

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
April 11, 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.

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 (8:15), Rick Feldman, Mark Garrison, Joe Pinto, James Sawyer. Also present: Gary Masenior, Recreation Director.

Audience Participation

- Joe Pinto moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by Dan Almind. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation portion opened.
- Mayor David Higgins introduced himself. At the last Borough Council meeting the ordinance change to remove the pool membership requirement for swim team members was passed and went into effect immediately. The ordinance change did not contain any swim team registration fees. The fee range remains \$50 to \$100 per participant. The commission can charge anything within that range.
- James Sawyer moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by Mark Garrison. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 4 Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

- James Sawyer moved to approve the 3/28/18 minutes for discussion. Seconded by Mark Garrison. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. No errors noted. Mark Garrison moved to accept the 3/28/18 minutes. Seconded by Dan Almind. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- BID Arts, Sweets & Crafts Festival April 28 – Gary signed up the commission to set up a tent at the event. He will hand out literature and information on pool programs, employment opportunities and other Recreation sports programs, very similar to what was done at the Festival in September. Commissioners will be needed to help man the tent with Gary. Some commissioners have softball obligations that day and cannot participate. Scheduling of volunteer time will be set up.

Old Business:

- Assign liaison for Facebook– Dan Almind volunteered to handle the Recreation Facebook page. He asked how quickly information must be posted since he may not be able to do it immediately while at work. Rick Feldman said any unexpected closings at the pool or schools would need to be posted as soon as possible. Other information can be posted after work hours. Gary, Rick or Susan will let him know when closings occur and other information to be posted. Gary recommended Dan sit down with Terry Thomas, the previous Facebook liaison, to get all necessary administrative information.
- Policy wording re: payment of vouchers/invoices – tabled
- Policy wording requiring signed registration form before practice – tabled
- Local Family Assistance – tabled

Recreation Director's Report

- Gary distributed and reviewed his report. The Easter Egg Hunt on March 24 went very well. An estimated 350 parents and children attended. Residents posted pictures and video on the Washington Community Facebook page.
- An inventory of old chemicals at the pool is being done and will be submitted to PCFA prior to their free disposal date in order to get rid of them properly.
- Girls Softball practice started on April 1. The season opens April 21.
- April 9 the pool cover was removed. It is being stored on a pallet at the pool.
- April 9 hockey equipment was removed from Memorial and Taylor St schools. The storage room at Memorial is being converted to a fitness room.
- April 10 Steinhardt field was groomed.
- April 10 DPW delivered 3 tons of mound clay from Partac to Steinhardt. Little League and Travel Baseball will reimburse Recreation \$327.
- April 11 DPW delivered 15 tons of infield clay from Partac to Steinhardt. Little League and Travel Baseball will reimburse Recreation \$983.
- Gary met with Boro School Administrators about setting up/building 2 pony softball/ t-ball fields at the Taylor Street School field. They were very positive about it. DPW can cut the field with a backhoe. The backstop needs to be painted. Clay will have to be laid down. Joe said in the past parking was a huge issue. There are "No Parking" signs on the field side of the street. Gary considered approaching council to create an ordinance allowing parking for authorized sporting events. The lot adjacent to Boro Hall (across from Taylor St School) is available. There is parking along other streets in the neighborhood. People would have to walk a block or two. It was suggested asking the school to open the gate to the Taylor St School playground for parking. Rick asked Gary to discuss everything with the school administrators and try to make it happen as soon as possible. Gary said we'd need to submit a Facilities Use Request form and a Certificate of Liability Insurance. Mark will walk the field to make sure it is safe for children.
- Girls Softball sponsor check received from Physical Therapy Plus for the Ponytail team t-shirts.
- The Borough Manager contacted JCP&L on March 29 about running wires at Steinhardt field. They have not responded. Dave Higgins (audience) said he will reach out to them.
- A Park Maintenance person has been hired. The results from the background check have to be received and he will begin work probably Friday or Monday. The background check is a new Borough policy for all employees 18 years old and older.
- Rick asked Gary how much was received for the Easter Egg Hunt in dollar donations. \$250 check from Visions Federal Credit Union and a \$25 gift card from Shop Rite.

