

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

July 24, 2014

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

Absent: Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maureen McEntee

Present: Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Sheryl McNichol, Events 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 June 26, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Bodnar moved that the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Sittmann. Voice vote. All in favor (except Mrs. Slawinski who abstained and Mrs. McCabe and Mrs. McEntee who were absent). **Motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

RECREATION DIRECTORS' REPORT – JULY 2014

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

Summer Camp – Next week will be the final week of Camp. Everything has gone very well and no Enhancement programs needed to be cancelled. She will provide

specific information in connection with the summer camp programs at the Commission's September meeting.

She advised of a communication she received from a parent who is a photographer. He wanted to take photos of the campers and provide a service to the program and the campers by taking fun, informal photos showing the campers enjoying the programs. He would do this for free. She told him that his idea would need to be presented to the Commission for discussion. On the camp registration form there is a section that can be completed to indicate the parent(s) do not want their child(ren) photographed. He also requested an opportunity to offer a photography program/class. She added that Susan's thought was that she would rather not have someone taking photographs at the camp and of the campers.

Mr. Cortese recommended that Mrs. Leahey thank this resident advising that it is just too involved in that it will require obtaining parents' permission to allow the photo taking.

Mrs. Slawinski also commented that historically the Commission has tried to steer clear of situations that would involve promotion of others' businesses.

Pool – She stated she was very pleased that the Pool enrollment numbers increased to the extent that they did.

Contributions to Sports Organizations – Mrs. Leahey advised that a full-amount contribution will not be made to Junior Colonials Football, now known as the Wildcats. The 2014 recommended stipends to these organizations have all been approved and appropriate. The contact for the Wildcats is Brian Klinger.

Mr. Cortese noted that he needs to meet with Mr. Hoey at the Community Center to discuss Greystone hours for the fall season. This should take place sooner rather than later.

Mrs. Leahey will contact Mr. Hoey to set up this meeting for a date in the first week of August, if possible.

Sports Organizations Issues – Cross discussion about when the various sports organizations will be planning to use the Greystone fields, making contact with the appropriate people at each organization, and making certain there are formal reservations of the needed fields at the needed times.

Mr. Cortese mentioned that the more fields Greystone is able to reserve/rent, there will be that much for funding that can go to the maintenance of the fields. He does not want them to lose any funding.

Mr. Bodnar advised that he is not even sure Mr.Klinger even wants or needs the Commission's contribution. The organization appears to be doing its own thing, and

it has other funding sources, too, including from the Jets. When the 2015 budget is developed, he is not certain the Wildcats should even be included.

Cross discussion about why the Commission is pleased to offer these contributions to the sport organizations, including that it helps the organizations help the Borough children who want to play and it provides an on-going connection between the organizations, the Commission, and the Borough.

Fall Programs – Mrs. Leahey has put together a draft of what she believes will be a good group of fall programs. There are 20 programs, two of which are new ones (baking and yoga for kids). She will again be doing Chair Yoga which was a huge success with the seniors. She mentioned that other programs will include such offerings as kick boxing, yoga, painting, and tennis among others.

Summer Theater Program/Presentation "Dream" – Mrs. Leahey provided flyers for this production that will be at the Borough School on July 31 and August 1 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

Summer Concerts – She provided a spreadsheet in connection with this activity. She advised that funds from this budget covered the cost for the DJ at the Splash Party and the Touch of Sinatra entertainment at the Senior Picnic with a balance remaining; \$550.

Family Day – The entertainment vendors, the final number there, after all expenses, was \$75

Senior Picnic – The Shop-Rite total was \$1,005.84. The consensus was that this event actually turned out to be a bit too long.

Splash Party – Mrs. Leahey provided information on this event, stating the lifeguards' salaries were not taken out of the budget amount. Mr. Sittmann said he will provide data to her on this matter.

Mrs. Leahey explained why she used Shop-Rite instead of Acme: (1) she was able to set up an account with Shop-Rite which she cannot set up with Acme and (2) She can order online from Shop-Rite which cannot do with Acme. She added that Stop & Shop has online shopping, but they cannot set up a "House Account".

Mr. Cortese stated he wanted this in the record of the meeting minutes.

Mrs. Slawinski thanked all those who helped with the Senior Picnic and the Splash Party, including Camp for setting up the tables and also for the decorations that were provided, and the men who cooked.

