibly rollback the Township fees next season. Gary appeared before Council and told them by increasing rates, we decreased revenue. All other programs where fees stayed the same increased revenue.

Gary and Andrew Uporsky met with the Borough Manager and CFM on Wednesday. Gary has a verbal agreement from CFM to repair the concrete. They will put an additional drain around the top of baby pool to keep water from running out. CFM will provide the Borough with an additional one year guarantee on work they have done starting with the date of completing. CFM feels they are not responsible for any of the cracks.

Secretary Report

Karate FAQ's have been sent to the website and Swim Team FAQ's have been received. There are currently 9 field hockey players and 154 soccer players.

Program Liaison Reports

Adam stated Men's Baseball fall ball starts this weekend. If the baseball team makes the playoffs, he would like to have night games in the park. Gary approved his request. Adam stated there is no All Star game this year due to the economy. He would like to host it a Borough Park next year. The game is usually held at the end of July or early August.

New Business

Street Hockey / Youth Basketball Sign-Ups

Volunteers were determined for the upcoming sign-ups on October 9th, 10th, and 17th.

Unfinished Business

Gail Payne Account

Rick provided Gary with a contact number for the family.

Railroad Avenue

Gary has not received any new information.

5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Gary would like each committee member to come up with a 5-year plan to discuss at the next meeting. The plan should include what you would like to see happen. He would like to generate new ideas. Gary also asked the members to bring their list of new programs they'd like to see implemented to the next meeting.

Frequently Asked Questions

Gary stated all FAQ's are now complete. A video of the park was done last week 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 a future meeting.

Sports Liaisons

Beth stated she feels the role of the liaison needs to be defined. A guidebook should be prepared to explain how to run each sport. It should include a general definition of what the liaison would do. She feels there will be fewer problems if people on the committee are involved. A subcommittee could be created. Gary stated he will be creating a handbook for every volunteer which will include a timeline of events and things needed. He is hoping to complete this by the end of the year.

Field Hockey Sign-Ups

We now have nine field hockey players.

Fingerprinting Process

Ann has spoken to Bill Smith of Little League in regards to this. She is following up on information from Bill Gleba of Little League and the Borough's Risk Manager. The committee discussed different options. Gary will continue to look into this as well.

Borough Manager Meeting Attendance Questions

Gary had requested questions for the Borough Manager be ready at this meeting so the manager could have answers ready when he attends our meeting. No questions were brought to the meeting. Gary requested any questions be given to him within the week.

Committee Comments

There were no committee comments.

Recreation Director Comments

Gary had no further comments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 p.m. by Adam Zimmer, seconded by Beth Uporsky.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kilduff