

**Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey**  
**Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**February 8th - 7:00 PM**

The Meeting of the Recreation Commission of the Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:00p.m.

**Opening 7:10p.m.**

**Flag Salute**

**Statement of Adequate Notice**

- Victor Cioni read the following Statement into the Record: “The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, 1975, Chapter 231’ have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

**Roll Call**

- Present: Victor Cioni, Mike Nachbaur, Jeff Haines, Tim Shanahan
- Absent: Melissa Hommes, Jesica Olmos, Adam Zimmer
- Also Present: Mayor Scott McDonald, Des Fitzgerald, Christina Howley

**Minutes of Prior Meetings**

- Jeff Haines motioned to approve the minutes from the 12/7/11 and 1/4/12 meetings with no changes. Seconded by Michael Nachbaur.

**Audience Participation**

- Dave Hackney representing Washington Boro Youth Baseball was present. Dave stated that WBYB tries to provide a service to the community. Until 3 years ago the town provided money for clay. When Dave took over WBYB he tried to hold clinics to raise money for the clay. WBYB has team sponsors that each pay \$250 for a sign to be displayed at Steinhardt. This money helps offset the cost of clay, insurance, uniforms etc. Dave stated that WBYB can’t afford to function with the field fees charged by Washington Boro.  
Chairman Cioni motioned that WBYB should be able to use Vara Field free of charge for their TBall teams as long as WBYB accommodates Girls Softball into the schedule at Memorial Field and Vara. Seconded by Tim Shanahan.  
Ayes: 4 Nays:0 Motion Carried

**Recreation Director’s Report**

- Des secured quotes on weed & feed treatments for Vara Field. We will do three treatments this year for approximately \$500.
- The Railroad Ave Trail Grant was approved through Council via resolution at Tuesday nights meeting
- The 2012 fee schedule for recreation was also approved by Council at their meeting. Good news!
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final phase of the Vara/Steinhardt drainage project is completed and DPW should be commended for doing a nice job.

**Old Business**

- Draft Bylaws – Discussion tabled until next meeting, not sure everyone has the latest copy. Christina will send to everyone on Commission again.

## New Business

- Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. We need candy! Victor will check with Melissa Hommes to see if she will take the lead and work with Des and Christina on organizing the hunt.
- Background Check Ordinance Discussion. Chairman Cioni asked all commission members to provide their questions/concerns regarding this draft so we can compile and send to Council to address. All agreed that if this ordinance does go forward, Recreation can not pay for it and that a separate stipend of \$5,000 go into Rec Trust to cover these costs. This would affect upwards of 100 people in recreation.

## Sports Programs

- Street Hockey – all is going well so far. End of season banquet is set for Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Memorial cafeteria. All agreed that a key receipt is a good idea in order to hold people more accountable for keys such as the one needed by street hockey to access the storage area in Memorial's gym.
- Girl's Softball sign-ups to begin this weekend. Practice starts the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> as long as the weather cooperates. The water needs to be turned on so the bathrooms can be used. Jeff has his budget in place and plans of having fundraisers to help offset costs. April 21<sup>st</sup> officially opens the softball season. Jeff will work with Des on clay treatments needed for the Boro Park infield. Infield to be leveled in March, and clay added if needed and dragged prior to softball starting.

North Warren High's softball wants to use Boro Park for \$100 2 or 3 times during the season. We will work with North Warren and Jeff to schedule this.

- Karate has great success with a record high of 26 participants for session 1. Session 2 starts March 16<sup>th</sup> thru May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Men's Basketball. We are reducing fees to rates from 2005 when it was successful to see if we can bring men's basketball back to the borough.
- New Clinics. Chairman Cioni had introduced a tennis clinic during the month of July for kids ages 8 to 11. All Sports can give us rackets for \$14.95 plus \$20 shipping. All agreed to move forward with tennis clinic pending interest. Estimate is 20 participants.
- Swim Team. All agreed to continue to pay the swim team coach in the manner that they were paid last year. Coaches are paid by using the membership fee from each participant. Anything above that amount, the Swim Team's Parent Association must pick up and make as a contribution to the Boro. Last year the Boro paid \$2,500 and swim team made a \$500 contribution towards the coaches salaries.

## Commissioner Comments

- Chairman Cioni passed out copies of the two marketing postcard mailers for the pool. They were sent out to everyone to review and comment. Postcards will go out to about 9,000 homes in the area mid to late May.
- Discussed next steps for Des to complete regarding the playground mulch, landscape ties for the children's play set areas near the Pavilion. Des and Victor will be submitting a package to Home Depot to see if they will provide us the needed materials for the project, **excluding the mulch which Home Depot would not carry**. In the interim, the first week of March we are looking to DPW to remove (dig

down about 9 inches) the topsoil that remains in the play set area. We need to do this to allow for the required 9 inches of playground mulch. The removed topsoil will be used to level out uneven areas in the pool area, baseball field and will be seeded. All agreed to move forward with the Home Depot letter in hopes to get supplies needed to spruce up the playground.

## **Adjournment**

Jeff Haines motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm, seconded by Tim Shanahan.

Ayes: 4 Nays:0 Motion Carried

Adjourn **9:40PM**