

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

April 24, 2014

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar
Mr. Salvatore Cortese, Chairman
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maureen McEntee (arrived 7:40PM)
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski

Absent: Mr. Michael Breslin

Present: Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Sheryl McNichol, Recreation Coordinator
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 March 27, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Sittmann moved that the minutes of the March 27, 2014 Regular Meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Bodnar.

Mr. Cortese advised the minutes cannot be approved at this time due to the lack of a quorum. When Mrs. McEntee arrives, they can be approved at that time.

Roll Call

Yeas: Mr. Bodnar, Mr. Sittmann, Mr. Cortese, Mrs. McEntee
Nays: None
Abstain: Mrs. McCabe, Mrs. Slawinski
Absent: Mr. Breslin

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Cortese opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda. Hearing no one, Mr. Cortese closed this portion of the meeting.

RECREATION DIRECTORS' REPORT – April 2014

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

Mrs. Slawinski thanked everyone who helped with the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt event, specifically mentioning Gerry, Sal, Jan, Maureen, Mike, Sheryl, Karleen, and Councilwomen Fu and McCluskey.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt – Sheryl reported on this activity, and she, too, thanked everyone who helped with this event, including those mentioned previously by Mrs. Slawinski and all the volunteers. She reported that the Balloon Woman with the bracelets was a big hit as was the face painting. There was agreement that it would be a good idea for next year if the Balloon Woman could come at 9:00 a.m. versus 9:30 a.m. The children were well behaved. She thought that for next year it would be good to have more plain bagels and more doughnut holes (Munchkins) and less fruit. No Pop Tarts either. The granola and cereal was eaten.

Cross discussion about additional ideas for next year's event, including discussion about the heat in the building (it was too hot).

A profit was made at this event. There is a spreadsheet that will provide the detailed information.

Mr. Cortese thanked everyone involved.

Mrs. Leahey advised she had not included the phrase on the flyer "For Morris Plains Residents", but will make a note to do so for next year's event. However, she was glad she did include the phrase "Tickets are Limited." She believes the maximum number of participants can be raised to 250 from 235. A change that was mentioned was possibly changing the way the photographs with the Easter Bunny are taken – perhaps do this activity in a separate room.

Community Park Pool – The postcards were mailed earlier this week. She will also do a mailing to the new townhouse development located in Hanover Township (off American Road).

Cross discussion about issues with Mrs. Leahey's computer and some problems that she is experiencing, including the need to have the Muthu visit to attempt to resolve whatever issues there are, especially those relating to Pool membership work and the photographs that must be taken for the Pool badges.

Senior Chair Yoga – There were 16 registrations for this class, at \$20 each. There will be sufficient funds to cover the salary for the instructor. There is a waiting list

and a second class may be added. She believes this will be a great program for the seniors.

Summer Camp and Enhancements – The registrations to date are 83, and several Enhancements programs have already reached their maximums or are near it. She provided details about these specific programs. She is maintaining waiting lists for these programs and has also inquired of Susan as to whether there might be any chance for second sessions. The problem with this idea is lack of space.

Cross discussion about the timeframe for regular registration, including that the increased-fee registration begins on May 15, 2014; the registration is conducted at the same time each year; that some Commission members heard from some residents who were not pleased with the timeframe;

Mrs. Leahey advised that approximately \$29,000 has been taken in for the summer Camp and Enhancements. Compared to last year, this amount is roughly the same. She believes the weather has slowed the Pool memberships.

Mrs. Leahey reported she contacted the County regarding using the Greystone fields once a week. The cost would be \$85 to use the park plus a separate fee to use the field(s). These costs would apply each time. They are exploring the possibility of being able to negotiate these costs. The plan is to have Susan meet with the County representative.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER FU

Councilwoman Fu reported that Greystone appears to be doing well. She advised there are some issues regarding lighting, specifically lighting not being on in time for dusk activities; adjustments are being in made. There are a number of other minor matters that are being resolved. All the fields look very good. She also advised that the Council accepted the retirement resignation of Chief Scott Thompson at the last Council meeting.

The budget was introduced at the first Council meeting in April; it is up 1.85 percent. Included in this budget are improvements to Mountain Way, Dayton Road, Granniss Avenue, the Community Park parking lot and a municipal parking lot. A new boiler will be installed at the Community Center and a new back-up generator will be installed at Town Hall.

The dog and cat census will be beginning soon. She also advised of a presentation by Roseland Properties (a subsidiary of Mack-Cali) at a recent joint meeting of the Council and the Planning Board. A concept plan for additional multi-family housing was presented. This development would be on their property off Johnson Road.

She provided information regarding the activities on the Route 53 properties by Honeywell and what is currently happening at the former Pfizer property.

Councilwoman Fu advised that she had heard that the school district might be selling/has sold the school bus. The school district advised it will still provide a bus for Summer Camp field trips; they will contract the bus. She suggested that it would be a good idea if Susan met with Susan Vere to discuss the details of using the bus for field trips.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Family Day

Mr. Bodnar reported that three quotes were received this week for the rides. The incumbent vendor is the best price offered, and he was able to negotiate the terms including having more staff work at this event. He believes the quote for everything is \$5,325, an increase of approximately \$150 from 2013.

Chris Gardner will provide the entertainment. He provided information on the identification process for volunteers to help at this event. Nothing will change this year in terms of what the sports organizations will be selling to raise funds; next year is when the Commission anticipates some changes being made.

Mr. Bodnar assured the Commission that everything is lined up and the final work is continuing to be done. He described some of the rides that will be available.

Summer Theater

Mrs. Slawinski provided information concerning the Summer Theater program for 2014.

Summer Camp/Teen Center Field Trips

Mrs. Leahey advised that she and Councilwoman Fu have determined dates based on last year's field trip schedule. She then met with Susan to finalize the proposed field trips. The trips will be through the Teen Camp program. She provided information on the field trips being planned. The Teen Center program is up to ninth grade.

Girls' Basketball

A coach was identified for this program.

Cross discussion about one or more other programs; for example, the Junior Colonial Lacrosse team and use of a field(s), playing at Greystone fields, the fee costs involved in using Greystone, and the DPW doing seeding at some fields.

VOUCHERS

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cortese reported on matters relating to Little League, including Little League's recent Opening Day activities.

Mr. Sittmann advised that the eighth grade dance committee wants to use the Pool at a point in time. It has been confirmed that the Pool should be ready for use at the time they would like to use it. If it is not ready, the alternate plan is to use the nearby lawn and have a tent with lighting. There are issues relating to this plan and there may also be issues about using the Teen Center, too, for what they want to plan. Ordinances must be reviewed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Voice vote. All in favor to enter Executive Session. 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

