

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
October 24, 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 7:01 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: Dan Almind, Rick Feldman, Mark Garrison, Craig Geller, 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: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation portion opened.
- Darrell Hill, 24 Lambert St., Washington is observing the meeting with the thought of joining the commission.
- Craig Geller moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by Adam Zimmer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

- Mark Garrison moved to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 1. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Budget Discussion – Adam Zimmer moved to table the budget discussion. The commissioners need more time to compile their programs’ reports. Gary asked them to email their reports as soon as they are completed. Rick reminded everyone there will be opportunity to change/amend the numbers. Dan would like to figure out a way to set up an account or card to pay for Facebook boosts.
- Holiday House Decorating Contest – The Borough will be divided into 5 sections. Commissioners will judge houses in an area where they do not live and select a winner for that section. Adam’s mother will make gift baskets for the winners. Judging can begin Dec 1 and awards will be announced at the last meeting in December. Store fronts are not included. Dan noted that Washington Square Circle does not allow house decorations. Susan recommended putting a notice/article in the Washington Messenger and on Facebook. Adam moved to include a family pool membership in each basket. Seconded by Craig. Discussion: at \$180 for an early bird family membership the total for 5 baskets would be almost \$1000, revenue which we may not have received if the families didn’t purchase membership. If they use the membership they will likely purchase items at the snack bar. Even though a membership is awarded it may not be used. Ayes: 4, Nays: 1, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0 Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Website/Internet Activity – James spoke with Matt. The Borough has budgeted for a new website in 2019 so a new Recreation site is not necessary at this time.
- Railroad Avenue property – Gary brought in documents from previous years. Rick told commissioners to review the information and email any questions. Gary pointed out a memo from T& M that notes no additional permits are needed unless work is done to the ditch which would require a wetlands permit.

Recreation Director’s Report

- Gary attended the Swim Team League meeting. They wanted to know if we would have a team in 2019 and Gary told them yes based on the Rec Chairperson’s affirmative at the last meeting. It would be run by a parents’ association in which Joe said he would not be involved. The league has set the 2019 schedule so we would only be able to participate in scrimmages which we could set up with other teams. Gary said drone use at swim meets was discussed and he recommends we consider a policy not allowing drones at meets. If we rejoin the league our

earliest opportunity to host a championship will be 2027. The Hunterdon YMCA joined the league and they need an outdoor pool for their meets. Gary suggested approaching them about using/renting ours. He also said Joe was re-elected treasurer of the league.

- Gary attended the soccer league meeting on October 10. The season is scheduled to end Nov 10 but it may be extended to Nov 17 because of the weather. This could impact the winterization of the pool and Grandstands. Gary may have Link & Sons winterize the pool and pool house on schedule and come in later to do the Grandstands.
- Gary compiled information on Green Acres loans as requested. In July 2003 we received a loan of \$328,750 to purchase the Railroad Avenue property. We pay \$10,00 two times a year. The last payment is scheduled for July 17, 2022. We currently owe \$78,210.57. The total interest paid over the life of the loan will be \$69,883. In June 2010 we received a loan of \$283,200 for the pool. The last payment is scheduled for Jan 3, 2028. We currently owe \$158,392. The total interest paid over the life of the loan will be \$57,000.13.

Communications

- Borough Manager Matt Hall sent an email to the commission congratulating them on having double the entrants for the 5K race vs last year according to Councilwoman Robin Klimko. Rick asked where she got that information since we do not have twice as many entrants. Susan stated that in a conversation with Robin she (Susan) said we usually double our early 5k registrations with race day registrations and she may have reported that to council incorrectly.

Council Liaison's Report

- No report - Absent

Recreation Secretary's Report

- Susan received two requests for Tricky Tray donations, one from Washington Nursery School and one from Washington Emergency Squad and Fire Department. We have given Washington Nursery School 10 adult and 10 child pool day passes in previous years. This is the first year we've received a request from the Emergency Squad and Fire Department. Adam recommended a family pool membership for them since they have helped at every 5K race. Dan moved to donate a Family Pool membership to the Washington Borough Emergency Squad and Fire Department Tricky Tray event. Seconded by Adam. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Adam moved to donate 10 adult pool day passes and 10 child pool day passes to the Washington Nursery School Tricky Tray. Seconded by Craig. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0 Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – No report
- 5k – (commission) – the race will be held rain or shine. Check list was reviewed. All signs are up and lines are painted. Fliers have been delivered to residents and posted on Facebook and website. We received the permit for grilling. The grill cannot be under a canopy and must be cordoned off. Commissioners should arrive at 7:30 for set up.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – Absent.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – The program for the younger children is one night a week of skills practice and one night a game. It is open to all area children. Gary wants information sent to Hunterdon County schools, Belvidere, Hackettstown and Adam said to send them to Lopatcong and Greenwich since their hockey programs are in the summer. Gary wants to set up games with other towns. He is getting a list from the Devils of area programs he can contact. Dan will put information on Facebook.
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer) – Absent
- Lil' Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) – Registration opens Nov 1. Susan wants to open online registration at 9:00 am on Nov 1 instead of opening it when she leaves 10/31. Rick asked who will run the program/act as head coach. This will be discussed further at the next regular meeting.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) – Adam was contacted by Mike Miller from Warren Hills Little League and told the League has been dissolved. Teams will be run by their respective towns. Gary said Dan Dunn told him there will be a team next year. Gary asked about forming our own Borough team and joining the Phillipsburg league. He will look into the Cal Ripkin league also. Adam suggested checking AAU. Gary asked Adam to try to get Dan Dunn, Adam Robinson and Chris Cannavo to attend a meeting to discuss the possibilities. Steinhardt field baseline would have to be lengthened, a scoreboard put up, concession stand installed and parking addressed. The fence would not need extending. Gary reminded the commission that JCP&L are willing to put power at the field.

- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – More than 30 girls signed up for the summer clinic, mostly 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Another 15-20 will do it next year. Everyone Mark spoke with was ecstatic about it. Mark said Rita did a good job but she needs to delegate responsibilities. For the regular Softball season he wants to have 2 teams at the older level. There are two parents who want to be head coach. He'd like to reach out to Franklin and Oxford who did not have enough to form their own teams last year.
- Adult (Men's) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – Adam has been working with the Hackettstown league looking into forming a 3 day league in which 2 nights a week games would be played at the Borough Park field. The season would run April to August. The Hackettstown fields are used to capacity. Adam will have more information after the post season meeting in the beginning of November. The Hackettstown program's registration fees are tiered based on whether the teams are Hackettstown, sending district or out of town residents. All team sponsors must be Hackettstown businesses. Rick asked if we could have a team in another league. If we send a team to the Palmer league players would have to travel to Palmer to play all their games. As a community event Gary suggested making up teams of children and/or parents from different areas of the Borough to play each other.
- Karate – () – No report.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman) –
- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Tennis Clinic – (Joe Pinto) – Absent.
- Zumba – No report.

Executive Session

- No Executive Session.

Facebook page

- No report

Recap

- No recap requested.

Comments

- Dan Almind – No comments
- Mark Garrison – No comments
- Craig Geller – No comments
- Rick Feldman – No comments
- Joe Pinto – Absent
- James Sawyer – Absent
- Adam Zimmer – No comments
- Gary Masenior – No comments

Adjournment

- Adam Zimmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0 Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **8:45 PM**