

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

March 26, 2015

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maureen McEntee
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Chairman

Absent: Mr. Michael Breslin

Present: Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Sheryl McNichol, Events Coordinator
Susan Carey, Camp Director
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."

Mr. Sittmann advised there is an opening on the Commission; the Mayor is searching for a new Commission member. It is hoped this new member will be announced by the Commission's next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Sittmann opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda. Seeing one, Mr. Sittmann closed the meeting to the public.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MARCH 2015

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Little League – Opening Day will be on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. Little League is also hosting a cornhole tournament on May 30, 2015.

Morris Minutemen – This organization will host a wet down on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

Mrs. Leahey advised she was requested to pass the above event dates along to the Commission.

Summer Enhancement Programs – Work is progressing on these programs. Locations are being sought for Paint the Town sites. She thanked those who already have provided some ideas and suggestions.

Cross discussion about possible other Paint the Town sites, including along Route 53 (the grass side near the train wall), inside the Community Center (exact place to be

Cross discussion about possible other Paint the Town sites, including along Route 53 (the grass side near the train wall), inside the Community Center (exact place to be determined), doing this in an inside location eliminates all worry about having to do these kinds of projects outside and having to re-schedule due to bad weather, and the Teen Center.

Mrs. Leahey advised she has provided the Commission with copies of her worksheet of what programs will be offered this season. There are 43 enhancement programs, and she does not anticipate any others being added at this point in time, even though there were other great ideas for programs that were presented to her. Her goal is to have all information on the website by the first or second week of April. All instructors are “locked up”. She explained some of the instructors are willing to take a per participant fee; Mrs. Leahey commented on how this will work and why she believes it is a good idea. In essence it means there will be no class minimums or maximums – if there are four people in the class, the class must be conducted and if there are 14 people in the class, the instructor will make a little extra money. However, for the instructors who are not agreeing to this new method, if their classes do not meet a minimum number of participants, the class will need to be cancelled.

There is a new program with three parts – **Hobby Quest**. It includes aviators, fashionistas, and magic. An explanation was provided of what the goals of these programs are.

Mrs. Leahey concluded her presentation.

2015 Summer Camp – MARCH 2015

Mrs. Carey presented her report.

Summer Camp – She advised she has both the K through fifth grade Camp and the Teen Camp completed. There are new trips for the Teen Camp – Camel Beach and Keansburg Amusement/Water Park. Last year comments from parents indicated they were not always very comfortable with trips to large parks and venues. These new smaller parks/venues will provide for a more manageable trip. She advised of other trips for the K through fifth grade camp – including bowling and Turtle Back Zoo. However, for the K through 3 group, they are not comfortable taking them off campus. It is hoped that events can be “brought” to them without their needing to go off campus. Offering this kind of event is still being researched as to their feasibility (per person cost and interest) and acceptance by parents.

Cross discussion about the ideas for new programs for the K through third grade category of camp participants, including how to introduce this idea to the parents, could interest in participation or even actual participation be determined during the registration process, and related issues.

Mrs. Carey also contacted Seaton Hackney to inquire if they had any kind of activity or program that would fit into the ideas for the K through third grade category, and they have a pony program. They are willing to bring four or five ponies with four or five counselors per pony. There would be three stations – one for grooming, one for horse maintenance, and the last for riding. It would last about two hours and is appropriate for children age 3 and up. It would be \$595 for one visit, but if two visits were booked, it would be \$750 for the two. The cost would be absorbed by the Recreation Commission.

Mrs. Carey also spoke about other possible on-campus events including a magic show, “mad” science program, and a reptile show and perhaps others.

Bus for Trips – The Morris Plains School District provides the bus for the various trips that are part of the Summer Camp. Mrs. Carey has provided all the trip information to her contact who will work out the details with the bus company.

her contact who will work out the details with the bus company.

