

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
April 12, 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

- Terry Thomas 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, Dena Parichuk, Joe Pinto, Terry Thomas, Adam Zimmer. Also present: Robin Klimko, Council Liaison, Richard Thompson, Council Liaison, Corey Kozimor, Recreation Director.

Audience Participation

- Terry Thomas moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by Adam Zimmer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Absent 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation portion opened.
- Carly Sopko, Aqua Zumba instructor approached the podium to discuss possible increase to the Aqua Zumba fees proposed by commissioners. Carly feels the proposed increase to \$12 would turn away a lot of customers. Some customers last year felt \$10 was too much. Another town offers Zumba classes free to pool members, charges \$8 for nonmembers. We currently charge \$4 for Seniors. She has seen many more seniors attend since the cost was lowered for them. She keeps the entire \$4 per Senior fee because our pool fees for Seniors are free and she does all the advertising and music arrangement. Adam Zimmer pointed out that the fee schedule has already been approved. Rich Thompson said an amendment could possibly be submitted to council. Terry will contact Carly with any new information.
- Chris Cannavo and Mike from Warren Hills Youth Baseball Association (WHYBA) approached the podium. Chris has stepped into Tom Iadevaia’s position and handles scheduling and field reservations. He said he submitted his field request form a bit late but there is a scheduling conflict at Steinhardt field. Adam Robinson explained that Washington Borough Youth Baseball (WBYB) had submitted their request for 3 days per week earlier than WHYBA. WHYBA was given 3 days. Adam Zimmer is the new youth baseball liaison but he did not get information from the previous liaison, Tom Iadevaia. Scheduling the fields is not his responsibility as liaison. The liaison’s responsibilities regarding WHYBA and WBYB were clarified. All field requests should go to the Recreation Office. All requests are handled on a first come first serve basis with Borough programs getting priority. Chris asked how early in the year it could be submitted and Adam Z said January 1. Chris said there was a conflict for Vara field, it was being reserved to make up and rainouts and supposedly the Pony team uses it Mondays. Terry did not think that was being done this year but he will recheck and advise both Adam Z and Chris. Adam Robinson said his group does not do makeups and he had emailed Chris Cannavo that he could have access to both Steinhardt and Vara fields on Monday.
- Signs on the Steinhardt fence were discussed. WBYB puts money back into the field with the batting cage, clay and port-a-john. While WHYBA plays a team of Borough resident children on the field it is not a Borough Recreation sponsored program. Chris asked if the commission wanted a certain amount or percentage of the sign fees. He said that money goes to uniforms and equipment and there is a lot of

behind the scenes work that goes into getting the sponsors. A certain amount or percentage has not been discussed by the commission because they don't know how much is charged.

- Adam Zimmer moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by Rick. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 4. Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.
- Discussion – Rick asked why we have a liaison for a non-boro program. Adam Zimmer said years ago each town ran its own team. Currently, Washington Borough Recreation does not have its own baseball team/program. Rick asked if we need a liaison since we have no authority over either group. Robin said a liaison could serve as a point of contact.
- Reserving fields was discussed. Robin suggested instead of first come first serve, which could allow one team to monopolize the field, it could be limited to 3 or 4 days per week. Commissioners agreed Baseball/Softball field reservations could be submitted in the beginning of February when teams are finalized. We could set a deadline for March 1 and send out confirmations by March 15.
- Taylor Street School field was discussed. While it was used many years ago it is currently in poor shape and due to its size could only be used for Tball teams. It was requested that Corey talk with Mr. Rosza about Recreation improving/using the field.
- Rick asked Adam Robinson to have Warren Hills Little League submit financial information to make sure they are not putting more assets into the field than they are receiving.

Minutes of Prior Meeting

- In the March 23, 2017 meeting minutes the Swim Team liaison name needs to be changed. Rick moved to accept the March 23, 2017 meeting with changes. The commission would not vote on accepting the minutes. Rick withdrew his motion.

New Business:

- Vice Chairperson nomination- Rick nominated Adam Zimmer. Terry seconded the nomination. Adam accepted the position.
- By Laws Review team – Rick, Dena and Terry make up the team. Terry has not seen the “Boro Book”, nor has Rick or Dena. Rick has reviewed the by-laws and the ordinance establishing the Recreation Commission and the state laws. The by-laws provide structure which is in the Ordinance. Since the Ordinance supersedes the by-laws we could amend the ordinance instead of rewriting the by-laws. Terry and Dena can access the by-laws on the Borough website. Rick will do a side by side comparison of the by-laws and the ordinance. Robin will contact the Borough manager to find out if the Borough attorney will require by-laws for the commission.
- Financial Liaison position – Rick would like to see a position in which the person would come to each meeting and present to the program liaisons what the finances are for each program, a total picture money-wise. The reports currently received are confusing. If someone is watching the money numbers all the time any spending questions can be answered in real time. Adam Zimmer said years ago the meeting agenda had a monthly financial report. Rick would read the bank account balance and cite what revenue programs received and what each program spent.
Rick said in the summer a lot of money is spent on the pool and the park and the commission should be approving some of the expenditures.
Robin said the commission should receive a bill list like Borough Council receives and the commission should give approval for purchases. Terry said the Director already has the power to make purchases. Rick said years ago if there was a large, unexpected expense the Park Director would call the Treasurer who would or would not give approval to make the purchase. Terry will ask Susan, Recreation Secretary, if she can provide the bill list for meetings.
Adam Zimmer moved to establish a financial liaison position based on Terry's discussion with Susan. Seconded by Joe. Ayes: 3, Nays: 2, Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Adam Zimmer asked Corey if he submitted the final budget request. Corey said he had done so after their meeting in which he and Adam reviewed all of the items on the list. It had also been distributed to the commission at the next regular meeting.

