

**Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey**  
**Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**September 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 7:03 p.m.**

**Statement of Adequate Notice**

- Dan Almind 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, Craig Coughlan, Sean Farrington (7:20), Craig Geller, Spencer Nicholson and Christine Rodriguez. Also present: Susan Turner, Recreation Secretary

**Audience Participation:**

- Craig Geller moved to open audience participation. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1. Motion passed.
- James Schikschnit, Newbold Court, Washington, addressed the commission. He was a senior member of the pool this summer. Brooks and the staff did a great job at the pool. It was clean, well run and organized. But he did see some things that concerned him. Many parents bring their very young children into the shallow end of the main pool with out floaties or a buoyancy vest. Many also sit on the steps holding these children or otherwise playing with them. He said wet children can easily slip from an adult’s grasp and go underwater and children not being held by an adult can quickly and quietly slip under the water while the adult is unaware, especially if the adult’s attention is elsewhere. He recommended all children under age 5 who are not wearing floaties or a vest not be allowed in the main pool, but stay in the wading pool. He also said many parents allow their children in the wading pool/splash pad area unsupervised despite multiple signs saying adult supervision is required. Adults sitting on the main pool steps are blocking the pool exit, especially for young children and seniors who can slip trying to get around them. Lifeguards should regularly tell patrons they cannot sit on the steps. He also saw many instances of running on the concrete apron. The experienced guards policed this well but newer guards need to use their whistle more often and stop runners. Spencer Nicholson suggested renting floaties and vests for a nominal security fee returned when the items are handed in. Dan Almind asked Susan Turner to research other pools’ policies regarding small children and the costs of floaties and swim vests. Susan suggested asking businesses to donate to purchase vests. Dan would like a written copy of the pool rules distributed to pool patrons. James Schikschnit said the commission should consider charging seniors \$25 for a pool membership. He believes most seniors would pay a small fee for their membership.
- Spencer Nicholson moved to close audience participation. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1. Motion passed.

**Minutes of Prior meeting:**

- Tabled until Sean Farrington is present.

**New Business:**

- No new business.

**Old Business:**

- Budget Discussion – Pool – Craig Coughlan said the biggest expense at the pool is payroll. Extra 2019 expenses were reviewed. While many probably won’t be repeated next season the same dollar amount will be used to estimated unexpected expenses next season. Ways to cut spending were reviewed including privatizing swim lessons, privatizing the concession stand, adding new programs and reducing pool hours. Ways to increase revenue were briefly discussed and will be discussed further at future meetings.  
Girls Softball – Craig Geller said the program will need to buy softballs, pitching rubbers and a home plate. A past commissioner has agreed to manufacture a new pitching rubber anchor if the commission provides the material. The field needs to be recut and the bases will need to be reset.

**Audience Participation:**

- Craig Geller moved to reopen Audience participation. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

- Michael Scott, Washington Square Circle, Washington addressed the commission. Michael had coached the Lil Hoopsters program in 2018 and had approached the commission in the past about running a summer basketball clinic at the park. He has leased a building on Route 31 that he is upgrading in order to host Basketball clinics, camps, training sessions and other events. It will have a half court regulation court. He expects it to be completed this fall and he would like to hold the Lil Hoopsters classes there. The possibility of holding a summer clinic there was briefly discussed. Dan Almind asked Mike to contact the commission when the upgrades are completed and he is ready to hold classes.
- Scott Nicholson moved to close audience participation. Seconded by Craig Geller. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

### **Reports:**

- Recreation Secretary – Meeting Dates – returning the second meeting of each month to the fourth Wednesday schedules the last meeting of 2019 on Dec 25. Spencer Nicholson moved to cancel the December 25, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.
- The Grandstand men’s bathroom light does not work at all now. Dan Almind asked Susan to contact an electrician to have it repaired now since soccer is still going on.
- The parks maintenance personnel want to know if they should store the pool picnic tables and benches around the wading pool, as was done in the past, under the pavilion or in the concession stand area. It was agreed to store them in the concession area. Susan will ask the DPW if they can help parks maintenance move them.

### **Sports Programs**

- Easter Egg Hunt — (all commissioners) – No report
- 5k – (commission) – The 5K will be on Nov 2 with Warren Hills Community Day. Mike Jones is getting a bouncy house, ice cream truck, cotton candy machine and other fun things for the children. A soccer game will take place 12 -4. Dan has to talk with the police about blocking the roads or allowing traffic on one side. Susan asked Dan to find out if the school, the police or the Rec Commission are responsible for getting a crossing guard during the race. Sean suggested we get donated prizes for first, second and third place Fun Run participants, items like a bowling certificate or virtual reality certificate. Susan handed out copies of the donation/sponsor letter and flier for Commissioners to use when visiting businesses. Susan reminded them to update the shared document showing what businesses are visited.
- Youth Soccer – () – No report.
- Street Hockey – (Spencer Nicholson) – Spencer is waiting for coaches’ contact information from Gary Masenior.
- Youth Basketball – (Sean Farrington) – No report.
- Lil’ Hoopsters – (Craig Geller) –No report.
- Girls Softball – (Craig Coughlan) – No report
- Karate – (Sean Farrington) – No report.
- Swim Lessons (Dan Almind) – No report.
- Pool – (Craig Coughlan) – No report.
- Tennis Clinic – () – No report.
- Zumba – No report

### **Communications:**

- No Communications.

### **Social Media**

- No report.

### **Commission Calendar**

- No report

### **Executive Session (If Necessary)**

- No Executive Session.

### **Recap**

- No Recap requested.

### **Commissioner and Director Comments**

- No comments

### **Adjournment**

- Christine Rodriguez moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm. Seconded by Craig Coughlan. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0 Absent: 0. Motion passed. Adjourn **9:02 PM**