

# RECREATION COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING

April 23, 2015

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

Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director

Absent: 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. Seeing one, Mr. Sittmann closed the meeting to the public.

### RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2015

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

**Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt** – Mrs. Leahey provided all final numbers for this event. They had a total of \$3,100 to work with, including the budget allocation. A total of 200 tickets were sold. She proposed that for next year's event that the flyer be worded differently to indicate that this event is open to only Morris Plains residents (tickets can be bought only by Morris Plains residents). This is primarily because there are space limitations.

**Paint the Town** – A decision needs to be made at this meeting as to the locations where there will be paintings. Several possible locations were proposed. Several sites were mentioned such as the rear of the Borough School and the Teen Center. When summer camp registration opened last week, parents were asked if they wanted their child(ren) to participate in this activity and many did. In checking past years' participants, Mrs. Leahey noted that it appears to be the same children year after year who are doing this project. She did organize a second Paint the Town event last year for those on the waiting list, but there was unhappiness with the date and one or two other issues. As a result, she is hesitant to plan to do this again in the future.

Cross discussion about how to open this event up to more children without hurting any of the past participants' feelings or the feelings of their parents. A variety of ideas were

Cross discussion about how to open this event up to more children without hurting any of the past participants' feelings or the feelings of their parents. A variety of ideas were discussed.

Mrs. Leahey thought perhaps names could be put into a hat/container of some kind and then someone could pull out 12 names. With this approach, everyone will have a fair chance and she will not have to actively turning anyone away. She explained some of the difficulties of this situation.

Some members thought it was time to re-look at how some of these kinds of matters are handled and that Councilwoman Fu was the person who would need provide guidance. It is probably too late to make any changes this year, but going forward it probably would be good to possibly re-assess the procedures and processes relating to any number of programs and projects.

**Summer Camp** – Mrs. Leahey advised that more than 100 participants are signed up. Four programs are sold out/closed. She reported on the current status of some of the other programs. So far, registration is looking pretty steady.

**Splash Party** – Kevin Soutar was contacted, and he will get back to Mrs. Leahey. She updated on the information she was able to obtain from Shop-Rite regarding food to be served as well as the projected cost.

Cross discussion, including the best time to schedule this event, the best food to purchase, that non-members will be able to attend, what day of the week to hold on, and estimating the number of people likely to attend.

**Applications for the Summer Season** – Mrs. Leahey and Mrs. McCabe began a preliminary review of the applications received so far for summer employment. Many applications were received. Many past employees have re-applied for work.

**Hires** – Gina Baker was re-hired as the basketball coach for the adult position that is open. She will also conduct the basketball camp. She may also coordinate a “field day” for the summer program that would include a petting zoo.

**Communications** – Mrs. Leahey reported that an e-mail was received from Mr. Anil who is concerned about conditions at and of the tennis courts as well as lighting. Mr. Sittmann also received this e-mail.

Cross discussion about issues contained in this e-mail.

Mr. Sittmann asked Mrs. Leahey to contact the sender of this e-mail and state the Commission is looking into his requests.

**Spring Programs** - Mrs. Leahey reported these programs are winding down and that some have already ended. There will be summer yoga on Tuesday nights and a walking class while camp is in session.

Mrs. Leahey concluded her presentation.

**Family Day** – All the vouchers were sent out and some are already coming back.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### Family Day

Mr. Breslin provided information concerning this event advising of some of the difficulties in connection with ride providers in New Jersey. The problem is that most vendors have a hard time providing a sufficient assortment of rides on their own without

difficulties in connection with ride providers in New Jersey. The problem is that most vendors have a hard time providing a sufficient assortment of rides on their own without partnering up with another vendor. This also impacts the bid process for the selecting the vendor(s). At this point the Commission will be working with the incumbent vendor from last year; the cost will be \$5,769. This vendor will also provide 12 workers and there will be an extra ride. This vendor offered the lowest cost. If this vendor is approved tonight, the insurance process will be able to begin with the Borough Clerk.

Mr. Bodnar added additional information concerning other entertainment for the day such as clowns and music by Chris Gardner.

Mr. Sittmann reminded of the need to coordinate all activities with the Police and Fire Departments as well as the Morris Minute Men.

#### PRESENTATION OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sittmann advised that Basketball has requested additional court time at St. Virgil.

Contact was made with Father Lance and St. Virgil appears to be receptive to this request. Basketball is also hoping for court time at a gymnasium now operational at the County park and recreational area.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. McCabe reported that today she and Councilwoman Fu visited the Lafayette Learning Center to observe pickle ball in action. She provided details of how the play area is set up and the equipment needed to play the game. Two portable nets were set up; there were approximately 12 participants. The paddles used are similar to a ping-pong paddle but thicker. The ball is a wiffle ball but with holes in it. Based on online research, a set can likely be purchased for \$200 to \$500, depending on the quality of the set. She provided other information related to creating a pickle ball court (30 x 60). The Lafayette Learning Center uses fluorescent tape to mark lines.

Cross discussion about pickle ball, including the various pros and cons of such an activity, person(s) known to be interested in playing it, inside versus outside play area, best location for playing (Community Center, tennis court, elsewhere), best time of day to allow play, and that primarily this effort is to establish a new senior activity versus an activity for children/young people.

Mr. Bodnar advised that basketball at the Vo-tech school was great this past year.

However, as the Vo-tech school continues to grow, it is requiring more and more gym time.

Mr. Sittmann reported that Little League's Opening Day was very good. He provided updated information concerning the fields, particularly the work for the 50/70 field. He also commented on a maintenance program going forward that will be done three times a year – the beginning of the season, mid season, and the end of the season providing details as to how this maintenance program will work. He also discussed issues relating drainage problems.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Mrs. Slawinski moved that the minutes of the March 26, 2015 meeting be approved as revised, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. Voice vote. All in favor (Mr. Breslin abstained as he was not present at the March meeting). **Motion carried.**

#### APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

was not present at the March meeting). **Motion carried.**

#### APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

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

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

Karleen Leahey  
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan  
Recording Secretary