

# RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

December 11, 2014

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar  
Mr. Michael Breslin (arrived at 7:55 p.m.)  
Mr. Salvatore Cortese, Chairman  
Mrs. Jan McCabe  
Mrs. Maureen McEntee (arrived at 7:50PM)  
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski

Present: Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director  
Sheryl McNichol, Events Coordinator  
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Cortese called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Peggy Adams who served the community for years as a Recreation Commission member and also as a Council member who recently passed away.

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 November 20, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Bodnar moved that the minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting be approved, seconded by Mrs. Slawinski. Voice vote. All in favor (except Mrs. McCabe who abstained). **Motion carried.**

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

## RECREATION DIRECTORS' REPORT – DECEMBER 2014

and

## EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT– DECEMBER 2014

Mrs. Leahey advised she contacted all the sports organizations to inquire about the fees they charge.

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

**Kids Helping Kids** – Mrs. Leahey advised she is beginning work with this organization on the coordination of their Third Annual Talent Show to be held on February 11, 2015 at the Borough School. The talent show has had great success in its previous two years.

**Annual Contribution to Sports Organizations** – Mrs. McCabe contacted the Grapplers and the Junior Colonials Hockey since no response had been received from them. Currently there are five Borough children participating in this wrestling program. Their largest expense is replacement of worn wrestling mats. Mr. Steve Deluvio from the Grapplers provided additional information about the organization as well as data on how funds received are spent.

Hockey advised there are 77 children participating over four teams; approximately 18 are from Morris Plains based on zip code provided. The organization's letter provided additional information about funding and how it is used, volunteers, and general information. Mrs. Leahey advised this organization must return the voucher sent to them signed by the appropriate person.

**Trips** – Mrs. Leahey met with the Morris School District to discuss the trips to be offered during spring 2015. The District is agreeable to co-sponsoring these trips with the Commission. She provided details of how this cooperative program will be coordinated as well as the trips currently planned. She requested the Commission members review the list of shows/programs she provided to them.

Cross discussion about possible issues that perhaps should be checked out such as insurance matters. It is also included general conversation about some of the

programs/trips being offered and that Mrs. Leahey believed her District contact was very knowledgeable and had good experience in arranging these activities.

**Sports Organizations/Use of the Community Center** - Mrs. Leahey advised she contacted all the sports organizations to inquire about the fees they charge.

She stated that basketball has begun at the Community Center – three nights so far, and no one showed up on two of three nights with no call to cancel with the Center's staff there waiting for them. One the one night the team did come, they reported a leak in the roof and caused wet floor. One of the player's fell because of the water. There was no roof leak, but there was another issue that caused the water on the floor related to the basketball hoop.

Cross discussion on how to address this matter if and when basketball hoops are moved in the future (towels to mop up any water). Discussion also included need to remove the tennis court nets.

**Winter Program(s)** – Mrs. McNichol advised it is planned to have a winter program with Mr. Ed Nicholson who is a music teacher in the Borough and with children attending the Borough School. The idea is to hold a concert with his students participating; she provided logistics details. The proposed date is February 20, 2015. The show would last approximately one and a half hours.

The question was raised as to whether such a concert would constitute a promotion of Mr. Nicholson's musical instruction program to attract additional students.

Cross discussion about the question raised as to whether such a concert would be considered promoting his business; it is a grey area, a fine line, too many loop holes. Would other music teachers residing in the Borough also want such an opportunity to showcase their musical instruction businesses? What about other kinds of businesses/services offering to do this or something like it?

The idea of this concert was tabled for the time being while the Commission members considered alternate winter program(s).

**2015 Mets Camp Sessions** - There will be two sessions – Thursday, July 30, 2015 and Thursday, August 30, 2015. Ticket cost begins at \$12.

Cross discussion about logistics of this camp and possibly "recruiting" other professional teams to run the same kind of camps. This also included a statement that any such activity should be conducted in the Borough.

Mrs. McNichol will report back on this proposed plan at the January meeting.

**9/11 Memorial** – Mrs. McNichol commented on Mr. Joe Daniels who is the CFO on the 9/11 Memorial. She attended Morristown High School with him and is friends with him. Her thought is that because of this friendship he may be agreeable to providing a personal tour of the Memorial, although she cannot guarantee success in making this happen. She will continue to try and finalize such a tour.

**Facebook** – Councilwoman Fu advised this idea is still under discussion. There are pros and cons when participating in this kind of social media.

