

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar
Mr. Michael Breslin
Mr. Salvatore Cortese, Chairman
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maureen McEntee
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski

Absent: None

Present: Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Susan Carey
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Cortese called the meeting to order. He stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been posted and published in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Law of 1975, "Open Public Meetings Act."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's January 23, 2014 Re-Organization Meeting.

Mr. Sittmann moved that the minutes of the January 23, 2014 Re-Organization Meeting be accepted, seconded by Mrs. Slawinski Voice vote. All in favor (with the exception of Mr. Breslin who abstained). **Motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Cortese opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda. Seeing none, he closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

RECREATION DIRECTORS' REPORT – February 2014

Mrs. Leahey presented the Recreation Director's Report for February 2014.

The Kids are Special Talent Show – This event was held on February 6, 2014 and showcased 20 participants and 20 mentors in nine acts. Others assisted by participating with the Stage Crew, Set Design Crew, Advertising Crew and Ticket Sale Crew. There were also several Masters of Ceremonies.

Rutgers Training - Mrs. Leahey advised that Kevin Byrnes contacted her regarding the Rutgers safety training for Little League; she directed him to on-line information.

There was a cross discussion about payment/reimbursement for this training.

Fitness Instruction Evening Program - Mrs. Leahey advised the instructor for the Wednesday night fitness program will not longer be able to conduct the class. There are approximately 30 participants. She is working to identify a new instructor.

The equipment belongs to this instructor. Theresa Myers had taken the test to qualify for the instructor position. She has also an application. The previous instructor (Stacy Williamson) has agreed to let the new instructor use her equipment. Stacy continues to conduct classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Ms. Myers will need to have a background check.

Accident Incident Report Form – This is a new Borough form that currently is in the DRAFT phase.

Councilwoman Fu provided additional information stating that the Borough clerk is looking for feedback to ensure it meets the needs.

Mrs. Leahey advised she will review the form and provide feedback to the Borough Clerk.

Cross discussion concerning possible changes to the form as well as discussion about what the form addresses, why, and how.

Mr. Cortese encouraged the members to review the form and to provide suggested changes either to him or to Mrs. Leahey.

Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance – Information on this matter was received from the Borough Clerk. She included documentation in Messrs. Bodnar and Breslin's folders since this relates to Family Day. Mr. Cortese and Mr. Sittmann also received the information. However, if anyone else would like to read it, Mrs. Leahey will provide copies.

Pool Membership Form and the Booklet – Mrs. Leahey advised this information will be posted on the Borough's website this week. She has also provided the members with copies of the Pool post card from 2013. She asked if the Commission wants to do this again in 2014.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt – Mrs. Leahey stated she wants to confirm the cost for this event this year. In 2013 it was \$5 per person and \$8 at the door. She has ordered the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Cross discussion concerning using Shop-Rite versus other supermarkets; including the ease and convenience of using Shop Rite; how many participants paid at the door (65); that there were 278 people at this event in 2013; that maximum occupancy at the venue is 300; and this number (300) was set as the maximum number of tickets to be sold; including information that tickets are limited and may be sold out.

The Commission determined this year's tickets should be \$6 and \$9.

Mrs. Leahey provided details about the eggs ordered for the Hunt (3,000 eggs were ordered versus 2,000 in 2013) and the entertainment arranged for (face painting and possibly other activities, too)

Cross discussion as to what Little League decided regarding holding its Opening Day on the same date as the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event; approximate time this event will end; and how long it will take to clean up and be totally off the field.

Mr. Cortese asked Mrs. Leahey to contact the Vo-Tech school and see if they can do some prep work on the fields on Saturday, April 12, 2014.

Summer Concerts – Mrs. Leahey asked if the Commission wants her to contact local talent first as to their availability to participate in these concerts. There will be four concerts.

The Commission agreed with this approach.

Cross discussion about bands for Family Day.

U. S. Sports Institute (USSI) – Mrs. Leahey advised this organization has provided information on their sports program for the summer. The organization has requested that a Late Fee be applied to their enhancement programs. Mrs. Leahey advised them that the Borough's program does not apply Late Fees to enhancement programs. The Borough receives \$10 per person no matter what occurs at the program.

Cross discussion about whether not allowing USSI to apply a Late Fee is fair to this organization, including that the Fee Schedule is already approved for 2014 and no such Late Fee could be applied until the 2015 season and Mrs. Leahey explained how this program is currently conducted

Paint the Town – The art teacher involved with this project would like to do the underpass this year, but someone else has already expressed interest in doing this plus Mrs. Leahey stated she has always felt a bit nervous with young children being involved with painting at the underpass.

Brief cross discussion of locations where painting might be done.

Summer Enhancement Programs – Mrs. Leahey advised that Susan has contacted all the 2013 Enhancement instructors

Susan advised that most have responded back to her. She also provided additional information about some of the classes planned as Enhancement programs.

Mr. Cortese provided information about past years' programs as well as the efforts of Mrs. Slawinski and Mrs. Swift, particularly the survey they prepared and had distributed to residents so they could indicate what kinds of programs they would like to see offered. He also appreciated that an art program will be available. He believes that having interesting and diverse offerings for these programs creates a dynamic summer program.