- Men's Softball – Adam said he is concerned about conflict of interest with him being the Men's Softball liaison. He currently runs the league, contacts teams, schedules umpires, handles equipment and plays on a team. Advertising must begin as soon as possible. A discussion took place regarding conflict of interest. Many commissioners see his role the same as the basketball liaison or soccer liaison. Robin will get more information regarding conflict of interest. Adam will remain the Men's Softball liaison. He would like to raise the team cost to \$550 per team. Other programs in the area charge \$650 to \$850 per team.

Recreation Director's Report

- Corey's report was distributed. Items discussed included: Lifeguard classes which Corey attended. When he advised the commission about the classes at several meetings he did not specify that Recreation would pay for it. Terry will ask the Borough Manager to replace the funds in the Rec account.
Parks Maintenance position – The DPW will provide one worker to handle all the mowing and trimming at the park and the ball fields. Corey has interviewed 4 people for the remaining position. He is contacting the references for the one he prefers. Robin questioned his authority to hire a seasonal worker. She said the commission is in charge of interviews and hiring. Rick stated the statute does not say that. Robin will check the hiring practices.
Ballfield clay for Steinhardt field was ordered from Partac Peat in Great Meadows using co-op pricing. Washington Borough Youth Baseball will pay part of the cost.
Water Wheel and Gator – A company Corey's been talking with will take the water wheel as a trade in for a Gator. Joe said he will probably only get a few hundred dollars, if that much, for the water wheel since they are not used much anymore and it has sat unused for many years. He recommended getting a used Gator to keep costs down. Terry asked Corey to provide the specifications for the type of vehicle he wants.
Pool Electrical Bonding – The estimates received were all based on the "checklist" Corey provided. Rick moved to hire Premier Electric for the job. Seconded by Joe. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 5, Abstain: 0. Terry said this has to be scheduled as soon as possible.
Volunteers collecting money for registration – Corey spoke with the Borough Manager, who is looking into it further. He doesn't see a problem with it but the financial auditors may.
Pool opening estimates – Corey received a quote from RJR who closed the pool last fall. He can pick and choose the services he wants them to do. He and the Parks Maintenance worker can do other items. If anything is broken or not working it may be traceable back to RJR's fall work and the cost of repair covered.
Playground safety inspection – Rick wants to know the time so he can attend.
Lifeguard and cashier hiring – Rick asked if Corey did a manpower plan for the pool to determine the number of each to be hired. Corey is hiring the same number of lifeguards, managers and cashiers as last year since that worked very well.
Rick asked about a water bill at the park - Robin said it was a large leak in the Grandstand that DPW fixed. Corey asked when it occurred. Robin will get information. There was disagreement about whether a regular monthly water fee is assessed.

Council Liaison's Report

- No report.

Recreation Secretary's Report

- No report.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt —.
- 5k – (commission) –planning will begin in May.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) –No report - Absent
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – No report
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer/Sean Farrington) – No report - Absent

- Lil' Hoopsters – (Terry Thomas) –No report.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report –Discussion was held in the Audience Participation portion of the meeting.
- Girls Softball – (Terry Thomas) –.
- Adult (Mens) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – No Report. Discussion was held in the Old Business portion of the meeting.
- Karate – (John Ruela) – No report. - Absent
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman) – Rick attended the Sharks Parents Association Executive Board meeting. The new Non-Resident pool membership rates screwed the Sharks. He says the commission tried to force Sharks families to join the pool. He wants to remove the pool membership requirement and says the program will lose participants if it is not changed. The league by-laws are extremely vague regarding requiring any pool membership. It is basically what your team decides. Joe Pinto was asked about the team. He said it is the largest it has been in several years with 58 members and had its best performance last summer. They compete in most individual races but not every one.
The Sharks Swim Team does not pay to use the pool. They practice every day starting June 1.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Swim Lessons – (Rick Feldman) – No Report.
- Zumba – No Report. Discussion was held in the Audience Participation portion of the meeting.
- Tennis Clinic – (Joe Pinto) – No report.

Executive Session (If Necessary)

- No Executive Session held.

Facebook page

- .

Recap

- .

Commissioner Comments

- Sean Farrington– Absent.
- Rick Feldman – No comments.
- Dena Parichuk - Absent
- Joe Pinto – No comments.
- Adam Robinson - Absent
- John Ruela –Absent.
- Terry Thomas – No comments.
- James Sawyer –Absent.
- Adam Zimmer – Absent.

Adjournment

- Terry moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm. Seconded by Rick. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0, Absent: 3, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **9:11 PM**