

# RECREATION COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING

**November 20, 2014**

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar  
Mr. Michael Breslin (arrived at 7:33 p.m.)  
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  
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.

### **Morristown Babe Ruth**

Mr. Scott Meola, Morristown, stated he is at this meeting on behalf of Morristown Babe Ruth and is seeking funding from the Recreation Commission for next year's season. He explained they share the VFW Field with the Vo-Tech school. Their season opens in April and continues through the end of May/beginning of June. He advised of other fields they use both in the Borough and in Morristown. Approximately 25% of the players are from the Borough, but this percentage does fluctuate year to year. He commented on the improvements at the VFW Field over the recent years.

Mrs. Leahey advised she has contact information for Morristown Babe Ruth. She has information for Brian Mandel. Brian is still a contact and he currently is the President.

Mr. Meola stated there are about 100 families participating with Babe Ruth with roughly 130 children. This season they had seven teams and each team was made up of 13 to 15 players.

### **Morris Plains Soccer Association**

Mr. Jeff Emge introduced himself stating he is now the President of the Morris Plains Soccer Association. He provided data for the spring soccer season. There were 100 participants in the pre-K (age 3) through kindergarten group and an additional 100 participants in the first grade through sixth grade group. The organization continues to review its program to identify new/better ways and ideas for the program. The organization generally has been using Simons Park, but may be able to use fields at Greystone in the future for the older participants' activities, but not for the younger players. He commented briefly on the organization's fall season. He advised that the organization's relationship with Morris United has been very good. He also pointed out some issues that were troublesome/problematic such as intense use of fields, particularly at Simons Park, by adult groups (resident and nonresident) for probable pick-up games and a theft of a net.

Brief cross discussion about seeds for the spring and that the grass at Simons Park will need re-seeding for the spring season.

### **Boys Lacrosse Program (also includes Girls Lacrosse)**

Mr. Matt Wendorff, 124 Sun Valley Way, Morris Plains, stated he is the current President of Boys Lacrosse. He thanked the Commission for their assistance and support of their 2014 season – which was a “pretty successful season”. The total number of players in 2014 was 271; this is an increase over previous years and their program continues to grow. They use fields at Simons Park (on Sundays) and also at Greystone. The Girls Lacrosse program has approximately 160 participants; he provided some details about this program and advised that this program is still a part of the Boys Lacrosse program. There are two separate operating boards for the two programs. This year they will create a joint board/executive board for both programs primarily to maintain good and open communications.

Mr. Cortese highly complimented Mr. Wendorff on how he and the board members have structured this organization, especially the delegation of various responsibilities among the board members. The organization also cooperated with other nearby municipalities, particularly in arranging for field use.

Cross discussion about several sites outside the Borough (primarily in Morristown) that have land/space that could be rehabilitated into useable fields for lacrosse and possibly other sports, too. There may be field availability at sites like Allied Signal/Honeywell in Morris Township. This discussion also included a general discussion of overall field use and availability of emergency medical equipment.

For the coming season, Mr. Wendorff requested various pre-season financial assistance – about one month prior to the start of the season – relating to use of fields, particularly those requiring snow plowing of fields. He advised that approximately 35% of the lacrosse players are from the Borough; the bulk of the program is composed of players from Morris Plains and Morris Township with the remainder of the players being from Morristown.

Mr. Wendorff commented on the scholarship program the organization allowing those players who need financial support in order to play to receive that support. The organization also offers multi-child discounts to families. Right now these discounts apply only to the boys program. The Girls Lacrosse registration fee is somewhat less than that to join Boys Lacrosse. He also commented on the registration process and how the organization addresses this function.

Mr. Cortese closed the public portion of the meeting.

### **Basketball Program**

Mr. Bodnar shared details involving basketball teams and use of the gymnasium at the Vo-Tech school. He advised there are 215 participants in this coming season spread between Vo-Tech and Borough. Saint Virgil will not participate – they have too many teams. The total number includes all participants. The Recreation teams will be playing teams from surrounding municipalities. He also provided information about travel teams. Opening Day is on Saturday, December 6, 2014.

Cross discussion concerning training needed for the emergency medical equipment, how many coaches are already trained, and how many still need training.

He explained why he used the term “crunched” in connection with use of the Vo-Tech facilities. It relates to use of half court and storage problems.

