

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2018 - 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 7:27 p.m.

Swearing in of New Commissioners

- Robin Klimko swore in Mark Garrison, Daniel Almind and Craig Geller as new Recreation Commissioners.

Flag Salute

Statement of Adequate Notice

- Rick Feldman 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: Daniel Almind, Sean Farrington (7:36), Rick Feldman, Mark Garrison, Craig Geller, Joe Pinto, Adam Zimmer. Also present: Robin Klimko, Council Liaison, Gary Masenior, Recreation Director and Susan Turner, Recreation Secretary.

Audience Participation

- Adam Zimmer moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by Joe Pinto. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation portion opened.
- Adam Robinson, 22 Lambert St., Washington, NJ, President of Washington Borough Youth Baseball (WBYB). He and Daniel Dunn of Warren Hills Youth Baseball (WHYB) met with Gary and Rick to discuss their ideas for Steinhardt and Boro Park fields. WBYB and WHYB will pay for clay and a seasonal Port-a-John at Steinhardt. They will also pay to have the Steinhardt infield recut expanding it to Cal Ripken League specifications which would allow teams with players 13 years old and older to play. Adam has been in contact with JCP&L to get the cost of running an electrical line at Steinhardt with the hope of putting up a scoreboard. JCP&L said it would cost \$8,00 - \$10,000. Adam would like the Recreation Commission to reach out to them to see if there are alternatives or, if not, share the cost. For the Boro Park field WBYB and WHYB would like to partner with the Rec Commission to bring summer tournaments to the field. There are no other lighted fields with a grandstand in the area. One or two weekend tournaments could be played with the potential to have them throughout the entire summer. A tournament could be included with the town’s Fourth of July celebrations. The infield would need to be recut to allow for 13 year old plus programs. WBYB and WHYB would purchase a portable double mound which could be stored outdoors. Adam believes if the work is done in phases most of it will be completed by next summer. Adam Zimmer asked if any fundraising in addition to their sponsor signs is being done. Adam Robinson said they will continue what they’ve been doing. The sponsors pay \$200 per season per sign. The physical sign costs about \$45, netting WBYB \$150 per sign. Adam Robinson said there are items at Steinhardt field that need to be taken care of by the Rec Commission. The fence in front of the bench is bowed out and coming down. It also needs to be extended past the bench and repaired. A cover should be put on the fence. A “fence roof” can be installed over the bench which can be tarped to provide shade. Mayor David Higgins (audience) stated an Eagle Scout Leadership project in Belvidere was building dugouts. He suggested contacting Boy Scout Troops in the area. Parents have reported ticks on their children after they’re in the first base area. Bees have been reported in the brush behind the dugout. Gary will address these issues. Gary said the DPW will cut the grass on Steinhardt and Vara fields this summer. Rec will do the field maintenance and lining. Adam

Zimmer asked Adam Robinson if they plan to install a second batting cage. He said they will only be repairing the existing one. A second batting cage would infringe on the available parking.

- Adam Zimmer moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

- Adam Zimmer moved to accept the 3/14/18 minutes. Seconded by Sean Farrington. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Youth Softball/Little League baseball field use – discussed in the Audience portion
- Washington Kid Care – Nicole Tiger, Director of Washington Kid Care sent an email requesting free day passes for the pool for the 10 to 15 children in their summer program who receive financial assistance. Kid Care plans to attend 2 days per week for 8 weeks from July 2 through Aug 24. Gary read from the minutes of the March 2017 Recreation Commission meeting at which 20 free child's passes for 3 visits per week were approved. Adam Zimmer moved to provide 20 free daily child's pool passes to Washington Kid Care for 2 weekly visits this summer. Seconded by Mark Garrison. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Little League/T-ball sponsor signs/ shared payment for ballfield clay and Port-a-John for Steinhardt/Vara fields – Discussed in the Audience portion
- Assign liaisons for Girls Softball, Facebook, Lil Hoopsters – Mark Garrison volunteered to be the Girls Softball liaison. The Lil Hoopsters program and the Recreation Facebook page responsibilities were reviewed. Craig Geller volunteered to be the Lil Hoopsters liaison. No volunteer for Facebook.
- Local Family Assistance – Tabled