Summer Camp Counselors – Mrs. Carey has contacted all of last year’s counselors to determine who is interested in being considered for a Senior Counselor. Only six people have replied back to either her or Mrs. Leahey; however, the deadline for responding has not yet passed. Adult counselors were sent a letter and the deadline has come and gone. Mrs. Carey will be interviewing two adults for the position(s) of Adult Counselor.

Continuing, Mrs. Carey advised she and Mrs. Leahey are considering conducting a first aid class for the Senior Counselors only. She provided information regarding past injuries (only two) during the Camp.

Applications for the regular level counselors have been received; Mrs. Carey stated it is a good number. She added information pertaining to the policy of the number of days that must be worked and gathering information as to when they would need to be off for family vacations.

Discipline Policy and Safety Procedures – Mrs. Carey stated the previous years’ discipline policy was revised a bit. She asked for Commission guidance about instructors being able to have their cell phones. Senior Counselors would be permitted to have them with them.

The discipline policy change(s) will be provided to the Borough Clerk for her approval/authorization.

Swimming Lessons – The swimming lessons are to be moved to after the camp timeframe. Swim Team will be as usual, as in the past.

Cross discussion about the various timeframes for different ages of children, including the ability to hire two additional young people who are not ready to be Counselors, but they can work as Walkers for the young swimmers. However, once Camp is over each day, it probably should not be the responsibility of any Camp staff person to bring children to the Pool; parents will have to plan this out for themselves. Enhancement Programs must be able to start when planned; the Camp cannot be an all-day babysitter.

Restaurant Depot and Shop-Rite – Mrs. Carey referred to the credit card that will be available this year. She commented that the K through fifth grade campers really like making their own sundaes, the bagels obtained from Shop-Rite are great – platters already sliced with cream cheese and butter, and Italian ices. Restaurant Depot is great for ice cream and the Italian ices.

Mr. Sittmann advised that to use the procurement card Mrs. Leahey will need to do the purchasing.

Councilwoman Fu added that she does not believe a note could be used to allow Mrs. Carey to use the card.

Cross discussion about the use of the procurement card and how best to be able to make purchases as necessary, primarily from Restaurant Depot, but could include other kinds of shopping. It is possible that methods used in the past may have to be continued for at least some purchases. Friendly’s truck visiting a site was also mentioned as a possible alternative way to being able to provide ice cream and other Friendly’s products. The manager’s name was provided so that contact can be made with him as desired. Could the ice cream needed be purchased from Friendly’s?

Team Building Activities/Ice Breakers – This was requested for the Counselors on the Friday Orientation Day. Mrs. Carey is working on a number of ideas for this day.

Paycheck Dates - Mrs. Carey spoke with Tracy to obtain paycheck dates of when staff will be paid and when hours must be in for timely payment. One paycheck will be on

Paycheck Dates - Mrs. Carey spoke with Tracy to obtain paycheck dates of when staff will be paid and when hours must be in for timely payment. One paycheck will be on July 15, 2015 and on July 31, 2015 there will be a second paycheck.

Recreation Events Coordinator Report

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt – Mrs. McNichol advised they will be setting up tomorrow. She is going to Shop-Rite to pick up the food and will be at the Community Center at about 9:30 a.m. until about 11:30 a.m. Volunteers will be helping to set up at approximately 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Other volunteers will come on Saturday to help with the various activities. All needed supplies are either received or will be available prior to the event.

Cross discussion about this event, including it is sold out, determining who will be helping at the breakfast and at what times, and any last-minute items that should be purchased.

Summer Concert Series – She has heard from everyone for this concert series and all are on board to perform. However, Ed Nicholson advised that several of his band members will be on vacation, and he asked if he could go in the rotation of next year. The next band in line to be considered for July 19, 2015 is the Hellatones. Chris Gardner and Skip Yingling are other bands for this concert series. If the Hellatones are not able to perform, one more band still must be locked in – could be The Kootz or Dicey Riley. There will be a total of four concerts.

