

Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
July 10, 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 7:05 p.m.

Statement of Adequate Notice

- Sean Farrington 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, Craig Coughlan, Craig Geller, Spencer Nicholson, James Sawyer, and Christine Rodriguez.

Audience Participation:

- Spencer Nicholson moved to open audience participation. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
- Matthew Hall, Borough Manager and Brooks Schott, Pool Supervisor gave updates on the pool. The pool is fully staffed with cashiers/ food service workers, 14 lifeguards, 8 of whom received StarGuard certification, 2 pool managers and a pool supervisor. There are 4 high school age lifeguards who will be available through the end of the season. The managers and supervisor, as well as a DPW employee, have CPO certification. Brooks and Matt assessed the pool equipment and made or scheduled some of the necessary repairs. A service technician is scheduled for Monday to calibrate the chlorine system and train Matt and Brooks. The chlorine tank has a minor leak, probably a gasket. The flow meter has not been fixed. There is a leak in the splash pad that the Sewer Dept personnel will look at. Odds and ends, minor leaks, in the pool house were addressed. The baby pool was painted with slip resistant paint and a sign posted that children should walk to prevent minor scrapes. Dan asked if Matt recommends getting a full timer person to take care of the pool. Matt feels we are fine for this summer, but will evaluate the situation as needed. A maintenance log for the pump house is needed. Discussion of a winterizing schedule was held. Because the soccer program can run into November, we can look into whether just the pool, not the grandstands, can be winterized earlier. If not, a port-a-john could be used. The pool was not covered last year. Several tile need repair before the pool is covered this year.
Dan asked if Brooks or Matt had received quotes for a water fountain outside the snack bar. Neither had. Link & Son were to send quotes for a fountain with a bottle filler. But since those need to be stored indoors in winter weather Dan does not feel it will be practical and a regular fountain will be better.
Sean suggested a party/event to close the pool season. Dan asked about using encased LED lights in the pool for night events. Several commissioners noted this would require cutting into the concrete which they are against. Brooks said the StarGuard lifeguard training went well. He recommends sending an employee for Lifeguard training certification held in Cranford in the late winter. Dan said this was the original plan and will work with Brooks to determine who should be sent.
- Spencer Nicholson moved to close audience participation. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.

Minutes of Prior meeting:

- No minutes available.

New Business:

- Commission Voting Procedures – Dan said he believed Gary wanted to review this since there are several new commissioners. Dan does not feel this review is necessary.

Old Business:

- Review Commission By-laws – Craig asked if everyone had read the by-laws, had any questions or any changes. Any changes must be approved by the Borough Council.
- Railroad Avenue Property – No further work is being done on the property now. Dan will talk with Matt Hall.

- BrewFest – Craig has not heard from the state. Dan Almind will reach out to the Fire Chief about doing a joint event.
- Home Run Derby – table discussion.
- Community Day – Scheduled for this Saturday. Mark Garrison has the flier which needs changes. The softball tournament will not take place. Mark was not able to set up brackets and game rules. No teams signed up since the flier was not released. The free pool day was promoted at the Green Fest. A kickball game will be set up and possibly water balloons. Dan Almind wants to sell food and have local vendors there. A cashier from the pool would be used and needs to be scheduled. Food could be sold at the family softball game at night. Sean recommended having just the free pool day since so few people know about this event.
- Cameras – No quotes have been submitted. New quotes are recommended.

Reports:

- Recreation Secretary – No report - absent

Sports Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – No report
- 5k – (commission) – Dan Almind said Mike Jones, Athletic Director at Warren Hills, was supposed to attend but could not. He heard from Mike’s office. Mike wants to hold the Warren Hills Community Day on October 26 and we can do the 5K. Dan likes this as it would let us keep the Halloween theme. Runners, volunteers and commissioners can all wear costumes. The race will start at the High School stadium. The new race route needs to be confirmed. James will talk with the soccer group to confirm if they want to “run” as a group, dribbling soccer balls. The commission will determine a group rate, possibly family and organization rates.
- Youth Soccer – (James Sawyer) – 8 children have signed up. James will send the flier to Christine to post on Facebook. The temporary fence on the ball field will need to be removed by Aug 1.
- Street Hockey – (Spencer Nicholson) – No report.
- Youth Basketball – (James Sawyer) – No report.
- Lil’ Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) – No report.
- Girls Softball – (Mark Garrison) – The summer clinic wants to hold a game under the lights on Tuesday, July 23. Craig Coughlan wants to know who knows how to control the lights.
- Karate – (Sean Farrington) – Sean wants to talk with the Jiu Jitsu gym to see if we can set up a similar program with them. Having the Karate instructor hold a demonstration was mentioned.
- Swim Lessons (Dan Almind) – Craig Geller sent out confirmation emails for Session 1. Dan will send them for Session 2.
- Pool – (Craig Coughlan) – A Policy Procedure Manual and Daily log book must be kept in the pump house. James said a daily checklist is already there. Dan said last year the DPW wanted to purchase a storage wheel for the pool cover with their additional funds. It was not purchased. They do not currently have the funds to purchase one. Dan said we must look into the product and the cost. Previous discussion of the pool was held in Audience Participation.
- Tennis Clinic – (James Sawyer) – T shirts have been ordered from All Sports. The year was removed from the logo so the extra shirts can be used next year.
- Zumba – No report.

Communications:

- Susan Turner had received requests for free pool memberships. Dan read the information for each applicant. One applicant has a larger income than allows for a free or even reduced membership fee. A single parent and a family of four, with one senior member, applied separately but they all list the same street address and do not provide any financial information. The single parent provided copies of State Health Benefits cards and State EBT card. Spencer Nicholson moved to allow the free family pool memberships if the families provided the necessary financial information, clarified their living situation, and qualified financially. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
Kid Care submitted a request for free pool passes for the children who attend their summer camp through NORWESCAP. Christine Rodriguez moved to allow 25 free pool passes per week for Kid Care. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.
- Dan received a request for a monetary donation from the Karen Nash Butterfly Garden. Since the commission cannot make monetary donations they would like to make a donation of equipment. It will be looked into whether that is allowed.

Social Media

- Christine Rodriguez said Susan asked her to look into advertising in the Treasure Hunt on their Community Bulletin. We can post up to 25 words for free. Additional words are \$.50 each. No attachments or fliers are allowed. Treasure Hunt will post the ad 2 weeks in advance. Sean asked if there is a limit to how often and for how long we can advertise. Christine will email them and also find out the cost for posting a flier or picture.

Commission Calendar

- No report

Executive Session (If Necessary)

- No Executive Session.

Recap

- No Recap requested.

Commissioner and Director Comments

- No comments

Adjournment

- Spencer Nicholson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 2, Abstain: 0. Motion passed. Adjourn **8:31 PM**