This led to a cross discussion about the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and what the possible ramifications could be if the Borough was participating in social media such as Facebook.

**2015 Contributions to the Sports/Activity Organizations/2015 Budget:**

<u>Sports/Activity Organization</u>	<u>Proposed Contribution</u>
Grapplers	\$500.00
Hockey	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
Little League (50/70 field creation, netting installation)	\$2,500.00

Cross discussion about creating the possibility for sports organizations to make a Special Request for additional funds during the year.

<u>Sports/Activity Organization</u>	<u>Proposed Contribution</u>
Soccer	\$2,500.00
Babe Ruth (use of VFW Field)	\$500.00
Watnong Park	\$500
Morris Plains Railroad (plan to attract new, younger members)	\$400
Lacrosse	\$2,500.00
Basketball	\$2,500.00
Swim Team	\$2,500.00
Wildcats/Jr Colonials Football	\$1500.00
Sports Funds	\$ 500.00

Continued cross discussion about what to allocate to the different organizations along with the Commission's reasons for giving more or less or staying at the same amount as last year/previous years and what the urgent or significant continuing needs of each group are, be they financial or otherwise.

Cross discussion concerning issues relating to the use of the Greystone fields, including that last year there was a specific rate for the use of these fields; courtesy is extended to the Borough sports groups – the first group is the soccer groups and “whatever is left over we give; about 80% to lacrosse and 20% of that time to United” and a tiny bit of time to the Morris Plains/the Borough School. This discussion also addressed the issue of getting Greystone field time and if so, should the Commission stipend be decreased or even eliminated in 2015.

Mr. Cortese stated the benefit of having and using the Greystone fields is substantial and often well exceeds the stipends allocated. Morris Plains provided significant support as compared to nearby municipalities regarding the use of these fields. The 2015 support levels will not be known until January 5, 2015. He recommended including a provision in the budget proposal that if Greystone field time is received, the stipend is reduced. He also recommended creating a “Rec/Sports Fund” budget line to hold funds for Special Requests during 2015.

After several other comments concerning the contribution allocations and new ideas for 2015, the discussion concerning the 2015 budget concluded.

Mr. Cortese requested that Mrs. Leahey prepare the proposed allocation list and provide to Councilwoman Fu as part of the Budget Worksheet.

### **2015 EVENTS/PROGRAMS**

**Family Bingo Night** - Mrs. McNichol advised that in February she would like to present a Family Bingo Night. This event was a success in the past.

The Commission members were all in agreement and a motion was passed accepting this program.

**Movie Night in the Park** – Mrs. McNichol would like this event to be held in September. The screen needed would cost about \$800 to rent. She explained the variety of possibilities that could be offered. The Commission members discussed the various pros and cons of such an idea. More information will be acquired.

### **COMMUNITY PARK POOL**

Brief cross discussion about the 2015 budget. Also discussed was the final report for the Community Park Pool 2014 season, including maintenance and repair costs, the snack bar, the total made, and proposed plans for the Pool's 2015 season.

Mr. Cortese asked for whatever information is needed to allow him to break out various Pool costs. This could also include discussion with various Pool personnel/staff. He asked Mrs. Leahey to contact Charlie about this request. He is particularly concerned about the significant increase in maintenance costs -- virtually 100% -- from \$10,000 to \$20,000 due primarily to age. There was a \$10,000 paper loss which will still need to be audited. He needs a realistic clarification of the snack bar operation as well as any maintenance costs. He asked about whether any of the Pool costs, particularly the snack bar costs, was considered as capital monies.

Cross discussion about the day-to-day operation of the snack bar, how it is staffed, how it is maintained, and related information. There was also some discussion about the lifeguard chairs, a roof, a fascia board, a certain pump, the slide, restroom doors, and other possible repairs that likely will be needed before the start of the 2015 Pool season.

Mr. Cortese spoke about his time serving on the Commission, stating this will be his last meeting as Chairman. He thanked all the members for their service and dedication to the community.

Mrs. Slawinski thanked Mr. Cortese for his years leading this Commission and that all members will really miss him.

Councilwoman Fu also extended her thanks to all for their work as part of the Commission stating that the Council and the community appreciate all their efforts. She also reminded of the Council's Re-Organization Meeting on January 7, 2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **VOUCHERS**

Mr. Bodnar moved that the vouchers for the December 11, 2014 meeting be approved as presented, seconded by Mr. Breslin. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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

Karleen Leahey  
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan  
Recording Secretary