Cross discussion about the surprising number of CIT applications being received – there is no CIT program any longer and how best to proceed when the demand and the supply are there. Mr. Cortese stated the Commission will continue to address this matter.

Summer Recreation Programs – Salary Issues – Mrs. Leahey and Susan spoke about the matter of the State Minimum Wage issue.

Mr. Cortese stated that municipalities are exempt from the State Minimum Wage requirements.

Cross discussion of this matter, including if the Summer Programs can handle wages at the State's minimum wage amount and how many possible Camp employees will be lost if this minimum wage is not offered.

Mrs. Leahey would like to hold a discussion of this matter as soon as possible; this week if possible.

The Commission determined this discussion can be held on March 13, 2014. Susan must determine her availability for this meeting.

Cross discussion about the Borough's payroll system being bi-weekly and the problems this causes for the summer employees in the Camp program and that the Commission agrees with Susan 100%, but there is nothing that can be done to change this at this point in time.

Mr. Cortese stated the paydays will be July 15, July 28, and an August date. He recommended the dates be included on the application so that people will know.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Basketball – Mr. Bodnar reported that everything is good right now.

Little League Opening Day – Several Commissioners repeated the caution that if they do not change this date from the same date as the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt event, they cannot be at the site until 12:00 Noon. Mr. Cortese advised he will be meeting with Kevin and Tom in this regard.

Borough School Board Meeting – There was a meeting to discuss the baseball fields, and it went very well. Several Commissioners were at this meeting as was Councilwoman Fu and a representative of the Department of Public Works (DPW). Various members representing the school were present, too. All seemed willing to be responsible for what needs to be done. There was some concern whether 10 yards of dirt/clay would be sufficient.

Mr. Cortese requested that an e-mail be sent to Sean (Borough School) tomorrow that the 10 yards may not be adequate. He said this is shared services, but the Commission will help them. He also spoke about the clay supply, also expressing concern as to whether or not this supply will be enough, suggesting that the school representative be informed of this limited supply.

Cross discussion to continue talking about the issue of the supply of clay and how it should be allocated fairly. The suggestion was made that the best way of doing this would be to prioritize the fields.

Councilwoman Fu advised that she doubts very much that the Borough will be agreeable to purchasing additional clay.

Mr. Cortese provided background on the issue of the Borough once providing clay to the Little League in addition to other funding given them while it was under DPW. However, in the last 15 years Little League has increased its funding raising efforts and doing their clay. The Vo-Tech school has provided approximately \$15,000 worth of clay over the years. He also gave details on the agreement with the school that says they cover the infield and the Commission/Borough cover the outfield. He advised that he does not believe there will be clay from the Vo-Tech school this year. He also explained other strategies Little League has used in the past to acquire clay.

Cross discussion about exactly what the Commission/Borough will commit to helping the school with in connection with the fields at the Borough School. It

also included a number of issues relating to Little League, too, and the issues relating to the supply of clay.

Mrs. McEntee and Mr. Cortese expressed concern about the possible existence of mixed signals on any number of these issues.

Mr. Cortese asked for input from Councilwoman Fu. He said he just wants the Borough School to do its part pursuant to the contract and possibly their budget.

Councilwoman Fu said that the Commission should let Little League know that they are responsible for clay for the fields that they use, including any fields at the Borough School. She agreed that if there is by some chance extra clay, it can be shared with the Borough School, but she does not believe, based on what she is hearing, that there will be extra clay.

Mr. Cortese stated that a load of clay is 24 tons, about 16-18 yards. There are also different grades of clay. Little League paid for all the lumber for the bleachers and painted them and they took care of the bating cages, too. He provided additional details on work/services that were done by Little League. He has no issue with letting Little League know the Commission is not happy with the way the fields look.

Greystone Turf Field Times – Mr. Cortese advised the Council is in negotiations with the County/Greystone to get the usage times set. He said he was uncertain about the condition of the fields and their being saturated with snow.

Continuing, Mr. Cortese provided details about a recent meeting with Morris Plains Soccer, Colonial Lacrosse and Girls' Lacrosse. Morris Plains Soccer does not need a large-sized field like available at Greystone. Lacrosse requested every hour that the Commission/Borough was able to get for the spring at Greystone. He was shocked, never thinking they would ask for this much time; he thought other sports would want some of the time, but no one came forward. There are still matters to be "ironed out" regarding use by lacrosse and soccer. He displayed a document that showed the fields.

The understanding is that the lacrosse program has the funds for the fields.

Cross discussion about the use of certain fields and issues surrounding the activities of the soccer and lacrosse organizations.

Family Day – Mr. Bodnar advised that the invitation went out to the various sports organizations, including swim team, Little League, soccer, basketball, and others. This was to invite them to attend a meeting regarding the fund raising efforts at Family Day. The meeting will be on March 11, 2014 and will impact 2015, not 2014. He provided additional details about the event.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Slawinski expressed concern about the fund raising efforts for Theater (in the past it essentially has been her) and also the lack of assistance/support of the parents to help. It is the same people all the time.

VOUCHERS

Mr. Cortese asked the Commission members to check the vouchers.

Mr. Breslin moved that the vouchers be approved as presented, seconded by Mr. Sittmann. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cortese read the resolution allowing the Commission to meet in Executive Session.

Mr. Sittmann moved to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

