

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

March 27, 2014

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

Absent: Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski

Present: Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
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."

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Cortese opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda.

Nancy Boyajy, Morris Plains, thanked the Commission for allowing her to come before the Commission tonight and speak. She read a letter relating to Pool membership. She advised she is a senior resident of the Borough having lived here for 36 years. She obtains a Senior Single Pool membership each year. This coming summer she will be taking care of her granddaughter every day and she wonders if she could request a Senior Couple Pool membership versus paying the Guest fee every day which will be quite expensive. Would the Commission be willing to grant this permission to her.

Mr. Sittmann replied that the Commission probably would very much like to grant her request; however, the Borough Council establishes the fees. The Commission can discuss her request with the Council. He asked Councilwoman Fu to discuss this matter with the Council. This Commission cannot change the fees once they are made law.

Mr. Cortese explained why the Commission does not have the authority to change the fees since the Commission is an advisory board that can make recommendations to the Council on such issues. He stated this could perhaps be considered as a hardship case by the Council. She will be contacted once a decision is made

Mrs. Boyajy advised her granddaughter is five years old. She provided her telephone number.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's February 27th, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Mrs. McEntee referred to the next to last page near the bottom where there is "Colonial Lacrosse or Football" in bold with question marks. This appears to be looking for an answer or clarification of some kind. It was decided that the words "or football" would be removed.

Mr. Bodnar moved that the minutes of the February 27th, 2014 Regular Meeting be approved with recommended revision, seconded by Mr. Breslin. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

RECREATION DIRECTORS' REPORT – March 2014

Mrs. Leahey presented the Recreation Director's Report for March 2013.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt – Mrs. Leahey reported that 85 tickets have been sold so far for this event. She believes this is a high number for this point in time. The online orders from the Shop-Rite were done for non-perishables and perishables. The perishables will be delivered the day prior to the breakfast. Only 270 tickets maximum can be sold to match the table accommodations. People were turned away last year at the door; this year a note was placed on the flyer stating that "tickets were limited". She provided details about the amount food and the number of eggs ordered. Little League Opening Day will begin at 1:30 p. m. on the same day as this event.

Summer Concerts – Mrs. Leahey named the various musical groups that will be providing music at these concerts advising she has contacted the group that will not be hired this – they were very understanding. All the groups are from Morris Plains, they have all been notified, and she will work on their vouchers next week so the checks will be ready on the dates of the concerts. She advised the groups that many of the concert attendees are senior citizens and to please make sure their music selections are appropriate. The music will be soft rock.

Summer Programs – Mrs. Leahey discussed the DRAFT flyer and the registration form for the summer programs. She requested that the Commission members review these and proofread them. Registration will begin on April 16, 2014. She is

seeking a coach for girls' basketball. She is reluctant to offer boys' basketball without also offering girls' basketball.

One of the Commission members (Mr. Bodnar) believes he can help Mrs. Leahey identify a girls' basketball coach. He will let her know.

She advised she will soon be receiving the fee information for the Red Cross babysitting. She also advised about the changes made to the guidelines and policies to state that a \$10 fee will be applied to each cancelled enhancement program. This is noted on the top of the flyer and on top of the registration form. This is a new policy for this year.

Pool – Mrs. Leahey advised she received the quote from Staples for the Pool postcard. The cost has gone up somewhat – last year it was \$580 or so and this year it is \$661.50 – hopefully no additional quotes will be needed. She asked when the Commission would like these postcards to go out – seems a bit too early right now.

Cross discussion about the Pool postcards. It was decided the postcards should be sent during the last week in April. Brief comments about when the Pool would open and bonus weekends.

Senior Chair Yoga – Mrs. Leahey advised she has a proposal from Diane Tartaglia about Senior Chair Yoga. She has been at the Community Center once a week for the past eight weeks as a volunteer instructor for a program for seniors. This program is in affiliation with a program called Healthy Bones, another senior program that is held at the Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ms. Tartaglia has indicated she would be delighted to continue a senior chair yoga as a recreation program in the future and outlined a senior preventative health care program. It would be an eight-week program on Wednesday afternoons beginning in May. She is willing to be paid \$32 per participant with a minimum of five participants which would be \$160 for eight weeks. However, she is concerned that the seniors may not want to pay the \$32, but perhaps they will surprise her. She also referred to the program Matter of Balance. She would like to be able to involve Ms. Tartaglia in various programs, to the extent possible.

Boot Camp and Yoga Programs – A Boot Camp program started last night. Eight participants were required to break even and there were 15 participants. This program is coordinated by Theresa Meyer, taking over from Stacey Williamson. Not counting last night's program, but counting the other Boot Camps and Yoga, after all expenses and administrative costs, she has \$1,200 that will be absorbed into the Recreation fund. Each program must pay for itself.

