

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

February 26, 2015

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)
Mr. Michael Breslin
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maureen McEntee(arrived at 7:40PM)
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Chairman
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski
Mr. Brian Volker

Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mrs. Beverly Deering, 10 Burch Drive, Morris Plains, asked if any of the Commission members has heard of "pickle" ball.

No one said they had heard of it.

Mrs. Deering advised it is the fastest-growing sport in the country. It is for all ages and many senior communities are offering this. She explained details of the sport. There is a 20' x 44' court, and she displayed a picture she said she was giving to the Commission.

Basically, it is a combination of ping-pong, badminton and tennis with the court being reversed for tennis. The Morris School District adult program has recently started this sport. A Mr. Anthony Trunjone . Currently it is being played at the Randolph Y and classes are being offered at the Lafayette Learning Center through Great Horizons. The problem is that there are almost no places to play this sport.

Mrs. Deering requested that the Commission consider turning one of the Borough's tennis courts into a pickle ball court, either permanently or on an as-needed-for-play basis or any other area that might be available within the Borough where a court could be created for this sport. She explained the equipment needed for this sport, advising she believes the entire set-up costs about \$200. She wondered if tennis players might

or any other area that might be available within the Borough where a court could be created for this sport. She explained the equipment needed for this sport, advising she believes the entire set-up costs about \$200. She wondered if tennis players might become upset if the court was being used for pickle ball since there are only two tennis courts available. She provided additional information about how the sport is played.

Mrs. Leahey advised that Karin Ruppel from Great Horizons had visited her and asked if the Community Center's multipurpose room could be used for an indoor version of pickle ball.

Cross discussion about the pickle ball request and various aspects of this sport, including how the name of the sport originated – it involved one of the originators' dog who was named "Pickle".

Mrs. Deering thanked the Commission for its time and consideration of her request.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2015

Mrs. Leahey presented her report after advising that the Junior Colonials Hockey organization still has not returned their 2014 stipend voucher dated August 7, 2014.

Mrs. McCabe offered to contact them about this; she will contact John Carlin.

Mrs. Leahey advised she enclosed a list of recreation events dates worksheet for the Commission member and explained what is contained on it. Also enclosed is updated Recreation Commission contact information, information concerning the 2015 spring programs, and the Fees schedule showing both 2014 fees and 2015 fees. She reviewed all the fee changes between 2014 and 2015.

Summer Camp - Mrs. Leahey advised of a telephone call from a Parsippany resident whose two children are on the Swim Team; she is hoping that perhaps they can participate in the summer camp. She discussed this request with the Borough Clerk who advised that Borough insurance would cover all summer camp participants no matter where they reside, but the Commission would not be able to make summer camp available to only a certain group of non residents. If non-resident Swim Team members were allowed to participate in summer camp, then summer camp would need to be open to all non residents whether they were Swim Team members or not.

Cross discussion about this request for participation in summer camp, including that the summer camp participation, based on recent years' participation, has been quite well attended; it would not be a good plan if Borough children were unable to participate because non-resident participants had taken available slots; and whether it would be possible to set limits on the number of non residents allowed to participate in summer camp.

The consensus of the Commission members was to make no changes to this policy at this time. However, the Commission was willing to review this policy from time to time, particularly in the event of lower summer camp enrollment or similar issues.

Mrs. Leahey will contact the Parsippany resident about his decision.

Mrs. Leahey advised that recently there was a small meeting relating to the summer camp. She advised she believes the art counselor will be returning this summer. This year she will introduce some science experiments into her enhancement program; she was a science teacher prior to becoming an art teacher. She provided additional information about the proposed instructors and programs that will be offered, including this year will mark the tenth year that a summer theater program has been offered, and the plan for the annual show is to perform a scene from each of the previous years' performances. It is also hoped that many former performers can be contacted inviting them to participate in a final number at the 2015 show.

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Mrs. Leahey concluded her presentation.

EVENTS COORDINATOR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2015

Ms. McNichol presented her report.

Family Bingo Night – Mrs. McNichol thanked Mrs. McCabe and Mrs. McEntee for their assistance in connection with this event. Councilwoman Fu was also present at this event. She thanked all the families for their participation and their assistance after the event in breaking down the tables and related work. She believes approximately 80 people participated. The profit was \$30.21 after all costs. She is considering holding another Bingo event perhaps in early September – maybe a Beach Blanket Bingo.

