

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
March 28, 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.

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.”

Flag Salute

Roll Call

- Present: Dan Almind, Rick Feldman, Mark Garrison, Craig Geller, James Sawyer and 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 James Sawyer. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
- Matthew Hall, Borough Manager asked how pool preparations, lifeguard training and swim team were progressing. Rick Feldman said the StarGuard lifeguard training program was approved by the council and dates for classes will be determined. He has not heard back from two people he contacted for swim team coach and there has not been any response to the Facebook swim team coach advertisement. Matt asked if swim team members will be required to purchase pool memberships. Rick said it will remain the same as last year (they were not required to purchase membership). Matt is concerned about having lifeguards to finish the season. He would like to see enough people trained so when employees return to college in August there will be enough left to cover all shifts. Gary said he’s been in touch with the High School, the Community College and Centenary College. Matt said he has had meetings with the Washington Township Youth Association and discussed having them take over the Borough Recreation Sports Programs. Potentially, all Washington Township and Washington Borough children would enroll in the same programs. Matt said he wants to run the best programs for the residents and he hasn’t been happy with the function of the commission. He’s had complaints about the programs and the pool. He feels the Borough should just maintain the facilities and handle special events (5K). Typically, a private non-profit will run the programs better than a government agency. It could be through Matt wants to explore all options for improving the Borough. They’ve made a lot of progress in the last 3 years and want to keep moving forward. Matt asked if any commissioners had questions or comments. There were none.
- Craig Geller moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meeting

- Gary noted that in the Recreation Directors Report portion of the March 13, 2019 minutes, 4th bullet point, instead of “Gary will sell hamburgers...” it should read “Commissioners will sell hamburgers...”. Mark Garrison moved to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2019 meeting with changes. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0 Abstain: 1, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Review Commission By laws – Craig said we need to add the Treasurer position. We need to update the meeting dates. He asked if there was a purpose to having Gary submit a written Director’s Report. Rick said it was put in place before he became Chairperson. It was confirmed that changes would need Council approval.

Old Business:

- Men’s Softball – Adam created a flier. He is meeting with the Washington borough Fire Chief tomorrow night who will send out the flier and try to gauge interest among area Fire, Police and EMS Departments. Gary asked Adam if he compiled an equipment list. Adam said the teams provide their own equipment except for balls which are \$42 a dozen. Gary compiled the field costs. Based on 6 teams playing 6 weeks, 5 nights each week and 2 to 3 games each night the cost of lights, field usage fees, field maintenance and lining the total cost is \$3600, \$600 per team. Each team needs to provide a certificate of insurance. Adam said the cost fits in with area leagues, Hackettstown is \$875 per team, Palmer \$700 per team and Readington \$500 per team based on 22 games a team.

- Spring 5K – Gary has no new information. The High School has not held a meeting since our last Recreation meeting.
- Swim Team – Discussed in Audience participation.
- Railroad Avenue Property & Cleanup – The Clean up is scheduled for this Saturday, 9 to 1. The flier was posted on Facebook asking for volunteers. James asked that commissioners bring wheel barrows and rakes. He will bring a riding mower and cart. James would like another reminder posted on Facebook. He has created a slideshow of pictures of the park. James would like “No Dumping” signs posted on the small lot on the corner of O’Shea and Railroad Avenues. And No Hunting signs on the Railroad Avenue property. Gary noted that the port-a-john, water, light refreshments, gloves and garbage bags were paid for through the Clean Communities Grant.
- Community Day – Dan would like to hold either an adult basketball tournament, adult softball game, or kickball game at the park and open the pool to everyone on the same day. Some people are upset because of last year’s pool closings and he feels this would help calm some. A booth/table could be set up with information about all of the Rec programs and potential new programs to gauge who’s interested. Rick suggested starting with a Softball game since we have people familiar with running it. A one-day event, Saturday, July 13 was decided. Mark is on the Softball League board. He will talk with other town’s coaches. Adam suggested opening up registration for the first 10 teams. Once we have 10 teams we can decide if we want to make it bigger. The team will have to submit a roster by a chosen deadline. Rick asked Dan to put together a written plan/schedule to go forward. Matt Hall said if we open the pool for everyone, we will have to have patrons sign a waiver of liability. It can be a blanket waiver they sign under.
- Brew Fest – Craig has no new information as he is still waiting to hear back from the State Attorney General. Matt Hall suggested he contact the Borough Clerk who can help him with forms, contacts and information.
- Budget – Lifeguard Salaries – Gary stated that, as the budget numbers have shown and he has discussed before, paying lifeguards \$13 per hour, as Rick wanted, will add an additional \$17,982 to the budget, an approximately 38.5% increase. Gary asked how we will pay for it. Rick asked Gary to calculate how much we’d have to drop the hourly pay rate to keep the budget balanced.

Recreation Director’s Report

- The Borough Park Cleanup is Saturday, April 6, from 9 to 1. Mulch will be delivered next week and DOPW will separate it into smaller piles around the playground so volunteers can spread it. The Raptors baseball team will help install the 200’ fence on the ballfield. Inserts are already in the ground. They offered to paint the dugouts and the grandstand interior. Mark will put out a request to Softball parents to help too.
- The Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 13 at 12 noon. 25 members of the Washington Township Senior Committee stuffed eggs for 3 ½ hours Monday. Girl Scouts will stuff the remaining eggs. They will also sell drinks and popcorn at the Warren Hills Softball game on April 13. We will sell hotdogs. We have 300 Dairy Queen coupons, 100 Dunkin Donuts coupons, and cash donations. We need Golden Egg prizes, which can be large chocolate rabbits, bags of candy, or anything big that a child would like to receive.
- Recreation will have a booth at 3 BID events: the Arts, Crafts & Sweets festival April 27, the Green Fest June 15 and the Fall Festival in September. We advertise for them as sponsors of Recreation Programs and they waive the booth fees for these events.
- The Taylor Street Field parking lot is done. It is approximately 20’X100’ and fits approximately 12-15 cars. Matt Hall said it may be paved next year. Gary and Mark Garrison laid out 2 fields: a 50’ T-ball field and a 50’ Pony Softball field. In the fall we will put up soccer goals. By creating these fields we have added Recreation facilities in that part of town where there were none. Warren Hills Little League will purchase 380’ of green or blue cap for the fence. They are also paying for the port-a-johns at Taylor Street and Steinhardt fields and chalk for lining the fields. Next week Gary plans to cut the base paths, then repair and paint the backstop and benches.
- For Art in the Park on June 15 (anticipated opening day of the regular pool season) Gary will have all of the Elementary Schools in the Warren Hills Sending District create pictures of summer. The Washington Township Seniors will submit pictures, too. The Library is interested in doing story time at the park that day.
- World’s Largest Swimming Lesson is June 20. We will offer Free swimming lessons for one hour.
- Gary ordered a 2-piece portable mound and 3 magnetic break-away bases, half the cost will be paid by the Raptors.

Recreation Secretary’s Report

- Susan Turner received two requests for donations. The Washington Borough Public Library requested a themed basket, gift certificate or cash donation for its first annual tricky tray fundraising event June 2, 2019. After discussion Adam Zimmer moved to donate the Family Pool Membership returned to the Commission by Robin and John Klimko. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Susan Turner will ask the Library to include the Klimko’s name on the item at the event. The St. Luke’s Warren Hospital Auxiliary requested a gift certificate or cash donation for their Tricky Tray fundraising event April 28,

2019. St. Luke's Warren Family Practice and Physical Therapy locations have donated to the 5K race. Dan Almind moved to donate one week (7 days) of pool day passes for a family (14 adult passes and 14 child passes). Seconded by Mark Garrison. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – Gary asked Commissioners to solicit businesses for more candy and prizes for Gold Ticket items. Adam will talk with DiColas Pizza about free slice coupons.
- 5k – (commission) – Spring 5K discussed in Old Business.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – The 3 men from Warren United Soccer are willing to run the soccer program working with us through James (very similar to how Bill Lyons ran the Basketball program). Their 501c3 association can pay the referees. Last year we paid WBYSA who in turn paid the referees. We will purchase equipment and take all registrations. James would like the program to go back to boys and girls teams instead of co-ed teams. We lost several players because the teams were co-ed.
- Street Hockey – (Adam Zimmer) – No report.
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer) – No report.
- Lil' Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) – No report.
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Zimmer) – No report.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – 3 people associated with Softball completed the volunteer form to join the commission. Two were submitted online. They have not heard back from the Borough.
- Adult (Men's) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – Discussed in Old Business.
- Karate – (James Sawyer) – Session 3 begins Friday night. There are 9 children registered.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman/ Sean Farrington) – Discussed in Audience Participation section.
- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – Gary said we've begun advertising. He wants to add a one week private lesson session for \$50 and a 4 week private lesson session for \$160. Parents have expressed interest in both.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Tennis Clinic – (James Sawyer) – James would like the clinic advertised as a "Warren Hills" program rather than a "Washington Borough" program. Some people assume it is only available to Borough residents. New wording would be needed on the shirts. He believes it should be run by the High School since they provide the coach, assistant coaches (students) and balls. We provide racquets, snacks, water and t-shirts.
- Zumba – No report.

Executive Session (If Necessary)

- No Executive Session.

Facebook page

- No report.

Recap

- Susan will make the correction to the March 13, 2019 minutes.
- Craig will write up changes for the by-laws.
- Dan will post a reminder on Facebook for the Railroad Avenue Cleanup this weekend.
- Dan will write up a plan for a Softball tournament/Community Day event on July 13.
- Craig will contact the Borough Clerk regarding the BrewFest.
- Gary will re-calculate lifeguard salaries to keep the budget balanced.
- Susan will contact Robin Klimko regarding the donated Family Pool Membership.
- Commissioners will get more candy, money and/or prizes for the Easter Egg Hunt.

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.
- Gary Masenior – No comments.

Adjournment

- Craig Geller moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. Seconded by Adam Zimmer. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Adjourn **8:48 PM**