

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2014

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

Absent: Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman

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."

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. Tom Bergeron, 4 Druetzler Drive, Morris Plains, representing the Morris Plains Little League, introduced himself to the Commission. He raised the subject of the need for a 50/70 field in Morris Plains and provided the reasons why this kind of field is a critical necessity for the 2015 season. He also gave information concerning municipalities in the surrounding area that currently have 50/70 fields.

Mr. Brian Volker, 50 Hawthorne Avenue, Morris Plains, provided information relating to the various softball teams in the Borough and their use of fields. He is not in charge of softball, but felt it was important to have someone present at this meeting to speak on behalf of softball and also to provide support to Little League and its requests. Most of the time the 50/70 fields will be used in the summer months. Much use will also be on Sundays.

Mr. Cortese advised that the Vo-Tech School mostly uses Field #3.

Mr. Volker added that they also occasionally use Field #4.

Cross discussion about various timeframes when the different teams generally use the fields, how games are scheduled, clinics that are held and their needs, Vo-Tech School needs, need for 50/70 field(s), League Board approval for requesting a 50/70 field(s), field equipment issues, the matter of a “hole”, allocation of certain monies, the need to fund raise additional funding, work that will be required to create the 50/70 field(s), potential effects on softball, field conditions, portable mounds, use of Field #5, fencing issues, and related matters.

Mr. Cortese expressed why it is important for the Borough to work well with the vo-tech school. He stated the Commission will get back to Messrs. Bergeron and Volker about the issues and request they raised. He thanked both for all their efforts on behalf of the Borough’s participants.

Messrs. Bergeron and Volker thanked the Commission for its time and consideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission’s September 25, 2014 Regular Meeting.

A correction was needed to the spelling of a last name (Burns).

Mrs. Slawinski moved that the minutes of the September 25, 2014 meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

RECREATION DIRECTOR’S REPORT – October 2014

Mrs. Leahey presented the Recreation Director’s Report:

Fall Recreation Programs – There are 20 Fall programs, two of which are new (Yoga for Kids and Introductory Chair Yoga for Seniors). All the classes have the minimum number of participants needed to pay the instructors.

Winter Recreation Programs – Work is currently taking place on several programs, including possible after-school programs to be held at Mountain Way School, for one hour after school and open only to those attending school at Mountain Way School, all students, kindergarten through second grade. These programs would be more “fun” programs versus educational programs. Authorization has been granted to hold these after-school programs. These after-school programs would be \$25.

Cross discussion about the proposed programs that would be held at the Mountain Way School.

Garage Sale Weekend – Even though the weather on Saturday was not very good, these sales were a big success. There were 89 participants. After expenses, the profit was \$1,266.96. Could this money be earmarked for a special winter event; for example, a family game night?

Mr. Cortese advised it will be absorbed into the general budget. He suggested that when the 2015 budget is done, funds for such an event could be line itemed.

Mrs. Leahey suggested that there is still time to develop ideas for some winter events – a family bingo night or something similar to this.

Cross discussion about several kinds of events that might be worth exploring further.

Mrs. Leahey advised that Councilwoman Fu, Mr. Sittmann and she had a meeting with Identia-Metrics, the biometrics/finger scan for use at the Pool. It was interesting information, but will require additional consideration. However, not everything about how it would operate was as straightforward or easy as it initially seemed.

Mr. Cortese asked Mrs. Leahey to be prepared to provide information as to what equipment will need replacement in 2015 for the Commission's budget discussion meeting next month.

Cross discussion about other possible ways of handling the Pool registration such as bar coding; potential problems with using a finger scan system; the cost of alternative methods that can be used for comparison purposes; possible other uses for a finger scan system in the Borough; the costs related to the current system; and the occasional problem of people trying to "beat the system".

2015 Fee Schedule – Mrs. Leahey advised she received an e-mail from the Borough Clerk stating that the Fee Schedule must be submitted to her no later than November 3, 2014.

Events Coordinator's Report – October 2014

Mrs. McNichol presented the Events Coordinator report:

Bonfire – This event will take place on Saturday, October 25, 2014. She has made all necessary arrangements with the DPW. She provided additional details about what she has done and will do in connection with the Bonfire. She also requested guidance as to the specific logistics as to how this event was set up in the past (location of items/equipment, activity areas and related concerns).