REPORT OF SHERYL MC NICHOL, EVENTS COORDINATOR – JULY 2014

Mrs. McNichol reported she is looking into shows for October, December, and February. *Matilda* would be on February 8, 2015 with prices ranging from \$57 to \$87. Another show is *One* with prices ranging from \$57 to \$100. *Kinky Boots* is another with prices ranging from \$90 to \$133 and also the always very popular *Christmas Spectacular* with prices ranging from \$40 to \$150. She did not select any Disney shows because 15 tickets must be reserved by credit card, an option that is not available to the Commission.

Commission members suggested several other Broadway shows that might be offered and discussed the pros and cons of the ones mentioned by Mrs. McNichol together with the timing of shows (months being suggested), with October appearing to be a month to not offer the shows because October is so busy.

Mrs. McNichol commented that she has been advised that tickets are less expensive for the morning shows – at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – for the *Christmas Spectacular* show. She asked the Commission members if anyone had any objections to her opening up an account for Facebook for Recreation to get the word out on the various Recreation activities and events. It is free.

Councilmember Fu advised she would have to investigate if this can be done.

Cross discussion about Mrs. McNichol's suggestion about a Facebook account, including issues related to postings; who would manage/oversee its use and how would this be done; it would be just for announcements of events; that the Council would need to review this proposal; and related concerns and matters.

Mrs. McNichol provided some illustrations that perhaps could be shown to the Council. She displayed them for the Commission members to view.

Mr. Cortese stated that “for the record, this year Rotary did the sod and the roof and the concrete at Simon’s Park.” He added the community is very fortunate to have such a generous club in the Borough.

Mrs. McNichol provided information concerning several of the Summer Concert Series concerts.

Mrs. Slawinski asked if there would be any possibility of having a “message telephone” at the Community Center that could inform of such things as a swim meets being cancelled, the Family Day rain date, and similar types of messages that would be beneficial for people to be able to know about.

Cross discussion about whether such an idea would be a workable one for the proposed purpose, including other types of issues such as when people should not be playing on the fields – for example during thunderstorms; continuing problems with the lighting at Simon’s Park; lighting at other Borough parks; and when Borough parks close for areas with and areas without lighting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Fu advised that at the last Council meeting Jason Kohn was sworn in as the new Police Chief and that Nicholas Broward is the new probationary patrolman. She also reported that the previous evening, July 23, 2014, the Council had a meeting about the proposed affordable housing development to be located on Route 53 and that the total number of apartment units would be 56 units. This development will be managed by the Madison Housing Authority and will include both age-restricted and non-age restricted housing.

Continuing, Councilmember Fu provided information about the Borough credit card; how it will be managed; who will be entitled to use a card; limits that will be applied to the cards (or perhaps applying the budgeted amount and returning funds not used at the end of the year); and that Ana will be conducting the necessary training soon. She also reported on specific current sports activities.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mrs. Slawinski advised there will be a lifeguarding class to be held August 11 through August 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$285. The class will be taught by Chrissy Chase. Information was provided on whom to write a check to.

Councilmember Fu distributed T-Shirts she had hoped were going to be available for Family Day, but were not. She also commented on work to be done at/on the Community Park parking lot that should last about one week. She will double check the dates of this planned work and advise Mr. Cortese.

There was a brief discussion between Mr. Bodnar and Mr. Cortese about an issue of 180 hours at VoTech for Morris Plains. Lynn Jackson was also mentioned during this conversation. Mention was also made about the loss of 10-15 dates at VoTech last year that then needed to be re-scheduled.

VOUCHERS

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

OLD BUSINESS

Cross discussion about repairs needed at the basketball courts at Community Park to fix the cracks, including will there be sufficient 2014 budget funds to do this resurfacing to ensure it will stay in good condition for an adequate length of time

NEW BUSINESS

Cross discussion about the annual fall bonfire, including who will need to be contacted; the possibility of doing a "haunted hayride" in addition to the family hayride; anticipating possible problems that might occur; and possible fund raising opportunities for the eighth graders (perhaps the "haunted hayride").

Mr. Cortese advised \$250 will be given to the Fire Department for the Halloween Parade and Party.

Brief cross discussion about several problems related to organizing the 2014 Family Day and difficulties encountered when trying to get things done and how to address these so that the coordination for the 2015 Family Day can run more smoothly.

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

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

