

# RECREATION COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING

June 25, 2015

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

Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director  
Sue Carey, Summer Camp Director  
Sheryl McNichol, Events Coordinator  
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

**Absent:** Mrs. Maggie Slawinski

### 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 – JUNE 2015

Mrs. Leahey advised she received an e-mail message from a parent about the Morris Plains Borough School After-School Enhancements. She read this e-mail aloud. Mrs. Leahey stated her initial reaction to this message was that she had not received any communication about the information contained in this e-mail. It related to the after-school enhancement programs and also raised an issue with the Kids Helping Kids programs that have been offered. She stated there was a suggestion that she relinquish the ongoing Kids Helping Kids programs to the Borough School program. It also had an involvement with the YMCA.

Cross discussion about the information in this e-mail, including that part of the thinking is to allow teachers to have some extra classes to earn extra money; having direct discussion with staff about this change; that this change (to everyone's knowledge) has not yet been made public; when regular meetings are held with the school; and questioning as to how this change might have occurred.

**Community Park Pool** – Mrs. Leahey advised that a person contacted her about the possibility of performing a community service project. She discussed with this person the possibility of creating a separate Pool website. She provided details as to what she envisions being included on such a website, especially Swim Team updates such as the need for an early practice and closures due to poor weather.

envisions being included on such a website, especially Swim Team updates such as the need for an early practice and closures due to poor weather.

It was suggested that perhaps important recordings (like the Pool is closed) could be left on the Pool telephone voice mail system.

Mrs. Leahey commented that reaching the Pool by telephone can be difficult since she has called the Pool and no one answered. Also, the Pool telephone number is not generally known by most people. She advised of another project the community service volunteer is already working on – recording all the e-mails listed on the Pool membership forms. This is of great assistance to her since members definitely appear to like being communicated with via e-mail. She provided additional details of how this and similar information could be helpful to others involved with the Pool.

Cross discussion including other ideas that may be helpful to Pool members and to residents in general, possible linkings to existing web sites, and other ideas for projects that the community service volunteer could possibly help with.

**Pool Members** - Mrs. Leahey reported that as of June 25, 2014 they had \$90,750 and as of today, June 25, 2015, they have \$82,005. The total for 2014 was \$101,205. Finance is aware of these amounts.

Mr. Sittmann reported that on June 22 and June 23, 2015, there was \$78 and \$86 of Snack Bar transactions. Today (June 25, 2015) there was \$364 of Snack Bar transactions and on June 24, 2015, the amount was approximately \$287.

**Summer Camp** – Mrs. Leahey advised there were many Camp sign-ups today. She also provided information on several issues that have occurred in connection with staff involved with Summer Camp work. A total of approximately 320 campers are enrolled as of right now; this is very similar to last year's enrollment. Teen Camp enrollment has increased since 2014. She reviewed the various categories of enrollees.

Cross discussion about kindergarten age children being able to enroll for Camp.

Mrs. Leahey stated that overall all Camp matters are looking good. She and Susan are reviewing the budget. She provided information about the various Enhancement programs being offered.

**Family Day** – She provided all the telephone numbers for all the contacts for the vendors to Messrs. Bodnar and Breslin and to Mrs. McEntee. She also included contact information for John Charron. She also commented on the Minute Men, her son, and contacting her if needed. Also provided are all the Sports Organizations contacts.

Mrs. Leahey's final comment before concluding her presentation stated she is disappointed with the summer staff this year – late advising that they will not be working this summer, needing more days off than originally stated, and similar types of “let-downs”.

Cross discussion about more detailed information concerning the disappointments with this year's summer staff and how to best deal with a variety of the problems that have now surfaced.

#### SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JUNE 2015

**Summer Camp Staff** - Susan commented that she has had to communicate with several parents concerning some of the problems relating to the disappointment with this year's summer staff.

**Swim Team Practice** – She advised she received information from Tina Cecala on times and how many swimmers there are. She has some concerns about Swim Team issues. Those who are 12 years and older may pose a problem for parents, but not for her. This

**Swim Team Practice** – She advised she received information from Tina Cecala on times and how many swimmers there are. She has some concerns about Swim Team issues. Those who are 13 years and older may pose a problem for parents, but not for her. This will also disrupt any number of Summer Camp events/trips.

