

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21st - 7:00 PM

Roll Call

- Present: Victor Cioni, Beth Uporsky, Jeanine Gleba, Christina Howley, Adam Zimmer
- Absent: Michael Nachbaur

Minutes of prior meeting

- Minutes of 9/7/11 were approved
- Changes: No changes

Audience Participation

- Discussion: In the audience we had potential new members in the audience: Jeff Haines and Jessica Olmos. They introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of why they are interested in Recreation.

Communications

- To/From Committee: Jim Christofis asked to continue to volunteer in some capacity for street Hockey. The Committee agreed that any agreement must go through the liaison Michael Nachbaur to coordinate.
- Resignation of 2 members: Lisa Gooley and Jessica Coldwell

REPORTS



Director's Report -
9-21-11.docx

- Rec Director Report -
 - Light cost at the Borough Baseball field cost \$170/hr. to operate and we are only charging (per the Borough Fee schedule) \$45/night (event) for in town residents and \$55/night (event) for out of town residents/organizations.
 - He discussed his plan for the ball field lights, which include an improvement to the zoning to reduce program costs and improve efficiency. The zoning will allow soccer, for example, to use fewer light towers. Other changes would focus on reduced costs (For example, transitioning to LEDs in the grandstand security lights.) Solutions to other problems are being examined and researched during the fall and winter. See full report.
 - The soccer schedule was approved to use the lights each weeknight, which will run soccer budget into the red by the end of the season. Beth questioned why this schedule was approved.
 - Des to follow up with MUSCO to question why lights are being turned on too early (they were on at 6:00 today) and to see if any of the light administrators can get a notification (email or text) once the lights are turned on.
- Report From Council Meetings (Jeanine):
 - Motion for resolution to sell the goalposts with a minimum bid of \$500 passed by Council
 - New ordinance to reinstate the Recreation Commission was passed by Council. Now goes down to DCA for final approval. No timeline estimate.
 - New appointees will have their applications sent to Council for review prior to approval.

Old Business

- Drainage work at Vara/Steinhardt fields
 - Ongoing; one trench remains to be started, trenches that have been completed have been smoothed out very well by DPW. Final trench to be completed once time and weather permit. Final grading, topsoil and seeding to be completed in the spring. RJ Sherman, the Finnegan's and other volunteers have contributed to this project reducing costs to the Borough
- Discussion of Liaison role to be created/assigned (Karate, Youth Basketball) - Beth will manage Basketball with Adam's help until a liaison is named.
- Election of secretary - Tabled
- **Coach Certifications:**
 - safety certifications on youth sport volunteer coaches – best practice/procedure – Deferred to 10/5
- **Coach Background Checks**
 - Councilwoman Gleba - Deferred to 10/5

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- **New Business**
- 2012 Budget
 - Final budget requests must be sent to Des and Christina Howley no later than *October 5th* meeting. Budget request items submitted beyond that may not be considered. Des is flexible, just needs a note to describe anticipated expenses in the categories of equipment, officials' fees, league fees, uniforms and other expenses.
- Discussions
 - Documentation and communication
 - Reports and information to be shared electronically
 - Park Appearance
 - Beth noted that the condition of the main park is not ideal and much poorer than it has been in the past several years. We should look to improve it before the cold weather. Jeanine reported that Councilman Jewell noted the poor appearance of the Route 31 side of the park as well. She and Victor noted that the grass is high in some areas and the Rt. 31 embankment needs to be cut again. Hedges should also be trimmed around the Baseball field and mulch piles need to be spread out along the fence for weed control.
 - Des explained that the 2 park workers are utilizing their hours to cut and maintain the ball fields that are still active in the fall season. We are down a full time park worker we are looking to replace which is partially why these areas have not been addressed yet.
 - Des will discuss with Manager Phelan
 - Borough Park Light Usage
 - Noted above the cost to run the lights are \$170/hr.
 - Des is bringing in MUSCO for an estimate to see if we can increase the number of lighting zones to help reduce that cost (we wouldn't have to turn on all the lights for an event as we are limited to today).
 - Costs of lighting have been shared with the coordinators of baseball and soccer programs.
 - Borough fee schedule needs to be revised to accommodate the lighting costs as well as costs for other recreation programs that had never been factored into the operating costs of said programs.

SPORTS PROGRAMS: Reports

- Swim Team (Beth) –Borough will sponsor the Championships next year. Meeting scheduled for 9/26:
- Youth Soccer (Victor):
 - Soccer program is running very smooth. Field conditions have been acceptable and properly maintained. Soccer manual to be completed soon.
 - Soccer volunteers line the fields as agreed, not the Borough. Per Terry Finnegan this was communicated to all coaches.
 - The soccer practice schedule uses the lights most weeknights.
- Field Hockey (Mike): Defer
- Street Hockey (Mike): Defer
- Youth Basketball signups: Will be online, Christina will advertise, and the sign up will be extended to Nov 1.
- Little League: Beth has a report from WB Little League. She and Adam will continue to collaborate with the LL representatives to develop a good, strong relationship between the Committee and WB LL. Beth asked Des to compile a list of actual costs that he stated were borne by the Borough to support youth baseball. It will be used in comparison with the improvements and maintenance costs borne by WB Little League in the last few years.

Website

- Changes Needed / Changes Made
 - Removed 2 members that resigned. Had all Soccer games added to the calendar. Added Hockey registration information provided to me by Michael N.
 - Change the Hockey/Basketball signup late dates to November 1.

Comments

- Committee Comments:
 - Victor: We now have 120 friends on our Washington Borough Recreation Facebook page
 - The Pool season recap presentation to Council (Desmond presented) went very well. Several council members were very complimentary of our efforts this year.
 - The Park and Pool sign donated by Washington Borough Rotary should be in place by the second week of October on Broad Street.
 - Councilman Jewell was provided the estimated cost for a new sign on the Rt. 31 embankment
 - Committee agreed to meet for the remainder of the year on dates: October 5th and 19th, November 2nd, December 7th, and January 4th Re-org.

- Recreation Chairman Comments: None

Adjourn **9:30**