

**Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2013 - 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 7:00 p.m.

Opening 7:04 p.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, Adam Robinson, Adam Zimmer, Joe Pinto, Michael Nachbaur (7:16), Chris Zimmerman, Danni-lyn Steiner. Also present: Melissa Hommes and Susan Turner.

Swearing in New Commissioner

- Victor Cioni swore in a new Recreation Commissioner Danni-lyn Steiner.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

- Joe Pinto moved to approve the minutes from the 11/13/13 meeting without changes. Seconded by Adam Zimmer. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 2. Motion carried. Minutes approved without changes.

Audience Participation

- Victor Cioni moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by Adam Zimmer. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0. Motion carried. Audience participation portion opened.
- Victor Cioni moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by Adam Zimmer. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0. Motion carried, audience participation closed.

Executive Session

- Adam Zimmer moved to go into Executive Session. Victor seconded. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Executive Session opened.
- Victor Cioni moved to come out of Executive Session. Adam Zimmer seconded. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0. Executive Session closed.

Communications

- None

Recreation Director’s Report

- Melissa recapped her report regarding the pool winterization, park clean up, basketball and positive feedback on the pool.
- Melissa will go before the Borough Council December 30 with her year-end presentation. The budget presentation will be in January.

Report from Council Liaison

- No report.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- 3rd Party Borough Field Lighting – The Borough, not Recreation, will receive all lighting fees paid by Non-Borough parties for the lights at the Borough Park Ball Field. This impacts payments by outside groups. Two options were proposed by Victor: 1. Prohibit use of any 3rd party sport/activity that requires lights 2. Add a separate “Field usage fee” to the Fee Ordinance/Fee Resolution, similar to what Washington Township uses for Meadowbreeze Park field. The Township’s charges vary based on the age of team participants and resident/non-resident status. The fee enables a team to use a field for up to 10 hours per week per sport’s season.

Commissioners agreed that a field usage fee was preferred and offered several ideas including: have a range set for the field usage non-resident fee so that lights can be incorporated, charge clinics one field fee per day (\$45?) for prepping a field, take the lighting fee out of the fee schedule entirely and have the 3rd party contact Borough Hall regarding payments and timing schedules. It was agreed that since the Borough would receive all lighting fees Victor would hand over control of the lights (done via a computer program) to the Borough Manager. He will forward her all pertinent information.

It was brought up that the field maintenance fee and the field preparation fee are different from a field usage fee and that these should be separate line items on the fee schedule.

Victor made a motion that we create an ordinance similar to that of Washington Township’s for field usage fees. The final document can be reviewed and adopted at the next meeting.

Adam Zimmer seconded the motion. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Absent: 1

- House Decorating Contest – An area of town has been assigned to each commissioner. Each commissioner has until Dec 31 to pick a winner in their area. They should get the full name and phone number of their winner and forward it to Adam Z. They can take a picture of the winning decorations which may be posted on our Facebook page. Adam will send a picture of the prize baskets to Victor to post on our Facebook page. The baskets will be awarded at the January 8th meeting.

Sports Programs

- Swim Team – (Joe Pinto) – Joe asked about the 5k donation check and was told it will be issued at the Dec 30 Council meeting.
- 5k – (Adam Robinson) – The date for the Phillipsburg/Easton 5k has not yet been determined.
- Youth Soccer – (Victor Cioni) – inventory has been done. Terry Finegan said WBYS will purchase new nets and stakes for next season’s program. A \$750 donation from Verizon will go the WBYS since the Recreation Commission is not a true 501(C)3 organization.
- Street Hockey – (Chris Zimmerman) – In order to increase awareness of and interest in the program Chris is considering a presentation at the local schools. In the past the older kids in the program have only played games. Chris wants to have one day a week to work on skills and the second day play a game. In addition to improving the kids’ skills it will cut the referee costs. Chris would like to try a summer clinic. The basketball court in the park was mentioned as a possible arena, with cardboard barriers set up inside the basketball pole area and all the poles wrapped. Adam Zimmer said the Warren County VoTech sets up a full size hockey rink in their parking lot each summer but uses it for only one game a week. We could work with that group to set up a summer program.
- Youth Basketball – (Mike Nachbaur) – The Holiday Tournament will be starting. He needs a delivery date for the new basketballs. Re: uniforms we have few smaller sizes. Mike suggested we order new style/color/logo for the younger team and then get new uniforms for the other teams each year. Twelve (12) 2 sided (one color each side) uniforms with numbers would cost about \$390. We could ask Armin (AllSports) if he would match that price. The numbers have to be 0-5, 10-15 and 20-25. Melissa will contact Armin.

Mike brought up the girl whose parents would not pay the registration fee for her. The parents will not provide the necessary paperwork to determine if they are financially eligible for a reduced/free rate.

Michael moved that the commission waive the documentation requirement for this one child for this basketball season only. Adam Robinson seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 3 Absent: 1. Motion passed.

Documentation requirement for a reduced/free registration fee will be waived for this one child for this basketball season only.

- Youth Baseball – (Adam Robinson) –Plans are going ahead to combine the area teams. Steinhardt and Vara fields will be used for T-ball and Rookie teams.
- Girls Softball – (Joe Pinto) – There has been miscommunication from Memorial School regarding the clinic. The school had originally okay'd the time. Then Mr. Rosza contacted Joe and Melissa Tuesday night and said the clinic could only be held before or immediately after another gym event or during Broadway practice (9-1 Saturdays) otherwise he would have to charge the custodian fee. Joe has other obligations Saturday mornings and while other coaches can run the clinic, Joe would prefer to be there. In January Joe will make sure coaches turn in background check forms. He will give information to Victor to put on the Recreation Facebook page. Joe will hand out registration forms for the 2014 season at the clinic.
- Karate – (Victor) – No report.
- Adult Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – The local director wants a league structure before Jan 1. Melissa will forward it to Adam. Victor wants to meet with the local director.
- Adult Baseball – (Adam Robinson) – No report.
- Pool – (Victor) – Victor has researched a Splash Pad for the pool. The money from Ryan Homes would be used to purchase and construct/ install it. None of the area pools has a Splash Pad. It would be approximately 60 ft long by 18-26 ft wide. The Fall of 2014 is the earliest construction/installation could occur.
- Tennis Clinic – (Victor) – No report
- Lacrosse Clinic – (Tim Shanahan) –No report (Absent).
- Aqua Zumba – (Victor Cioni) – No report.

Commission Comments

- Richard Thompson- absent
- Joe Pinto – no comments
- Adam Zimmer – no comments
- Adam Robinson – no comments.
- Michael Nachbaur – no comments
- Tim Shanahan – absent
- Victor – Victor reviewed logos for new Washington Borough sports uniforms/t-shirts. Commissioners agreed on a simple block style “W” with a banner in front printed with “Borough”. All sports teams would be named the Borough Bears. This name, or a bear paw, or a bear face, can be printed on the breast pocket area or the backs of shirts. Commissioners agreed on the colors Navy and Gold. Melissa will talk with AllSports.
Victor has found an artist who will paint the 4 ft x 4 ft sign for the Grandstand. She will charge \$15 per hour.
Victor asked Melissa about the damaged fence panel at the park garbage dumpster. The garbage company installed a new pane.
- Chris Zimmerman- no comments
- Danni-lyn Steiner- no comments

Website

- We now have 366 friends.

Recap

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Adjournment

- Victor Cioni moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. Adam Zimmer seconded. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Adjourn **8:36 PM**