Mr. Cortese advised that DPW does not want the light tower from Morris United. They want to use their own lighting equipment. He asked who will require electric power for this event.

Mrs. McNichol stated that Kevin Soutar will need electric power. She discussed the generator and lighting. The pumpkins will be picked up tomorrow. Agway will again provide hay for the hayride. She also has a “giant” pumpkin. She advised of guessing games using different candies. The scavenger hunt is designed for families, but older children can participate with their friends, too. It will last about one hour. She also advised as to the variety of supplies she will have on hand (pens will be purchased at the dollar store). She described how the scavenger hunt activity will take place (number of speed bumps, number of handicapped parking spaces, and so on). The bonfire will be lit at 6:00 p.m. She will be at the bonfire site at 4:00 p.m. to begin setting up. There are no prizes for the scavenger hunt – it’s just for fun.

Cross discussion relating to where certain items of equipment should be placed and details of the hayride, especially that there will be no tractor; it will be replaced by a pick-up truck (the tractor is hooked up to the leaf equipment). Confirmation that needed equipment and supplies is in hand or being arranged for.

Halloween Parade and Party – Mrs. McNichol advised that those members who can help out at this event should meet at Simon’s Park on Friday, October 31, 2014, 4:00 p.m. to assist the fire department personnel. She advised on the supply of charcoal.

Recreation Facebook Page - Mrs. McNichol re-raised the subject of a Facebook page that she commented on several meetings ago. She explained what the Recreation Facebook page would look like. It would primarily be used to post information about Recreation events and activities. If photos were ever to be posted, this would only occur with required/appropriate parental or personal authorization.

Cross discussion about how a Recreation Facebook page would function and general discussion of how Facebook and websites work, including various members’ understanding of how this would work best; is this a good direction to go in, how critical is it for the Commission to be a seriously active “player” in the “social media world”; is too much publicity of activities and events a good thing or a potentially “bad” thing; privacy issues; and related concerns, thoughts, and logistics issues in connection with creating and maintaining a Facebook page.

2015 FEE SCHEDULE DISCUSSION

Mr. Cortese asked if there is any possible way this discussion can be conducted at the Commission’s November 20, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Cortese decided to do a preliminary review of the current fees and decide whether any of the fees should be increased for 2015.

Mrs. Leahey reported that just about all the activities/events that require a fee payment were down in 2014 when compared to 2013 (and possibly previous years,

too). Cooler than anticipated weather probably contributed to some of this loss of members/participants, particularly for Pool membership.

Fee For	Current	Proposed in 2015
Pool – Resident Family	\$345.00	\$345.00
Pool - Guest Pass – Adult	\$10.00	\$ 10.00
Pool - Guest Pass – Child (12 and younger)	\$10.00	\$ 5.00
Pool - Senior – Resident – Single	\$250.00	\$250.00
Pool - Couple – Resident	\$330.00	\$330.00
Pool – Non-Resident Family	\$400.00	\$400.00
Pool – Swim Lessons	\$ 85.00	TBD
Summer Camp – Early Registration Fee	\$175.00	\$175.00
Summer Camp – Late Registration Fee	\$235.00	\$250.00
Field Use – One time only - Residents	\$300.00	\$300.00
Field Use – Season - Residents	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Field Use – One time only – Non Residents	\$300.00	\$300.00
Field Use – Three Weeks – Non Residents	\$600.00	\$600.00
Field Use – Four-Six Weeks – Non Residents	\$800.00	\$800.00
Field Use – More than Six Weeks – Non Residents	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00

Mrs. Leahey advised that the swim lessons in 2014 brought in \$1,700. She has met with Councilwoman Fu, Mr. Sittmann, Charlie Delmonte, and Cristina Chase regarding wanting to develop some new programs at the Pool. Would it be a good idea to include swim lessons in the Family memberships or to charge only a very nominal fee? Including the swim lessons within the Family membership could be an incentive to join the Pool.

