

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
January 1, 2017 - 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 7:02 p.m.

Flag Salute

Statement of Adequate Notice

- Adam Zimmer 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: Rick Feldman, James Sawyer, Terry Thomas, Adam Zimmer. Also present: Rich Thompson, Council Liaison and Susan Turner, Recreation Secretary.

Nomination and Appointment of Recreation Commission Officers

- Adam moved to nominate Terry Thomas as Recreation Commission Chairperson. Seconded by James. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Abstain: 0 Motion passed.
- Adam asked if a commissioner who is absent from the meeting can be nominated for Vice Chairperson. Mayor David Higgins said he could be nominated but no vote could take place. Rick moved to table the Vice Chairperson nomination until the next meeting. Seconded by Adam. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Audience Participation

- Adam Zimmer moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by Rick Feldman. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation portion opened.
- Victor Cioni, Alvin Sloan Avenue, Washington, former Recreation commissioner and chairperson – Vic has two concerns about information in the November 2016 meeting minutes in which commissioner Joe Pinto states the Sharks Swim Team has not paid any part of the swim team coaches’ salary this year and they do not want to pay any part of it. His first concern is what appears to be a conflict of interest regarding Joe. He is the Recreation Commission Swim Team liaison and he is the Sharks Swim Team president, his wife is the treasurer and his daughter is on the team and was employed at the pool this past summer. Vic said Joe should not have a say in any of the swim team discussions and should abstain from all votes regarding it. Vic’s second concern is that years ago the Sharks agreed to pay a portion of the coaches’ salaries and have signed contracts showing their portion. If they do not pay a portion the program could lose money and possibly be closed since all Recreation programs must be self-sustaining. Rick stated that for years the swim team did not pay for a coach. He also questioned the self-sustaining aspect and where it could be found. Susan stated it is in the Recreation By-laws. She will forward him the information. Vic stated that when the Recreation Commission was created 5 years ago they negotiated with the Sharks. In exchange for paying a portion of the coaches’ salaries the Sharks could sell their own food and drinks at all swim meets in order to fund raise.
- David Higgins, Mayor, Washington – Dave agreed with Vic’s concerns over conflict of interest. He said that New Jersey state statute dictates that even the appearance of a conflict constitutes a conflict of interest. He said the town will be using a Distribution Support Center to buy items in bulk to help keep

costs down. These may include office supplies, uniforms or other Recreation necessities. Dave introduced Rich Thompson as the new Alternate Council Liaison. The new Council Liaison, Robin Klimko, will attend most meetings. Rich will attend some of them. He outlined the basic liaison responsibilities: they do not have a vote, they can bring commissioners questions to council, bring council questions and concerns to Rec and provide reports to council that supplement the Director's Report. Dave wants to implement a new procedure in which once a month a different department head would attend a council meeting to answer any questions or concerns council has. He would like the Rec commission chairperson to attend also. Dave asked for a copy of the Recreation Commission By Laws and program handbooks. Susan will print them and also give copies to Rich Thompson. Dave said he heard there had been some dissention among the commissioners and he reminded them that common courtesy should prevail and everyone is participating to help improve the programs for the children and families.

- Rick moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

- Rick noted errors in the last sections of the minutes. Susan requested no motion be made to approve the minutes until the next meeting to allow her to address all the necessary changes.

New Business:

- Meeting Dates for 2017 – Meetings are to be held on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of November which will be held on the second Thursday. All commissioners voted to accept the meeting dates as set.
- Fee Ordinance/ Fee Schedule- The question of setting minimum program fees to zero dollars was discussed and the final agreement was even if the minimum is zero all participants/patrons still must pay the set rate unless the commission votes on a case by case basis to reduce or waive the rate. Dave reminded the commission that any changes to the fee schedule must be submitted to the Borough council by March 1, 2017 for approval.

Susan stated that Corey wanted to increase some of the pool rates and possibly add different memberships such as Early Bird, Nanny/babysitter, Grandparent and military. Susan has researched the membership and daily rates of public pools in North Jersey. Rick asked that this information as well as the general operating costs for the pool be available to the commission at the next meeting for comparison.

