

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
September 12, 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 7:04 p.m.

Flag Salute

Statement of Adequate Notice

- Chairperson 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: Rick Feldman, Craig Geller, Joe Pinto, James Sawyer, Adam Zimmer. Also present: 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 Craig Geller. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 3, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation portion opened.
- No audience members present.
- Adam Zimmer moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

- Adam Zimmer moved to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2018 meeting. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 3, Abstain: 1. Motion passed.

New Business:

- No New Business

Old Business:

- Brew Fest –Craig said because the permits take 60 to 90 days to obtain it will not be held this year. He will work on holding it in the spring.
- Community Days –tabled – Mark is not in attendance.
- Railroad Avenue property –Because of heavy rain the subcommittee did not walk the property on the day planned. Some commissioners did visit the area on another day. Craig said the building is in good shape and could probably be saved. The walking paths were reviewed. DPW will go through when the land isn’t so wet. The land is very level with good drainage. They saw no standing water. Gary went on a different day with Jon James, head of DPW and Matt Hall, Borough Manager. They discussed where walking paths would be cut. They also thought the building was salvageable. Possible entrances from Washburn and near O’Shea were discussed. An area across the railroad tracks, which the Boro has been maintaining, could be used for parking. It is being investigated whether this is Borough owned property. Craig said Washington Township has approved a solar field across the street. JCP&L wants to put power lines over the Railroad Avenue property. Gary and Rick stated an easement could be granted along the side of the property for proper compensation. The solar field and easement will be looked into further.

Recreation Director’s Report

- The pool was closed on August 25 due to a lack of guards. Hackettstown and Riegel Ridge pools also closed early for this reason. There were some grievances on Facebook but not a lot. The soccer program has started with 93 participants. The first game was last Saturday. There has been an issue with cars parked along both sides of the street near Vara field which reduces traffic to one lane. The Port-a-john was put near the baseball field and Gary has asked the company to move it. The referees will be paid through the Washington Soccer Association 501c3 run by Terry Finnegan. He has maintained its 501c3 status, accepted the Borough check and wrote checks to each of the coaches. The coaches will pay the referee at each game and get a signature confirming receipt of their payment. There will be no more playoff games as per the league. James distributed a copy of the preliminary bill

for use of Warren Hills Middle School field for soccer practice and games. \$2.50 per hour so practices cost \$5, game days cost \$12.50. Gary asked about teams practicing at Boro park since it will get dark starting in October and the school field is not lit. James will look into practice dates and times and revise the reservations of the school field as needed. The final bill will need to have Gary's name or Washington Borough Recreation as the signatory, not James'. Karate has 13 children registered and it begins Friday. Basketball registration has been opened and will close Nov 2. James said teams will be limited to 10 players to ensure enough coaches are available. We need 2 coaches for each team. Additional registrations will be put on a waiting list. We ran into problems with soccer teams. Since we didn't have enough coaches some teams are very big which severely restricts the players' time on the field. The number of teams will be reported Dec 1. The team rosters will be submitted by Jan 1. Practices will start Nov 18. Lil Hoopsters registration will open November 1. The Junior Chamber of Commerce will be doing a Borough litter cleanup on Saturday, Sept 15, including the park. They will be using our Volunteer vests. Gary opened the 5K registration. He has contacted the police department and spoken with the DPW about race day. Rick asked if the route would be the same since there had been previous discussions about possibly starting in the park. Gary said the route would be the same. If we start in the park Route 57 would have to be closed and it is too late to obtain the permit. Gary has raised \$1,500 in prizes and monetary donations. Susan will email the Excel checklists and the donation letter to all commissioners. In addition to monetary donations we will need items for the runners' bags and the raffle. Gary asked when Street Hockey registrations will open. Adam said October 1 to Nov 15. Registration can be extended if necessary. Adam wants to fill 4 teams of 8 children at each school. He has had trouble getting coaches for the older teams. Susan will send a copy of the flier to Adam. Practice will start the 2nd week of January. Where to store the goals and equipment at Memorial will need to be worked out with the school. The storage closet was converted to a teachers' area. There are sheds outside.

Council Liaison's Report

- No report - Absent

Recreation Secretary's Report

- No report.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – No report
- 5k – (commission) – Rick wants a push for this event. The Commission will hold a special meeting Wednesday, September 19 at 7:00 pm to discuss 5K preparations. Susan will put a notice in the newspaper and online.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – James feels we will lose participants next year to travel teams. Adam suggested creating our own travel team. James mentioned creating a Warren Hills League among the 5 sending districts. New soccer nets were not purchased this year and the Quick Set goals at Boro Park are falling apart. James will look into replacements for next year. Soccer was also discussed during the Rec Director's report.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – Discussed during Rec Director's report.
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer/Bill Lyons) – Discussed during Rec Director's report.
- Lil' Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) – No report.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) - No report.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – No report.
- Adult (Men's) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report.
- Karate – (Sean Farrington) – No report.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman) – Joe Pinto said if we plan to have a team next year someone should attend the league meeting on October 15. If we do not have a team, swimmers can do scrimmages Gary said one of the fathers from the 2018 team is a swim team coach at Mount Olive High School who had offered to coach.
- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Tennis Clinic – (Joe Pinto) – No report.
- Zumba – No report.

Executive Session

- No Executive Session.

Facebook page

- No report

Recap

- No recap requested.

Commissioner Comments

- Dan Almind – Absent
- Mark Garrison – Absent.
- Craig Geller – No comments
- Rick Feldman – No comments
- Bill Lyons – Absent
- Joe Pinto – No comments
- James Sawyer – James feels the Borough website is inferior and would like to look into a separate, independent Recreation website. He asked for this topic to be on our next meeting's agenda. He will discuss it with the Borough Manager prior to the meeting.
- Adam Zimmer – No comments
- Gary Masenior – No comments

Adjournment

- Adam Zimmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0 Absent: 3, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **8:14 PM**