Cross discussion as to whether including the swim lessons within the Family memberships, including this could mean needing to hire more swim instructors; since lessons last only one-half hour, it could not be abused as a babysitting “service”; that some children prefer to participate in the summer camp activities and not be made to go to swim lessons during summer camp activities; eliminate the separate swim lessons (as a separate Pool category); fee for nannies/babysitters (considered part of the family/household?); and changing the timeframe when swim lessons are given.

Mr. Cortese recommended the establishment of a subpanel to resolve the issue of the Pool fees and the issue of swim lessons.

Mrs. Leahey reminded that the 2014 enhancement programs portion of the summer camp activities did very well and “earned” \$7,000. She believes the summer camp fees probably should not be raised for the 2015 season.

Mr. Cortese recounted the when he was first a member of the Recreation Commission, the summer camp fee was \$6 and when it was subsequently raised to

\$9, he received several calls from Council members berating him for a 50% raise in the fee! He also believes that there should probably be no raise in the summer camp fees.

Mr. Cortese asked if a range could be applied to the Field Use categories.

Councilwoman Fu advised that a range cannot be used. A fee must be set; there cannot be different fees for the same kind of use.

Cross discussion about Field Use – Non Resident wondering whether the fees applied could be separated as to who the user would be – individual, industrial, commercial, retail establishment, sponsored teams and others or at least separating out the individual from the rest of the possible users. What about the days/times of use of a field – using during the week perhaps should cost less than using on a weekend.

Mr. Cortese explained that this category goes back in history when, for example, FedEx would rent the field at VFW and would pay a larger fee.

The subpanel to further discuss the Fee Schedules will meet on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

Brief cross discussion about being careful about how long lighting is left on at the Community Center and making certain the gate(s) are locked and issues that need to be dealt with in connection with restrooms and locks at Simon's Park.

REPORT ON VO-TECH SCHOOL

Mr. Bodnar reported on the activities and communications with the Vo-Tech School. He stated that the Vo-Tech school has been great so far this year in accommodating the schedules for Borough activities. There has been some issue in connection with the implementation of Janet's Law, a new law the State passed requiring schools to have AED and certified user when using the Vo-Tech school's facilities. He provided details as to what this means in reality for any Borough sports group(s) using the Vo-Tech facilities. This law became effective September 14, 2014. The Vo-Tech School has given the Borough's sports group(s) a month or so to comply with this requirement.

Mr. Cortese commented on the funds given to basketball in 2014 and that this stipend included an extra \$500 to rent gyms. They received a total of \$3,000 in 2014. He recommended including this extra \$500 again for the 2015 contribution/budget line to help with the cost of the equipment. He further suggested that the Commission should purchase one defibrillator for each sports organization; he asked the Commission members to consider this.

Cross discussion about this new requirement concerning defibrillators and certified users.

Mrs. McNichol needed to leave the meeting.

VOUCHERS

Mr. Cortese asked that the members review the vouchers prior to approval.

There were several questions that Mrs. Leahey answered for the members and/or provided additional details.

Mr. Breslsin moved that the vouchers highlighted in yellow be approved as presented, seconded by Mrs. McCabe. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Fu presented an update for the Commission, including that there is a new coordinator for the Teen Center; window/mural painting; the upcoming Wellness Fair to be held at the Community Center on Saturday, October 25, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., flu shots; and information on a new hire.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Cortese commented that he believes it was a successful year at Greystone.

As to using the Greystone fields when they are not specifically reserved for a group, Councilwoman Fu advised of a meeting that was held on this matter and the plan is to try and allot some "free-use" time to the public on a limited basis, but the details must still be worked on this if it is even decided to go forward this idea. If it goes forward, there will be a park staff member who will oversee the use of fields during this "open" time. The Commission will be contacted as this plan moves along.

Cross discussion on this "open" time plan, including whether there would be fee charged; issues relating to the cross country field area; and wetland area(s) at Greystone.

Mr. Cortese thanked Councilwoman Fu for all her efforts in coordinating the Greystone scheduling and obtaining the permits and getting to those who needed them.

The Commission members gave Councilwoman Fu a round of applause.

Councilwoman Fu advised on certain kinds of work that are being done to make the fields proper for use by the various sports organizations.

Mr. Cortese raised the subject matter of the 50/70 field(s) and there was brief discussion as to how this field(s) will be created as well as costs that will be incurred.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