Council Liaison's Report

- Robin left a message for the Borough attorney regarding sponsor signs at Boro Park and Green Acres regulations. Robin informed Gary that there is no grass in the area behind the pool pump/filter building at the park.

Recreation Secretary's Report

- No report.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – discussed in Recreation Director's report section.
- 5k – (commission) –No report.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – The soccer nets were not taken down at the end of the season so they have deteriorated over the winter. But James had planned to, and budgeted for, purchase of new ones this year. Where to store the nets was discussed with no final determination made.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – No report
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer/Bill Lyons) – The Borough season is finished but James works with the Junior Streaks 3rd & 4th grade travel team. Their first game is the weekend of April 21 but

their uniforms will not be ready. James asked if they could borrow the old basketball uniforms that have been in storage for several years. The chairperson approved the team borrowing the uniforms.

- Lil' Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) –No report.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) - No report.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – Practices have been held for about 2 weeks. Gary said the Borough Park field has been marked where it needs to be cut along the 3rd base line. The DPW will use a backhoe to cut back about 8 feet of grass that has grown over the clay. DPW is waiting for the utility companies to mark their lines. There are questions about where the electrical lines for the field lights run; around the field or through the field. This may have been done by Musco Lighting, in which case the electric company would not mark the lines. Joe Pinto said DPW only has to cut 6” off the top which will not reach the depth of the utility lines. Gary said the field and Partac’s clay have been too wet until today. Partac is 3 weeks behind in their deliveries. Mark feels we’d need additional clay to build up the area being cut. If the field cannot be cut and/or the clay delivered in time before the season opens the work will be done after the season ends.
- Adult (Men’s) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report.
- Karate – (Sean Farrington) – No report.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – On the day of the Easter Egg Hunt Rick saw water leaked into the “old Director’s Office” / snack bar in the Grandstand and possibly damaged the camera equipment.
- Tennis Clinic – (Joe Pinto) – Tom Powers is no longer the tennis coach at the High School. Joe will contact the new coach, Julia Henny, next week to discuss the clinic. Joe wants to open registration much earlier this year.
- Zumba –Gary spoke with Carly. She will start Aqua Zumba classes the second week of July. They will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Executive Session

- Joe Pinto moved to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. Seconded by . Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Facebook page

- Discussed in Old Business

Recap

- Gary has to address lack of grass behind the pool pump/filter house
- Gary will continue working with Borough School Administrators regarding Taylor Street Field.
- Gary will continue to work on the park camera issue with the camera company and the police department.

Commissioner Comments

- Dan Almind – No comments
- Mark Garrison – No comments
- Craig Geller – Absent
- Sean Farrington– Next karate session starts May 4th. We will be sending fliers to the schools. There is still a question about where the last few classes will be held since school closes June 13 and the session runs for another 4 weeks. They will most likely be held at the dojo.
- Rick Feldman – No comments.
- Bill Lyons –Absent.
- Joe Pinto – He will contact the Tennis coach and then have Susan open registration. The clinic has been held in early July. Joe will discuss the schedule with the tennis coach.
- James Sawyer – This year the soccer association will not pay the referees. The towns must provide cash to each referee at each game. All other towns in the league (except us and Mansfield) give a check to each coach for the total referee cost for the season. The coach then pays the referee at the game and has each referee sign a receipt when they are paid. If we do not adopt a similar method the association will

not assign referees to our games. We will be responsible for getting our own referees. Other towns have parent or recreation associations that pay the coaches. This will need to be discussed with the Borough Manager and CFO.

- Adam Zimmer – Absent.

Adjournment

- Joe Pinto moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Mark Garrison. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 3, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **8:45 PM**