James stated that the Warren Hills Regional School District Athletic Office is now charging for each individual use of a field or gym which impacts Youth Basketball and Soccer. He feels we must charge at least \$70 per participant for Basketball to cover the costs. He did not provide a minimum registration fee for Soccer. Vic Cioni said raising the rates could cause a drop in the number of participants which will eventually affect the skills of the Middle and High School players. He suggested the Chairperson and Basketball and Soccer liaisons attend a Board of Education meeting to voice their concerns. Dave Higgins suggested looking into shared services with Washington Township to see if there are other fields or gyms we could use.

Rick moved to table the remainder of the fee schedule discussion until the next meeting. Seconded by James. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion passed.

- Approval of Sports/ Programs liaisons -
Easter Egg Hunt — all commissioners will participate
5k – all commissioners will participate
Youth Soccer – James Sawyer
Street Hockey – Adam Zimmer- Adam requested a second liaison. There were no volunteers
Youth Basketball – James Sawyer and Sean Farrington
Lil' Hoopsters – Terry Thomas
Youth Baseball – Adam Zimmer
Girls Softball – No volunteers.

Adult (Mens) Softball – Adam Zimmer has been the liaison for several years but since he plays on a team and coaches will that be considered a conflict of interest? Dave Higgins said he would look into it for him.

Karate – John Ruela

Swim Team – Rick Feldman

Pool – Rick Feldman

Swimming Lessons – Rick Feldman

Tennis Clinic – Joe Pinto

Old Business:

- Financial Review –Financial reports for the month of December were distributed.

Recreation Director's Report

- Corey's report was distributed.

Council Liaison's Report

- Rich did not have any report since he is newly appointed. Susan will send Rich's and Robin's contact info to the commissioners.

Recreation Secretary's Report

- Susan distributed Annual Recreation Director Evaluation packets to the commissioners. They can be returned to the Borough Manager or Susan. Terry said they should be returned only to Susan so they can be tracked.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — No report.
- 5k – (commission) –No Report.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – James will do a write up of this past season. Vic said the Soccer League should pay for the field overseeding done by ACF. They have been responsible for this in the past.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – Adam has no referee. Chris Zimmerman, who ran the program last year, refereed the games but he cannot do it this year. Adam has 3 volunteer coaches for the younger group and 1 for the older group. The email Susan sent out stated the older group would meet on Wednesday and Friday. It should be Monday and Wednesday. Susan will send out a correction. James will update the Memorial and Taylor Street gym calendar and send it to Memorial
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer/Sean Farrington) – The program is going well.
- Lil' Hoopsters – (Terry Thomas) – The program just started. We have 32 children participating. 8 children had to be turned away. Terry wants to keep the ratio of children/coach small.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) - No Report.
- Girls Softball – () – No report. Susan said it is important to get a liaison quickly since registration should be starting now. She will update the flier and send it to the schools and update the registration form and have the online registration updated.
- Adult (Mens) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – No Report.
- Karate – (John Ruela) – No report (absent).
- Swim Team – (Joe Pinto) – No Report (absent)
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Tennis Clinic – (Joe Pinto) – No report (absent).
- Zumba – No report.

Executive Session (If Necessary)

- No Executive Session held.

Facebook page

- We now have 926 followers on the Facebook page.

Recap

- Susan will print the Recreation ByLaws and Program Handbooks for David Higgins and Rich Thompson and put them in their mailboxes at Borough Hall.
- Susan will compile the pool numbers for comparison and discussion at next month's meeting.
- Susan will send the new Council Liaisons' and Mayor's contact information to the commissioners.
- Susan will send out an email with the corrected practice dates for Hockey.

Commissioner Comments

- Sean Farrington– Absent.
- Rick Feldman – No comments
- Joe Pinto –Absent
- John Ruela –Absent.
- Terry Thomas – 2016 programs went well and we've had a lot of good feedback.
- James Sawyer – No comments
- Adam Zimmer – Adam appreciated all the work the commissioners did this last year.

Adjournment

- Rick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Seconded by James. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **8:46 PM**