Cross discussion about whether there could be transferring of funds from one program to another, if a particular program needs some "added support".

Summer Camp Salaries – Mrs. Leahey stated this will be discussed in closed session later.

E-Mails Received – Mrs. Leahey stated she gave the Commission members copies of these e-mails and that they outline requests from the Little League that they would like to have done before their Opening Day.

Mr. Cortese provided information concerning these requests and how they relate to the need to have the Borough's budget passed. He commented on a number of the requests and how he thinks the Commission will be able to assist the Little League.

Cross discussion about the requests contained in the e-mails, including that requests should be coming from just one contact, clay amounts, clay at the VFW, and related issues.

Councilwoman Fu advised that she contacted the Department of Public Works (DPW) about the doors/door jambs. She will advise the DPW about the faucets, even though they were worked on last year, they still need work for this year. Part of the problem appears to be one of water pressure. She asked if the DPW has been asked to open up the snack bar yet.

There did not appear to be a clear answer on opening up the snack bar except that softball is scheduled to begin April 1 and access to bathrooms will be needed.

Mr. Cortese will also speak with the DPW Superintendent tomorrow about these matters as well as issues relating to the fields and clay.

Cross discussion about whether a port-a-john will need to be arranged for for softball if the water cannot be turned on, including whether there is any official rule addressing this and that this is an issue that will have to be addressed and resolved very soon.

Mrs. Leahey commented on having given the Commission members of the "Central Park of Morris County Artificial Turf Field Rules."

Cross discussion about these rules raised the subject of whether tents/canopies would be permitted since the rules do not mention them.

Mrs. Leahey concluded her report.

VOUCHERS

Mr. Cortese asked the Commission members to check the voucher submitted for approval.

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

Cross discussion about a variety of issues related to the business of the Recreation Commission and sports organizations and their activities.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Councilmember Fu asked about the possibility of using Central Park during the summer for the Teen Camp Program, possibly for one day a week. This is a subject raised during their meeting with the Central Park organization. The charge to reserve the field/play area is \$85 per day. The Teen Center group would probably only need in the morning, and maybe the fee could be lowered.

Cross discussion that perhaps the Summer Camp participants (the younger children) could also be able to use an area at Central Park from time to time.

Mrs. Leahey will talk with Susan about following up on these two ideas. She will also contact the proper person about the Borough School and she will also follow up about the busses. Rain days were briefly discussed. She asked who grants permission for Paint the Town activities; they want to paint the snack stand at Simons Park. Soccer is also involved with painting plan. There will be additional painting taking place, too.

Councilmember Fu will follow up on this request and get back with Mrs. Leahey.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER FU

Councilmember Fu reported that Rotary will be purchasing a scoreboard for Little League. They will also replace the roof at the Pavilion before the summer. The roof will be similar to the one on the sign downtown. There is also an Eagle Scout working on a project. He will be working on harnessing the recycling bins at the Little League fields to keep them from blowing around and spilling over.

Continuing, she advised that on Family Day the Time Capsule that has been buried for 50 years at Community Park will be excavated. The delivery of the rides and this event will need to be coordinated. The preference is that the excavation take place at 4:00 p.m. As part of the time capsule excavation, there will also be a dedication of a plaque honoring former Mayor Bangiola.

Councilmember Fu also raised the subject of signs at the tennis courts. These signs are for the group (USSI) that offers tennis lessons and indicate interested persons should contact them about lessons and gives their telephone number.

Mrs. Leahey advised she was not contacted by USSI about putting up these signs.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bodnar updated in connection with Family Day. There was a meeting with the sports organization about their participation in Family Day events. The organizations are open to ideas and suggestions. All or most of the organizations advised that the funds they bring in on Family Day is just is not enough to make a major difference for them. Two thoughts that came out of this meeting is (1) to make the “pie” bigger and thereby generate more money and (2) identifying corporate sponsors for the various activities – the fireworks, for the rides, etc. to offset the current costs. Another idea was how to raise funds for the sport organizations in the Borough versus raising funds for “my specific sport” – along the lines of a Booster Club fundraising efforts. The suggestions made come down to: (1) to increase the advertising to attract more attendees to the event and (2) to secure corporate sponsorships.

Cross discussion about the thoughts generated at the meeting with the sports organizations, including that having more attendees would also result in a greater need for parking; determine way that the funds raised by the rides could be split with or among the sports organizations; and several other changes that might help everyone involved.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cortese read the necessary Resolution allowing the Commission to enter into Executive Session.

Mr. Sittmann moved that this Resolution be approved, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Mrs. Slawinski moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mrs. McCabe. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