Commission members are agreeable to these changes.

The Commission members thanked Mrs. Carey and Mrs. McNichol for their reports.

PRESENTATION OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Councilwoman Fu advised that the applications are ready for the three groups who want to use the turf this spring. She has heard from lacrosse who will pick up an application tomorrow. She reminded that if a field is not going to be used at night or if lights are still on when leaving, a call must be made to request the lights be turned off. This will be put on the permit.

Councilwoman Fu advised that a military band will be playing in the Borough the week prior to Family Day and the start of the summer concerts. This concert will take place in Roberts Garden. She also reminded about the paper shredding event at the Library on April 11, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. There will also be band performances at the VFW on Saturday, August 1, 2015, and they are requesting extra parking. No sports activities/games will be permitted on this day. It is an all-day event with various vendors.

Cooperation has been asked for from the Little League for the Morris Minutemen wet down event that is to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015. Little League said they will try not to have any games, but depending on how the weather has been they may need to make up a game(s). Parking is the primary issue for asking for Little League's cooperation. The wet down will be held from early afternoon until about 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Fu advised that Police Officer Christopher Cornine was honored by the VFW recently as Law Enforcement Man of the Year. It also recognized his two tours of duty in Afghanistan. She advised of Lou Mautone's retirement from the Police Department on April 1, 2015.

Councilwoman Fu asked if there were any Commission members who would be willing to assist her in connection with the recent request that pickle ball be added to the Borough's recreational offerings. This led to a discussion about how much conflict this might create between tennis players or basketball players and pickle ball players since either a tennis court or a basketball court can be used to make a pickle ball court. More discussion may be needed. Mrs. McCabe offered to assist Mrs. Fu with this project.

might create between tennis players or basketball players and pickle ball players since either a tennis court or a basketball court can be used to make a pickle ball court. More discussion may be needed. Mrs. McCabe offered to assist Mrs. Fu with this project.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Family Day – The rides are being finalized. Discussions are being held with various vendors. A seventh ride may be added this year if the funds are available.

Cross discussion about possible new entertainment, being able to keep the entertainment from previous years; charges for port-a-johns perhaps being picked up by the Borough; issue of the “ice cream lady” that occurred last year; permits for authorized vendors, avoidance of any conflicts; when contracts need to be finalized; issuance of checks in a timely manner; insurance coverage issues; and good coordination with Council members as to who does what.

Everything appears to be in good shape at this point in time regarding this event.

Mrs. Slawinski commented that she would be really like to host a clambake on Saturday, June 13, 2015, the first day that the Pool will be open. She shared her thoughts on how she thinks this event can best be held – maybe during the mid to late afternoon. She suggested a charge of \$5 per person.

Mrs. McNichol offered to obtain prices from Shop-Rite.

Cross discussion about the possible clambake event, including what other foods to possibly offer such as hot dogs and cole slaw, who can attend this event (members only or others, too), and whether the Pool will actually be ready to be open on June 13, 2015.

Mr. Sittmann spoke about a situation concerning the equipment shed at the VFW Field, Little League, the vo-tech school, the Department of Public Works (DPW) and locks to the shed. This was resolved. He will be meeting with Benny and Joey to walk the fields with Little League to review what needs to be done for the 50/70 field and the softball field(s).

Little League – Brief discussion about the matter of the Snack Bar and what the responsibilities of parents are regarding manning the Snack Bar. Some matters are related to there being more leagues and tournaments. It is a Little League issue. Also mentioned were fund raising and corporate sponsorships.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mr. Sittmann asked the Commission members to review the vouchers.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sittmann requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission’s February 26, 2015 Regular Meeting.

A correction was noted that should be made in the write-up of the pickle ball presentation by Mrs. Diering. The needed revision was made.

Mr. Bodnar moved that the minutes of the February 26, 2015 meeting be approved as revised, seconded by Mrs. McCabe. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary