

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
April 25, 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, Sean Farrington, 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: 7 Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
- No audience members wished to address the commission.
- Adam Zimmer moved to close the audience participation portion. Seconded by Sean Farrington. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Audience participation closed.

Minutes of Prior Meeting

- Minutes from the previous meeting are not yet available.

New Business:

- Warren Hills Youth Baseball Assoc Slug Fest – pool membership request – Susan Turner read a letter from Warren Hills Youth Baseball requesting a family pool membership as a prize for its Annual Slugfest fundraiser. Craig Geller moved to give Warren Hills Youth Baseball a Family Pool Membership for their Slugfest. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0. Motion passed
- Washington Borough PTO – pool passes request. – Susan Turner read a letter from the Washington Borough PTO requesting a donation for their May 11 Tricky Tray fundraising event. Susan said she spoke with a PTO representative about what they wanted and either a week’s worth of family pool passes or a choice between the passes and 2 Tennis Clinic registration were preferred. Adam Zimmer moved to donate a choice of one week of family pool passes or 2 Tennis clinic registrations. Seconded by Dan Almind. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 0. Motion passed

Old Business:

- Review Commission By-laws – The wording is being worked on.
- Swim Team – Nothing to report
- Railroad Avenue Property & Cleanup – James had planned for a cleanup day this weekend but the Soccer group cannot be there. He wants to have it Saturday May 4.
- Men’s Softball – Nothing to report.
- Brew Fest – Susan gave Craig the permit paperwork. Some information still needs to be completed.
- Home Run Derby – Nothing to report
- Community Day – Mark had sent a tentative flier to all commissioners to review. Specifics about start time, the number of teams, the count, eliminations, time limits were discussed as well as contact information for the flier and registration processes. Adam Zimmer volunteered to umpire. Susan will update the flier and have copies made for the Festival booth Saturday. Mark will let Susan know team requirements as she will receive the initial information.

Communications

- No communications.

Recreation Director’s Report

- The Grandstand and Pool have been de-winterized. 3 damaged faucet valves and one plunger had to be replaced. There appear to be no problems in the filter house.

- The local Boy Scout troop asked if there are any projects we have that could be an Eagle Scout project. Dugouts at Steinhardt field were recommended.
- Saturday is opening day for Girls Softball and Little League. Girls Softball games are away. Little League will be at the Borough Park Ballfield starting 9 am Saturday and finishing with a game under the lights.
- On Saturday, April 13 Warren Hills Girls Softball played Voorhees at the ball field. Gary estimates there were close to 500 people in attendance. Mark Garrison heard lots of positive comments. We sold over \$250 in food. Each player and police officer were given food.
- Today was take your child to work day. Gary had his 2 grandchildren help lay out a Pony league/T ball field in the outfield at Boro Park field with 50' bases and a 100' outfield.
- Since the last meeting Gary has put in approximately 140 hours but has been paid for 59 hours.

Recreation Secretary's Report

- No report. – discussed in New Business.

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – Despite the weather the Egg Hunt was a success. There were about 100 children there. Mark Garrison recommended keeping a supply of filled eggs off the fields next year for children who do not get any.
- 5k – (commission) – Gary said the Spring 5K/Community Day at the High School was cancelled. We will hold our regular event in the fall.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – No report.
- 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) – The first game was yesterday. It went well. Rick asked Mark if he will do the summer clinic again this year. Mark said yes and he will talk with the coaches. He wants to start sending fliers out in mid-May. He will keep the cap on participants at 50 players. Susan will send last year's flier to Mark.
- Adult (Men's) Softball – (Adam Zimmer) – There will be an ASA Tournament Saturday July 6 or 20th (waiting for umpire availability). Adam would like to use the Borough Park ballfield as one of the three fields and have the 4 final games played there. The field would be in use 9 am to 10 pm. Adam asked if the concession stand will be open and could Gatorade be stocked. Gary said it will be open and we regularly stock Gatorade
- Karate – (James Sawyer) – No report.
- Swim Team – (Rick Feldman/ Sean Farrington) – No report.
- Swim Lessons (Rick Feldman) – Registration has been opened.
- Pool – (Rick Feldman) – No report.
- Tennis Clinic – (James Sawyer) – James spoke with the High School Tennis Coach. She is pleased the clinic will be billed as the Warren Hills Youth Tennis Clinic which she feels will attract more families from the sending district. James asked Susan to change the contact information on the Tennis Clinic webpage. Fliers will be printed for Saturday's Festival.
- Zumba – No report.

Old Business Discussions

- Commission Discussion – Sean Farrington thinks the commission should set up a shared calendar for all Sports Programs and events so all commissioners can see when pre-program requirements should be done, i.e. open registration, advertise, inventory and order equipment/uniforms, solicit donations. This would allow all commissioners to actively participate in ongoing programs and help plan/schedule future programs.
- Sean would like to see a golf clinic set up. He will talk with Harker's Hollow.
- Rick began discussion of events at the previous Borough Council meeting in regards to the movement to take sports programs away from the commission.
- Dan Almind moved to remove Rick Feldman from the Chairperson position of the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Mark Garrison. Discussion – Dan feels Rick has not done the job well in the past year. Numerous items were tabled and not followed up on, the Swim Team being the biggest example. A change of power is needed. Mark agrees with Dan's statement. He said inaction has caused the lack of confidence Borough Council now has in the Rec Commission. The chairperson needs to push hard, hold commissioners accountable for their

programs, keep them actively involved. A change is needed. Craig Geller agrees with Mark and Dan. He feels Rick dragged his feet on too many items. The Commission needs a new direction.

- Rick Feldman tendered his resignation as Recreation Commission Chairperson.
- Sean Farrington, Vice-Chairperson, assumed leadership of the meeting.
- Dan withdrew his motion to remove Rick Feldman as Recreation Chairperson. Mark Garrison withdrew his seconding of the motion.
- Dan Almind moved to accept Rick Feldman's resignation from the Chairperson position. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 3. Motion passed.
- Sean asked for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Mark Garrison, Craig Geller, James Sawyer and Dan Almind submitted Dan Almind for nomination. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 3. Dan Almind nominated as the Chairperson of the Recreation Commission.
- Dan Almind assumed leadership of the meeting.
- Adam Zimmer resigned his position as Commissioner on the Recreation Commission. Dan moved to accept Adam's resignation. Seconded by Mark Garrison. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 1. Motion passed.
- Dan asked all commissioners to review the By-laws again prior to the next meeting so changes can be made at that meeting.
- Dan plans to attend one Borough Council meeting each month in order to share Recreation information with the Council and receive their feedback.
- Dan asked Gary to compile a report of revenue and expenses from 2014 through 2018. Gary said that information should be requested from the CFO.
- James said JCP&L has been on the Railroad Avenue property. It appears they are running lines and there is a new pole on the ground near the Railroad Avenue entrance. James asked Gary to check with the Borough Manager about any and all JCP&L right of ways on the property and where they are running lines for the new solar field.
- Dan asked James if the park camera equipment could be repaired. James said the company has not supplied a quote for the replacement part(s) but he warned the entire inner workings could be damaged. He recommends replacing the entire camera system. Dan asked Gary to compile costs for a new system.

Audience Participation

- Craig moved to re-open Audience Participation. Seconded by Mark Garrison.
- Mayor David Higgins approached the podium. Residents have contacted him regarding the Girls Softball Pony team. Their shirts were not ready for their pictures. Susan and Mark said there was a mix up with the order. David asked Gary if the DPW cut out the Taylor Street field. Gary said not yet. Pony will play their opening home game at the Borough Park field. Gary told the coaches they can also play at Vara field. David asked about First Aid kits. Gary and Susan said they had already been delivered to the coaches' closet in the Grandstand at Borough Park. David said there have been issues with parking at the Taylor Street field. A No Parking restriction was put in place on Taylor Street while work was done in the area. Residents complained that the softball parents were parking in No Parking areas and the police did not issue any tickets. Gary said the No Parking restriction is expected to be lifted tomorrow. Gary requested the Borough Council approve signs for the Taylor Street field allowing parking only for Authorized Recreation Programs. David said that would require a change in the Borough's parking ordinance.
Gary also requested signs for the park "No smoking or vaping within 1000 feet of the pool" or No smoking or vaping within 100 feet of all facilities and the playground".
- David reminded the commission the public hearing for the Open Space and Recreation tax will be held at the Land Use Board meeting Monday, April 29th.
- Rick Feldman left the meeting at 8:25 pm.
- David said three people who applied to the commission will be appointed at the May 7 Borough Council meeting.
- David said there are openings on the Land Use Board and Library Board if commissioners are interested in getting involved in other areas.
- David said he will keep the commission up to date regarding the Council and discussions of implementing or joining a 501c3 organization to run the sports programs. While the Borough Manager has been investigating

options, it is the Council's decision to approve any changes. He doesn't know of any changes being brought up at this time. He suggested setting up events that would generate revenue for the commission, such as the Tug-O-War or Home Run Derby. Gary suggested a Hole in One contest on Community Day.

- Craig Geller moved to close audience participation. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Executive Session (If Necessary)

- No Executive Session.

Facebook page

- No report.

Recap

- No recap requested.

Commissioner and Director Comments

- Dan Almind –Dan asked Gary if he has a date for opening the pool. Gary said he will open when it is safe, when the filter house and pool house are all up and running, and when it is economically feasible to open. If we plan to open Memorial Day weekend we will have to have the pool ready at least 2 weeks before the lifeguard training and we would have to pay for all the chemicals and testing for a minimum of three weeks. With the additional 2 ½ weeks from Memorial Day to the season opening, we would start the season with about a \$13,000 deficit. Dan and Gary agreed they would get the lifeguard training set up before an opening day was determined.
- Sean Farrington– No comments.
- Rick Feldman – No comments
- Mark Garrison– No comments.
- Craig Geller– No comments.
- James Sawyer – No comments.
- Gary Masenior – No comments.

Adjournment

- Craig Geller moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Seconded by James Sawyer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 1, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Adjourn **8:54 PM**