Recreation Director's Report

- Gary distributed and reviewed his report. Gary confirmed he had provided a copy of the Messenger advertisement and article to the Borough Manager for review/approval before they were sent to the Messenger. Joe Pinto, speaking as a Sharks Swim Team parent, noted the shark artwork on the advertisement was not the Sharks Swim Team logo. He asked if the removal of the pool membership requirement for swim team members had been approved by Borough Council. It was determined the change had to be done by an Ordinance which requires an introduction and two public readings. The second reading will be done at the Council meeting on April 3. The registration fee change approved by the Rec Commission majority vote was \$55 for Borough residents and \$75 for Non-Borough residents. Mayor Dave Higgins stated there were no objections at the first reading. The Council could waive the 10 day waiting period and enact the ordinance immediately. This would allow Sharks registration to be opened April 4.

Council Liaison's Report

- No report. – Adam Zimmer thanked Robin for getting the coupons from local businesses for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Recreation Secretary's Report

- No report.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – Due to snow the Egg Hunt was not held March 24. It will be held this Saturday, March 31. If the weather is bad or the field conditions bad Gary and Rick will determine whether or not to hold the Hunt. Facebook, email blast and possibly Nixle can be used to notify residents. All available commissioners should be at the park at 12 noon to help set up. Gary has locked the gates and put up signs at the field. The infield will be cordoned off and caution tape will be used to outline each section. Gary will need tables and chairs for the prizes and sponsors. He asked commissioners to come to Borough Hall at 11:30 to help transport those items and the eggs.
- 5k – (commission) – No report.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – No report.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – No report

- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer/Bill Lyons) –No report.
- Lil’ Hoopsters – () –No report.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) - Discussed in the Audience portion.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – Uniforms will need to be inventoried. We will probably need to order more pants, possibly more shirts since we have a Senior team this year. We will need 3 fielding masks and a pitching rubber for the Senior team. Gary said DPW will check for all plugs at the Boro Park field when they help recut the infield along the third base line. The field will be closed when this is being done. Gary asked Mark to write up a list of everything that is needed.
- Adult (Men’s) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – There will not be Men’s Softball teams this year. Adam would like another commissioner to work with him on this program.
- Karate – (Sean Farrington) – The 3rd Session finishes the end of April. Susan suggested advertising for the 4th session within the next two weeks.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman) – The Sharks are still looking for coaches. Other information was discussed in the Recreation Director’s Report portion.
- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – Gary read the ages for Senior Citizen at many pools in the North/Central Jersey area. They range from 60 to 65 years old. Gary would like it to be 55. Robin Klimko said the Washington Borough Senior Advisory Committee considers anyone 55 or over a Senior. Adam Zimmer moved to set the age of a Senior Citizen for pool membership and all Recreation programs at 55. Seconded by Sean Farrington. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
- Tennis Clinic – (Joe Pinto) – No report.
- Zumba – Gary spoke with Carly Sopko. She plans to run the same program this summer.

Executive Session

- No Executive Session held.

Facebook page

- A Facebook page administrator is needed to post program updates, possible pool closing information and monitor the comments. No commissioner volunteered to administer the page.

Recap

- Susan will put Facebook liaison on the next agenda.

Commissioner Comments

- Dan Almind – Dan asked for more information about administering the Rec Facebook page.
- Mark Garrison – No comments
- Craig Geller – No comments
- Sean Farrington– Sean welcomed the new commissioners. For the Easter Egg Hunt, he should have an answer from Enzo’s tomorrow.
- Rick Feldman – Rick introduced himself to the new commissioners and thanked all of them for volunteering. He urged them to contact anyone in Recreation if they have questions.
- Bill Lyons –Absent.
- Joe Pinto –Joe said he had been at the Boro Park Field recently. There were people playing soccer on the field with their dogs unleashed. They had closed the gates and blocked them with large items. It was recommended that the gates be chained open. Dogs should be leashed.
- James Sawyer – Absent
- Adam Zimmer –Adam welcomed the new commissioners and thanked them for volunteering.
- Gary Masenior – Gary will give the Boro Park Field gate lock combinations to the Fire and Police Departments. He asked the Mayor if Nixle alerts could be used to notify patrons of pool closings.

Adjournment

- Adam Zimmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Seconded by Joe Pinto. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **8:54 PM**