

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
November 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 7:03 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, Joe Pinto, 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: 6, Nays: 0 Absent: 1, 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: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

- Adam Zimmer moved to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Budget Discussion – Gary distributed budget information. For Girls Softball \$1000 that Mark put in for ball field clay at the Borough Park and Taylor Street fields will come out of the Parks & Playgrounds budget. In order to meet the anticipated expenses Gary recommends raising the registration fee for both programs to \$75. This would bring them to the same cost as basketball and soccer. Using this year’s number of registrations, it would bring in revenue of \$6675 and cover all anticipate expenses. Mark does not think the increase in registration fee will decrease the number of participants. The clinic cost would still be significantly lower than other summer softball clinics.
 - Gary has not been able to complete the budget projections for Parks and Playgrounds because he does not have the salary information for himself or Susan. Park Labor positions will pay \$11,000. Rick recommended using a 5% increase so the budget can get done.
 - Gary got information on Lifeguard, Pool Manager and Pool Supervisor payrates throughout New Jersey. Our rates of \$9.68 per hour for returning lifeguards, \$11.64 for Pool Managers and \$16.25 for the Pool Supervisor and the \$.25 per hour increase are compatible with the other payrates, especially for pools in our area. Gary discussed the StarGuard training program again. The cost of the training for 3 Managers, the \$30 lifeguard certification fee for up to 30 guards and the cost of materials for up to 30 guards could be offset by reducing the returning guards’ hourly payrate by \$1.00. That way none of the guards would have to pay the usual \$400 lifeguard certification fee and could bring home more for the summer. All first year guards hired last year were paid minimum wage. Gary believes more people will apply for lifeguard positions if they do not have to pay for the certification. We would benefit by having enough guards to stay open throughout the season, enough guards to increase swimming lessons and potentially bring in more revenue by offering our certified trainers to other pools. All pools in the area had problems staying open at the end of the season because of a lack of guards. Our trainers could help them increase their number of guards too. The closest trainer certification class is in Yonkers, NY on Dec 7 & 8. They may schedule a class in Chatham in the spring. Gary would like to add \$3500 to the budget for the StarGuard Training Program. Rick feels raising all of the pool positions’ payrates will attract and retain more guards by being the highest in the area. He would like guards to start at \$11.00 per hour and get an additional

\$.25 per hour for every year they have worked for us with a cap at \$13 per hour. It was noted that this would not help with guards leaving before the end of the season. Gary feels we should focus on getting more high school students and adults. Managers would be paid \$13 per hour and Supervisor \$17. Rick asked Gary to use these payrates for the pool budget.

- Gary did not receive budget projection numbers for Soccer, Basketball, Hockey or the Swim Team. Adam said the hockey numbers will remain the same as last year's.
- Gary discussed his hours and payrate. The Recreation Director position is for 29.5 hours per week or a total of 1,534 hours per year. A full time Department Head works 2,080 hours per year. So far this year Gary has worked 2,500 to 2,600 hours. He only submits 29.5 hours per week for pay. Joe Pinto said the position needs to be made a full time one. Gary said having 3 CPOs at the pool next summer will help alleviate the work load there.
- Swim Team – Rick said he was not prepared to discuss Swim Team.
- Spring 5K – Based on the number of races in the area on April 13 Gary recommends holding it on April 6. Joe does not like that we would ask local businesses for donations to the Easter Egg Hunt and the race together/at the same time. Gary sees it as a way of raising money for the Recreation Department. Rick asked Gary to put together the pros and cons including cost, involving a charitable cause to increase awareness, location, etc.

Old Business:

- Lil Hoopsters Instructor – Craig has not called last year's coach/instructor yet.
- Holiday House Decorating Contest – Judging will be Dec 1 – 18. Winners will be announced at the Dec 19 meeting.
- Railroad Ave Property - Rick reminded all commissioners to review before the next meeting the information Gary had distributed in October.
- Youth Baseball – Gary attended a Little League meeting. The WHYBA are meeting to re-form and conduct the league the same as last year. RJ Sherman will likely be the president. Gary told them we will be selling sponsor signs for the Steinhardt field fence this year and they should not. Last year the organization spent \$1000 on new clay for Steinhardt, but they spent \$20,000 on Oxford's fields.
- Men's Softball – Adam has not talked with Hackettstown.
- Cameras – Gary and James opened the DVR box. James is getting information on replacement parts. It is questionable whether it can be repaired. Rick said to put the cost of a new camera system in the budget or see if we could buy it this year.

Recreation Director's Report

- A pipe in the ceiling of the pool house froze when the temperature dropped over Thanksgiving. Link & Sons had not done the winterization yet. Gary worked on it and cleaned up the 4' of water in the pool house over the weekend. Ceilings throughout the building were damaged. He has filed an insurance claim. Gary used RV antifreeze in the grandstand bathrooms before Thanksgiving and there were no frozen pipes there as far as he can tell.
- Gary spoke with the Somerset Patriots about bus trips for softball, baseball and seniors. A ballgame ticket is \$8. They offer an all you can eat Barbeque option for \$28. This could be a fundraiser.
- Gary submitted an article to the Washington Messenger about the Holiday House Decorating Contest.
- Link & Sons will begin winterize the pool on Friday and finish Monday.
- Youth Basketball has 80 children registered, 30 in Lil Hoopsters and 18 in Street Hockey. Craig said we can accept two more children in Lil Hoopsters. Dan will post the Hockey flier on Facebook.
- The LaFrance Family, who regularly walk their dog in the park, donated \$200 as a thank you for keeping the park beautiful this summer.
- Under the new State Sanitary Codes water used to fill the pool must be potable. It cannot come from the well, it has to come from American Water. By repairing the cracks in the pool and preventing additional water loss Gary saved \$19,500 in water costs. Plus, he had the pool repaired for \$2,000-\$2,500 a 20-25% savings from the pool repair company estimate.
- TSS Photo will be used for basketball, Lil Hoopsters and hockey.
- The soccer goals are still up and need to be taken down.
- Gary asked if the commission was still considering purchase of a portable pitcher's mound. Rick said to put it in the budget and we will decide at a later date.

Communications

- No communications.

Council Liaison's Report

- No report - Absent

Recreation Secretary's Report

- A resident submitted paperwork supporting a request to waive the basketball registration fee due to financial hardship. The income falls in the range to receive assistance. Adam Zimmer moved to waive the Youth Basketball registration fee for this individual's child. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Susan will advise the requester.

Sports Programs

Rick requested a motion to table discussion of the remaining Sports Programs until the next meeting. Adam moved to table the Sports Programs. Seconded by Joe Pinto. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – No report
- 5k – (commission) – Discussed in the Director's Report.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – No report.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – Discussed in Director's Report.
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer) – Discussed in the Director's Report
- Lil' Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) – Discussed in Old Business and the Director's Report.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – No report
- Adult (Men's) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – Discussed in Old Business.
- Karate – () – No report.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- 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

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Comments

- Dan Almind – No comments
- Mark Garrison – Mark asked if anything had been done regarding the volunteer request. Rick has to talk with the Mayor before he is appointed.
- Craig Geller – No comments
- Rick Feldman – No comments
- Joe Pinto – No comments
- Adam Zimmer – No comments
- Gary Masenior – No comments

Adjournment

- Dan Almind moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0 Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Adjourn **9:07 PM**