

**Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
February 13, 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 7:08 p.m.

Flag Salute

Statement of Adequate Notice

- Adam Zimmer 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, Mark Garrison, Craig Geller, James Sawyer and Adam Zimmer. Also present: Gary Masenior, Recreation Director and Susan Turner, Recreation Secretary.

Audience Participation

- Mark Garrison moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
- Mayor David Higgins of Harding Drive approached the podium. He suggested the Commission consider installing a skate park in Borough Park near the pavilion, behind the ballfield fence. He mentioned the idea to the Borough Manager who has contacted the Borough’s Risk Manager for input.
- Dave spoke about the Star Guard Lifeguard training program discussed at the last meeting. He feels there are misconceptions about the company. It was called a ponzi scheme but the Red Cross will train lifeguard instructors and CPR instructors who then train groups of people for a fee just like the Star Guard program. The program is accepted by New Jersey State authorities and Federal authorities. The Borough’s Risk Manager likes it so much he wants to use it in other municipalities and pay for one of our employees to get the training. Adam asked Dave to attend the next Commission meeting and present this to the commissioners who are not in attendance tonight.
- Mayor Higgins recommended commissioners attend the Land Use Board meeting on March 4 at which there will be a public hearing about the Open Space/Recreation tax.
- Craig Geller moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meeting

- James Sawyer moved to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0 Abstain: 0, Absent: 2. Motion passed.
- James Sawyer moved to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0 Abstain: 0, Absent: 2. Motion passed.

New Business:

- No New Business.

Old Business:

- Budget – no new information
- Swim Team – no report. Swim Team liaisons Rick Feldman and Sean Farrington are absent.
- Spring 5K – The timer we’ve used is not available May 4 but is available May 11 which is the day before Mother’s Day. The Warren Hills Athletic Director was excited with the idea of promoting the race and Community Day as a Mother’s Day event. The Community Day event includes students in 57 school clubs, local vendors/businesses, games and activities for families and provides plenty of parking and seating for 5K runners and supporters. Gary attended the Project Graduation meeting but has not

heard back from them or the Athletic Director because of an out of state trip and the weather. They asked what they would have to do/provide. Gary told them they could help with promoting the race, recruiting runners and especially volunteering on race day. Adam suggested sharing the profits with the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Society since the race is a Mother's Day event. Since Breast Cancer Awareness month is October it was suggested to do this with the fall 5K.

- Railroad Avenue Property & Cleanup – James is seeing a lot of dog waste, garbage and debris on the property. He thinks signs would help deter/diminish it. He wants to do a cleanup March 30th or April 6th. Railroad Avenue property could be done the first weekend and the Borough Park the second weekend. Raindates will be the following days. A Port a John will be rented for the March 30th weekend at Railroad Avenue. Susan said she spoke with the Borough Manager who will approve using money from the Clean Communities Grant to purchase gloves and garbage bags and possibly water and/or food for volunteers. It was suggested that the National Honor Society, the Boy Scouts and the local churches be contacted for volunteers since many of their youth participants need community service hours. Adam recommended we provide a bug spray that repels ticks. He will get the product information. James will create a flier for the events.
- Men's Softball – Adam does not have any new information from the Hackettstown League. He would like to hold a Home Run Derby "Slugfest" in the Borough Park ballfield for all ages with Minor, Major, Middle School, High School and Adult Divisions. Lines for home runs in each Division would be painted on field. The top 3 winners of each division could receive scholarship money or baseball/softball related prizes. Gary will check if the commission can award scholarships. Vendors could be invited to set up in the park and provide prizes. Costs would include grooming and painting the field, balls and a DJ/announcer. Adam volunteered to pitch for the event.
- BrewFest – Craig distributed NJ State rules and regulations. He will talk with the State Attorney General Monday. The permit costs \$150. He wants to hold it on the Borough Park ballfield since it is already fenced. May 4th or May 18th are possible dates. We would invite 25 breweries for which we'd pay \$200 each. We charge \$50 per person and could expect about 500 people. Wrist bands could be used so people can leave the ball field to go to food trucks. We would charge a flat rate for food vendors. Susan suggested hiring a DJ.

Recreation Director's Report

- 25 Girls are registered for Softball – 14 in K-2, 3 in 3/4 grade, 6 in 5/6 grade and 2 in 7/8 grade. School tryouts don't start until the end of February. Team numbers have to be reported at the League meeting on 2/24. Any changes to the team numbers after March 8 will result in a fine. Gary recommended submitting 2 teams for K-2 and 1 for each of the other levels. Mark said he will talk with Franklin and Oxford at the meeting. They have had difficulty getting enough for a team at certain levels.
- Signs/Banners – Frank Blanche Signs will create Polycarbon signs/banners with digital images that last several years. 4'X8' is \$100; 4'X4' is \$50; 4'X6' is \$75. TSS Photo will create mesh signs/banners. 3'X5' is \$50; 3'X6' is \$58; 3'X 9' is \$90. A 4'X50' banner for the center of town is \$352, with grommets it is \$550. Gary does not know if it is single or double sided. Dan said Jim Miller Signs will make a double-sided vinyl banner 36" X 36' for \$625.
- Registration fees – It was recommended to raise the Non-resident Family Pool membership to \$300. It was also recommended to allow all residents of the Warren Hills school sending district to pay the same membership fee as Borough residents. There were 31 memberships from the sending district outside of Washington Borough last year. The difference in price can be made up with 8 new memberships. Dan suggested raising the individual membership \$25. Gary said the current individual fee is at the maximum allowed on the Ordinance. If we change the maximum amount it will require a change to the ordinance which would require several Council meetings. Mark Garrison moved to change the definition of Borough Resident for pool memberships to Warren Hills Regional sending district resident. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1, Absent: 2. Motion passed. James Sawyer moved to change the Non-resident family pool membership fee to \$300.00. Seconded by Mark Garrison. Ayes: 4, Nays: 1, Abstain: 0, Absent: 2. Motion passed. We can begin advertising the changes after Borough Council approval.

Recreation Secretary's Report

- No report -

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – Susan distributed sponsor/donation request letters to the commission.
- 5k – (commission) – Spring 5K discussed in Old Business.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – James is still talking with coaches from Warren United who are interested in setting up weekend clinics.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – Gary reported the children are having a blast. The coaches are exceptionally good. He has been in touch with the NJ Devils about their mascot and player visit but he does not have a date yet. He has no information about possible game tickets.
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer/) – The season ends on March 8. James said the players and families who attended “Jersey Night” at the High School had a great time.
- Lil’ Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) – Lil Hoopsters finishes tomorrow night. Craig said the children have been great.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – Opening day is April 27. Gary said work will start on the Taylor Street field when the weather improves. The clay has been ordered already.
- Adult (Men’s) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report -Discussed in Old Business.
- Karate – (James Sawyer) – No report.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman/ Sean Farrington) – No report. (absent)
- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – No report. (absent)
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – No report. (absent)
- Tennis Clinic – (James Sawyer) – James has spoken with the Warren Hills Athletic Director about expanding the clinic to 2 weeks. The first week would be run by the Tennis Coach, the second would be matches run by high school and college students. The Athletic Director would like it advertised as a Warren Hills Youth Tennis Clinic to attract families from the district.
- Zumba – No report.

Executive Session (If Necessary)

- No Executive Session.

Facebook page

- No report.

Recap

- Adam Zimmer will get the product information for tick spray for the Railroad Avenue Property cleanup.
- James will create a flier for the Railroad Avenue Property and Borough Park cleanups.
- Gary will check if the Recreation Commission can award scholarships for the Home Run Derby.
- Susan will begin writing a photo disclaimer for event participants.

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

- James Sawyer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0.
Motion passed. Adjourn **8:48 PM**