It was suggested that this timeframe might not prove to be the best since people will be getting ready for children to return to school. It was suggested that perhaps sometime in November might be a better time.

Cross discussion about future Bingo events, including possibly purchasing more Bingo cards since they actually ran short at the recent event.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt – She updated on the progress so far for this event including that the centerpieces, tickets and flowers are done. The publicity sign in the middle of town will go up on March 15. The plan is that no tickets will be sold at the door this year.

Mrs. Leahey explained why the availability of the town sign is so short – others needed to use it, too, and she let them have some of Recreation's time.

Cross discussion about the logistics of this event such as number of tables, heat level, maximum number of people who can be in room and related issues. There was also discussion about a possible "Plan B" in case there were significant problems relating to no tickets being sold at the door.

Mrs. McNichol provided information about purchase orders received back and not received back and candy and eggs ordered. Other items will be ordered next week.

Cross discussion as to the **Senior Picnic** and that it will now begin at 1:00 p.m.; it has officially been changed to 1:00 p.m. The seniors such as those residing at Sunrise will be notified of this time change and other seniors who typically attend will be notified through other means. This is being done to provide a better timeframe for helpers to come from summer camp programs to assist.

Summer Concert Series – A general e-mail was sent (on February 11, 2015) to all the agreed-upon bands, and she has heard back from all but one band ("Dicey Riley"). The deadline was last Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

Long cross discussion about the summer concert series, including the procedure of rotating bands year to year; an issue in connection with one of the bands relating to the rotation plan; the various e-mails/communications sent by and to various people; the possibility of an additional concert being added; would there be funding available to add another concert; and whether there would be a good turnout for a concert on an early August Sunday (in this case Sunday, August 2, 2015).

The Mrs. McNichol, Mrs. Leahey, and the Commission members reviewed the bands that were contacted and discussed how the rotation plan would affect this year's lineup as well as future years. It was decided that this year's lineup would be: (1) Chris Gardner, (2) Skip Yingling, (3) Ed Nicholson, (4) The Retro Kings. If funding is determined to be available, a fifth concert will be added by a band to be determined.

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Brief cross discussion about payments to the bands.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sittmann requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's January 26, 2015 Re-Organization Meeting.

A correction was noted changing a reference to Councilwoman Fu from "he" to "she". Another revision was requested on the fourth page to read "Be it resolved. . ." One or more "legalese" type words also were questioned as to their spelling correctness.

Mr. Breslin moved that the minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting be approved as revised, seconded by Mr. Bodnar.

Roll Call

Yeas: Mr. Bodnar, Mr. Breslin, Mrs. McCabe, Mrs. McEntee,
Mrs. Slawinski, Mr. Volker, Mr. Sittmann

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers were reviewed.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. McEntee reported on recent meeting she, Mr. Sittmann, and Councilwoman Fu had with two Department of Public Works (DPW) staff members and school officials (the principal and the head of maintenance). The purpose of this meeting was to review how things went last year and the work planned this year for one or more fields. A company was hired that will take a top layer off the field. This will drag out all the weeds for softball and baseball fields. Improvements will be done once this work is completed. This field conditioning will cost \$3,000 for both fields. The DPW staff members believe the work will proceed very well, and the new head of school maintenance is very competent.

Cross discussion about Little League issues such as the election day and the Easter Bunny Breakfast event; work that will be needed on the fields once the snow completely melts; sports organization contacts; and that there is no knowledge of the exact date for their Opening Day.

Mr. Bodnar commented on basketball and that it will be wrapping up in mid March. He asked where the hoops should be stored and what coordination needs to take place to do this.

Mr. Sittmann stated they were in the Pool House and Pump House last year and that they can be stored at those sites again this year. He mentioned a laptop. Mrs. Slawinski, Mrs. Leahey and he talked with the Camp Director this week; a motion is needed so that the Council can approve her hiring.

Cross discussion about whether the Commission must meet in closed session to discuss the hiring of the Camp Director.

PRESENTATION OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

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PRESENTATION OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

None presented at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sittmann read the necessary resolution to allow the Commission to meet in closed session.

Mrs. Slawinski moved that the Commission meet in closed session, seconded by Mr. Breslin.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary