

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

May 28, 2015

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maureen McEntee (arrived at 7:43 pm)
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Chairman

Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

Absent: Mr. Michael Breslin

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."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Slawinski moved that the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting be approved as revised, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

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 – MAY 2015

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Community Park Pool - Mrs. Leahey reported she has had feedback from some residents regarding the Pool. Ms. Mary Brennan asked why the Senior Single rate is \$90 while the Senior Couple rate is \$110. Ms. Brennan conducted a survey on her own by contacting a variety of pools in the surrounding area; she provided the results to Mrs. Leahey. One finding was that Florham Park does not charge for seniors while the local Township pool charges \$60 for seniors. Mrs. Leahey stated Ms. Brennan believes this is an issue of proportionality of fees between what is charged for a single person versus a couple. Mrs. Leahey stated she understands Ms. Brennan's point. Other pools surveyed were more proportionate to being closer to \$60 or more like one-half of what is charged a senior couple.

Mr. Sittmann advised that nothing can be changed now, but the Commission will discuss these fees prior to setting the fees for the Pool's 2016 season.

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Mrs. Leahey advised two other seniors said they would not be joining the Pool this season due to lack of shade.

Mr. Sittmann stated two more tents have been donated so there will be a total of five tents for this year. He advised that these tents will not be up every day depending on the weather and also that Pool users will need to arrive early because people do tend to camp out under them.

Cross discussion about the existing availability of shade provided by trees.

Summer Camp – Mrs. Leahey advised the Camp numbers are showing a total of 284 participants; this is about the same as last year. The Teen Camp has 111, a significant number of whom will be entering eighth grade in the fall. There are 63 Counselors, five of whom are substitutes. She provided information on remaining staff and also discussed the issue of what the final number of Camp participants will be and how this will impact staff responsibilities.

Summer Camp Enhancement Programs – Mrs. Leahey stated these programs are having successful enrollments. Some programs are already full and others are very close to being full. She has no space available to conduct second classes, although there is some slim possibility of scheduling one or two classes (for example, Science Wizards class which has a very large waiting list).

Theater Program – Mrs. Leahey reported there is a little issue with this program relating to the 35-participant maximum. But, she believes this issue will be able to be worked out successfully.

Community Park Pool – The Pool staff is now at 43 employees. She mailed out an e-mail today (May 28, 2015) about the Pool rate increasing very soon. She expects that many people will sign up before the date of the increase.

Brief cross discussion about eliminating the late Pool sign-up fee for the 2016 season; perhaps just doing this for those signing up after the official opening of the Pool. Mrs. Leahey agreed and did Councilwoman Fu.

Summer Concert Series – Mrs. Leahey confirmed that these concert are all set – all vouchers have been signed and the checks will be available for the performers.

Family Day and Fireworks – Mrs. Leahey will defer to Mr. Bodnar on this event.

Mrs. Leahey concluded her report.

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORT OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Affordable Housing Project

Councilwoman Fu reported on the matter of the planned affordable housing project to be built on Route 53/Tabor Road. She stated there will be 59 units/apartments. She provided information concerning the apartments, ground work to be done, the modular nature of the apartments,

Hiring of New Police Department Patrolman

Interviews will be conducted shortly for this hiring.

Army Band Concert

Councilwoman Fu advised about an Army Band concert that will be held on Friday, June 26, 2015. The Municipal Alliance is sponsoring a student concert on Friday, July 17, 2015.

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Borough Municipal Budget

The budget was approved. Funds were budgeted this year for resurfacing of the tennis courts. She commented on various ways the resurfacing can be done, including with tiles that would allow for replacement of a single tile when necessary. Pricing must be determined for whatever method is selected. And, any special concerns about using tiles will need to be investigated. Several Commissioners stated they were willing to investigate the possible methods of accomplishing the resurfacing and what the cost would be.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Family Day

Mr. Bodnar provided an update on Family Day. He believes all the vouchers have been submitted for approval, with the exception of one or two. Everyone is confirmed for entertainment and music. A new ride is being added this year and there will be a “slam dunk” type of entertainment for tweener attendees. Cloverland Farms will be present.

Two entertainers are being added this year. He provided additional information concerning port-a-johns, organizations providing volunteers, and other matters that must be taken care of prior to this event taking place. He advised that he does not believe the Camp Counselors will need to volunteer this year.

Cross discussion about issues relating to Family Day, including that the Swim Team and Little League will be reminded of their responsibilities; coordination with the Police Department regarding handicapped parking; that arrangements need to be made to have the Department of Public Works (DPW) clean the softball fields on Sunday/early Monday so the fields will be ready for use; and that the fireworks company has certain responsibilities for cleaning the fields, too – a fields inspection will need to be done.

A statement was made that there is a notation on the “Ice Cream Lady’s” permit that she is not allowed to work on Family Day. It was also stated that perhaps the handicapped parking could be handled by having names submitted in advance so that actual parking spaces can be reserved; the possibility of using special tickets or another kind of ID could be used, too.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

The subject of offering pickle ball was raised and Councilwoman Fu was asked if there was any possible way that this recreation could be done inside instead of outdoors since playing in hot weather will be a problem.

Cross discussion about the possibility of this being done – can it be done safely anywhere? This discussion also included matters relating to the equipment (stored or brought by players); possible interference with those wanting to play tennis; allocation of court time matters; that there is no official pickle ball organization, just a group of people who are interested in playing; purchasing a key to the tennis courts; possibly looking into this recreation being done at Mountain Way during the summer; and trying some kind of arrangement on a trial basis to see if this recreation can be accommodated within the Borough.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

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

Mr. Sittmann commented on a number of activities occurring in the Borough such as the

All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Sittmann commented on a number of activities occurring in the Borough such as the Borough School Softball team having a great season, and that they are going to the playoffs (semis). Several other Commissioners commented on additional positive activities and events taking place in the Borough, include matters relating to the vo-tech school, Little League, and the Morristown High girls' Lacrosse are State sectional champions for the first time; they now go to the Tournament of Champions and the first game is against Moorestown. Morris Plains is represented on a number of these teams.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary