

**Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2019 - 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 7:02 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: Dan Almind, Sean Farrington, Rick Feldman, Mark Garrison, James Sawyer. Also present: Gary Masenior, Recreation Director and Susan Turner, Recreation Secretary.

Minutes of Prior Meeting

- The minutes from the Jan 9, 2019 were not completed.

Audience Participation

- James Sawyer moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by Sean Farrington. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
- No audience members present.
- Mark Garrison moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

New Business:

- No New Business.

Old Business:

- 2019 meeting dates – Meeting dates on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of each month were approved at the Jan 9, 2019 meeting. Susan stated that on April 25 (4th Thursday) the Council Chambers are already reserved by another organization. Rick Feldman asked Susan to contact the organization and ask if they could hold their meeting in the Conference Room, Fire Hall, or on a different date. Susan said the 4th Thursday in November is Thanksgiving and Borough Hall will be closed and the 4th Thursday in December is the day after Christmas. She asked what dates those meeting should be changed to. Rick said those dates will be determined later in the year, around August. Susan said the dates need to be published in the paper. Rick told her to publish these dates for the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of each month.
- Swim Team – Rick asked Gary for names of potential coaches. Gary said he had already sent them to him.
- Spring 5K – Gary spoke with the leader of Project Graduation and they are interested in teaming with us for the 5K. Their next meeting is February 6 and Gary will attend. Rick asked Gary to invite them to our next meeting. Project Grad needs to receive any money from the event early in May. Gary will suggest May 4th. Commissioners suggested having groups of children, i.e. United soccer, High School sports teams sign up as teams to run in the 5K. Mike Jones, Athletic Director at Warren Hills, suggested having school clubs sign up students to volunteer for community service hours.
- Youth Baseball – The WHYBA held a meeting Jan 17. RJ Sherman is the President, Dan Dunne handles IT. They will meet the 3rd Thursday of every month. They are looking into purchasing a portable

pitcher's mound for Stienhardt. They have a 200 ft fence that can be used at Boro Park to shorten the field.

Gary would like to use the Boro Park field primarily for softball and baseball games and allow practices when games are not scheduled. Rick asked if WHYBA want to get sponsor signs at Steinhardt field.

Gary said they do. Sen Doherty's office sent confirmation of Green Acres regulations that allow for sponsor signs on fences at the Boro Park ballfield and Steinhardt field. Susan will forward the email to all of the commissioners. Rick wants to put together a program for sponsorship signs based on the size of the sign and length of time it will be hung. Gary will get prices for different sizes and types of signs. Dan suggested looking at 2 sided signs.

- Railroad Avenue –Gary's NJR&P membership was just renewed. He will contact them about engineering services. Rick will try to get 3 engineering firms to come to meetings and talk with the Commission. He hopes to have one come in to the next meeting. Gary suggested having them review the old plans. Later in the meeting James said several of his neighbors offered to help clean up the property. It would have to be early spring before plants and vines began growing. If a clean up event is set up it will be posted on the Recreation Facebook page. Susan will talk to the Borough Manager about using Clean Communities funds to provide gloves and bags and possibly water and/or food.
- Budget – Borough Council approved the increase in Girls Softball registration fee to \$75.

Recreation Director's Report

- Gary wants to get started on sponsors for the Easter Egg Hunt. Susan recommended asking mostly for items to fill the eggs or cash donations. The cash donations could be used to buy more candy or special prizes.

Gary read an email from Fire Chief Dirk Higgins. The Fire Department hosts the Beer Garden at the Festival in the Borough in September and this year needs assistance manning the tent, serving and working at the front entrance. They will split the profits 50/50. Last year they profited \$8,000. James Sawyer moved to partner with the Fire Department in the Beer Garden at the Festival in the Borough on September 14, 2019. Seconded by Sean Farrington. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Lifeguard training – Gary read an email from Wayne Dietz, CEO of the Borough's Risk Management Company (copy distributed to commissioners). Wayne will pay for the training of one person for the Borough. He would like feedback from Gary and the attendee on the training and the program because he is interested in sharing it with other municipalities. The course is being offered in Cranford on Feb 9 & 10. Gary also read portions of an email from the president of the StarGuard program regarding potential litigation (email attached and distributed to commissioners). Neither a trained lifeguard certifier nor the Borough would be held liable if the training is followed properly. Gary also read from the StarGuard credentials that their curriculum meets and exceeds the CDC, and MAHC guidelines. It is one of five nationally recognized lifeguard certification agencies which meet MAHC criteria. Gary asked for a discussion and vote on sending a trainee to the Cranford course. Rick said the Red Cross program is the gold standard and he doesn't want less than that. Rick believes it is a scam and a Ponzi scheme. He asked how it could be verified that they are equivalent to Red Cross. They could say anything on their website. He is also against locking our lifeguards into working just at our pool. Dan suggested reimbursing lifeguards for some of their Red Cross lifeguard certification cost. Mark feels this would be throwing money away. If we're going to spend money like that it should go to a program that brings in employees which this would do by offering training to applicants. Rick wants to get verification that the program works as advertised. Gary said it is used at Lake Tranquility, NJ, Land of Make Believe in Hope, NJ and the towns of Cranford, NJ. Gary will contact them. Dan asked if there is an age range/minimum to be trained. Gary said a person has to be lifeguard certified to take the training course. Mark moved to send two people to the StarGuard training course. Seconded by Sean. Ayes: 2, Nays: 3, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion failed.

Council Liaison's Report

- No report.

Recreation Secretary's Report

- No report - Absent

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) - No report.
- 5k – (commission) –No report.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – The soccer league is struggling with a lack of volunteers and Mansfield is looking for a new Director. He thinks it may fold this year or next year. Rick asked if we could set up a league ourselves and run it with volunteers help. Audience members Brian Hammond, Anthony and Wayne, who are with Warren United Soccer and SATT, offered assistance. They also suggested having a simple program in which the Borough children play each other in Saturday games. It could be expanded to include neighboring towns. SATT offers coaches' training and they would train parents. 6 different sized fields could be marked out at Vara field.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – Gary said the program is going well. The younger group has picked up the game very quickly. There have been new sign ups bringing the total number of participants close to 40. He picked up equipment from the NJ Devils yesterday. They provided sticks, balls, goalie equipment and goals. The Devils will visit at least once with their mascot and a Stanley Cup player.
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer/) – The scoreboard at Memorial School is broken. They cannot determine what is wrong with it. Since it stopped working during a Borough game we may be billed for its repair. They have been using our portable scoreboard which is supposed to be the backup for Middle School games. James would like to purchase another portable scoreboard to have as a backup in case the Middle School's scoreboard fails on a night the portable one is being used at Memorial. He sent information to Gary and would like the scoreboard purchased now. He sent information to Gary. Rick said no vote was needed as approval for Gary to purchase it. Gary reminded everyone about the Penn State Basketball Game free admission event this weekend.
- Lil' Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) – Mark said practices are a bit crazy. One parent requested a refund. Gary said besides from that one parent he has not had any complaints.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) - No report. Discussion took place in Old Business.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – Mark attended the softball league meeting. Team counts have to be submitted Feb 24. Opening weekend is April 27. The All Star game will be June 9. Registration opened yesterday and fliers will go home from the schools on Friday. Mark asked if Abilities will open their online store. Susan will contact them. Mark asked if there is a procedure for picking a head coach. He has two parents who were head coaches of different teams last year and both of their daughters will be on the same team this year. Several commissioners said the parent with the most experience in the program should be the head coach. Mark will provide the ball specifications to Gary so they can be ordered. Mark said the umpires do not like the voucher payment system and the league is looking at different ways to pay them. They may suggest the Borough pay a lump sum to the league. Gary suggested using Terry Finnegan's 501c3 Association to pay the coaches who would then pay each umpire at the end of their game. This was done for soccer. Mark said the league does not want money to go to the coaches. Gary suggested forming a 501c3 that could handle all umpire/referee payments. Mark said the uniform tops are ragged. He has a potential sponsor who would provide t-shirts for all but they want to use their own supplier. We have no contracts with any t-shirt supplier. They would have to use our approved graphics on the front. Gary stated again that he'd like to use the Boro Park field primarily for softball and baseball games. Practices could be held at Steinhardt, Memorial School and Taylor Street School. The Taylor Street School field is expected to be done this spring. Gary asked if additional fields could be cut in the corners of Vara field. He also asked if a field could be cut in the Railroad Avenue Property. Parking, fences and netting would need to be addressed first.
- Adult (Men's) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report - Absent.
- Karate – (James Sawyer) – Susan said the program began the beginning of January. This is a smaller group with only 7 or 8 children enrolled.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman/ Sean Farrington) – No report.

- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Tennis Clinic – (James Sawyer) – No report.
- Zumba – No report.

Executive Session (If Necessary)

- Executive Session.

Facebook page

- No report.

Recap

- No Recap requested.

Commissioner Comments

- Dan Almind – No comments.
- Sean Farrington– No comments.
- Rick Feldman – No comments
- Mark Garrison– No comments.
- Craig Geller– No comments.
- James Sawyer – No comments.
- Adam Zimmer – No comments.

Adjournment

- Dan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. Seconded by James. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion passed.
Adjourn **8:34 PM**

Dear Susan,

Thank you for the email. I have attached the SGE Training Center Administrative Manual (TCAM) which addresses the procedures for a Training Center and the responsibilities.

To answer the specific question, if/when your Training Center trains external lifeguard candidates then the Instructor is issuing a course completion certificate that the student completed all training requirements at the time of their course. These requirements include passing the 11 Competency & Assessment Performance standards (CAP) as well as the minimum standards for swimming prerequisites and a written exam. Upon completion of the course, the Instructor issues a certification that validates the candidate passed these standards at the time of training. **The certification offers no guarantee of future performance** and does not hold the Instructor or Training Center liable for the candidate's performance later. The hiring pool or waterpark is responsible for the performance of their employee, not the Training Center. The only liability would be if the Instructor did not follow the procedures or train the candidate to the standards expected.

SGE offers a variety of litigation support services including drowning/incident investigations, expert witness services, consultations, and more. The SGE faculty & leadership team is a variety of long term facility operators, aquatic experts, medical doctors, and more. Since each scenario/incident/case is unique, SGE uses our collective expertise and caters our litigation support to the specific requirements needed. As a Training Center, we would be available to support your organization as needed. A key for any Training Center is thorough documentation & record-keeping in case it is ever needed later to demonstrate the TC met the training & certification requirements.

I hope this helps! Let me know if you have any further questions.

Thanks!

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