General discussion about various sports organizations and fund raising efforts they are doing and various costs associated with improvements some of the groups want to make. This also included reference to the Morris Plains Sports Website and registration costs contained on the website. Another part of this discussion was consideration of new ideas for Commission-supported fund raising efforts for these groups such as events at Family Day.

### **RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – November 2014**

Mrs. Leahey presented the Recreation Director's Report:

**Basketball Opening Day** – Mrs. Leahey advised of this event that will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

**Halloween Parade and Party** – A letter addressed to the Mayor was received from the Morris Plains Fire Association thanking everyone for their support and assistance of this annual event.

**Spring Recreation Programs** – Mrs. Leahey provided information on these programs.

**Bonfire** – Mrs. Leahey reported she is still awaiting an invoice from the Boy Scouts. Without the Boy Scouts amount, the expenditures are now at \$571.34. The total budget for this event is \$1,500.

**Winter Recreation Programs** – Mrs. Leahey advised she has encouraged Sheryl to work on arranging an event of some type to take place in February such as a Game Night or a Family Bingo Night.

**Adult/Family Trips** – Mrs. Leahey advised she has spoken with the Director of Morris School District Programs (adult education programs). This program offers a variety of interesting trips and some who have taken these trips have brought them to her attention. She will be meeting with the Director to discuss the possibility of the Recreation Commission partnering with the school district in offering/sponsoring some of these trips.

**"Zumba" Class** - Mrs. Leahey stated she is looking to hire someone to offer a "Zumba" class; this was a very popular class when previously offered.

Mrs. Leahey concluded her report. She advised she also included budget documentation in each member's packet.

Councilwoman Fu advised the budget information needs to be submitted by Monday, December 22, 2014.

### **VOUCHERS**

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

There were no questions on the vouchers.

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's October 23, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Mrs. McCabe moved that the minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Breslin. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Cross discussion as to what should be done in connection with the need to produce badges for Pool members in the future. This discussion included issues such as software that would be needed and the needed replacement of two computers. Another part of this discussion was about the costs associated with the different options available to provide badges/identification for Pool members.

### **Budget Discussion/Pre-Budget Submission Suggested Amounts**

<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>2015 Budget Amount</u></b>
Bonfire	\$1,500
Fireworks	\$20,800
Halloween Parade and Party	\$250

It was mentioned that each year the Dangler Funeral Home donates the hot chocolate and doughnuts for this event, but no one is publicly made aware of this fact. It was decided that in the future there should be some way of recognizing such donations such as a signs posted at Roberts Garden listing all who donated to this event in some way. Dangler should be thanked in some way – by the Commission or the Fire Department – and more appropriately coming from the Fire Department. Mr. Cortese stated he will talk with the Fire Department about this.

Theater Program (10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year)	\$3,000
New Backdrop - \$1,000	
Summer Concert Series	\$4,000
Family Day	\$9,000
Splash Party(s) (Pool Opening Event on a Saturday) + possibly a Family Splash Party	\$1,000
Block Dance/Party	\$1500

Cross discussion about the issuance of the Borough credit cards and the training needed before receiving them.

Bonfire	\$1,500
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Hunt	\$1,900
Senior Exercise	\$1200
February Event (dance?, comedy night?)	\$ 200

Cross discussion about the Eagle Scout project that was responsible for the installation of the benches and planters along the trail from The American Road to the train station.

**Event**

**2015 Budget Amount**

All Sports Groups

Will be provided at the next  
Commission meeting on  
12/11/14

Model Railroad

**\$400?**

Cross discussion about how best to determine that amount of the contribution to be given to each sports organization based on a variety of elements such as newness of the sports team, the size of the sports team, helpfulness at the annual Family Day event, unusual or excessive expenses of a sport, fund raising efforts by the sports organizations, and the number of Borough participants playing the sport. This discussion also included possibly decreasing the contributions to one or more groups based on that fact that they are now more established, are in better financial condition, receive significant funding from other municipalities or entities, have few Borough participants, volunteer coaches versus paid coaches, and similar kinds of reasons.

Mr. Cortese advised he would someday like to be able to build benches similar to those provided by the Eagle Scout project at the turf field. He believes \$500 to \$600 would cover this cost. He also requested that information be obtained from the Finance Office as to what was encumbered out of the expenses projected for 2014.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Fu announced there is a new business in the Borough.

**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