Cross discussion concerning various Swim Team matters, including issues relating to Pool Walkers, schedules, and meeting with Tina.

Mrs. Leahey advised that Swim Lessons will be held at Noontime at the Pool.

Cross discussion about issues relating to some prior misunderstanding as to when the Swim Lessons would begin (Noontime or 12:15 p.m. – Noontime is correct); coordinating with young people who need volunteer hours to help with the walking; walking young children back to other Camp programs; questions arising from volunteer walkers such as insurance coverage; and a discussion held with Charlie.

Susan continued expressing her concerns around the matter of the Swim Team Practice.

Several Commission members suggested a variety of recommendations about how to deal with the various Walker/Swim Team practice and lessons concerns.

Mr. Sittmann advised he will reach out to Charlie and Chrissy tomorrow. Tina will also need to be involved.

Susan discussed contacting the Police Department to request some assistance on Monday and Tuesday, June 29 and June 30, 2015, to “watch” the corner near the Teen Center (Routes 53 and 202) from about 8:50 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. to provide safety for the young people bike riding to the Center. She also wondered if it might be good idea to enlist the Police to provide a bicycle safety class for these young people at some time during the Summer Teen Camp. Assistance might also be helpful at the intersection of Littleton and Malapardis Roads.

Susan advised she has all the supplies she needs at this point. She also provided information about other matters such as T-Shirts being in, room set-ups and the like.

#### EVENTS COORDINATOR’S REPORT – JUNE 2015

**Summer Concert Series** - Ms. McNichol reported that all concerts are booked and that she has the payment checks. She will not be able to attend the July 5, 2015 concert and hopes someone will be able to cover for her.

**Senior Picnic** – This event will take place on July 16, 2015 beginning at 1:00 p.m. There will not be any entertainment; however, she and Mrs. Leahey are planning on providing enhanced table settings probably with candies and flowers. Another idea they are planning is a Trivia-type game with ten questions that will relate to Morris Plains. She and Mrs. Leahey are also suggesting that winning attendees be given \$10 gift cards from businesses in the Borough such as Dunkin’ Donuts, Lovey’s and others. Mr. Dave Banks will not be able to attend this event; he is a major participant at this event by doing most of the cooking.

Various Commissioners indicated they could help with the cooking.

Cross discussions primarily about the \$10 gift card idea, but with additional ideas for perhaps providing some kind of entertainment and maybe holding a raffle of some type.

**Splash Party** – This event will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2015. Lovey’s will again provide the food.

Ms. McNichol concluded her presentation.

**Theater Program** – Mrs. Leahey advised that 40 participants have signed up for this program. She and Mrs. Slawinski worked on developing a budget to cover additional

**Theater Program** – Mrs. Leahey advised that 40 participants have signed up for this program. She and Mrs. Slawinski worked on developing a budget to cover additional staff. She provided details about this program. There was brief discussion about the rules and regulations as to the sound system.

**Summer Camp Trips** – There are 120 Teen Campers. For each local trip there is a Morris Plains bus, but it will only fit 50 passengers. This means 70 campers will not be able to go on the trip. Generally, such trips are done on a first-come, first-served basis. The major trips (Tomahawk Lake, Keansburg, Camel Beach) can accommodate just 48 passengers with the rest of bus being seats for Counselors.

Cross discussion about how best to address the issues raised in connection with the various bus trips, including that there can be only one bus due cost concerns; sending out a well-timed e-mail about reserving a spot on the bus; asking campers to indicate their first, second, and third choices as well as several others possibilities.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. McCabe moved that the minutes of the May 28, 2015 meeting be approved as revised, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. Voice vote. All in favor (with the exception of Mr. Breslin who abstained). **Motion carried.**

#### APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mrs. Leahey advised that just those vouchers highlighted in yellow are being approved at this meeting.

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS/REPORT OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Councilwoman Fu spoke about the band concert tomorrow evening, advising that if the weather is good it will be held at Roberts Garden and if the weather is not good it will be held at the Community Center.

She also reported that two additional patrol officers were recently hired by the Borough's Police Department and that there were Department of Public Works (DPW) retirements. She provided an update on the tree planting work scheduled to be done. She advised that site work will begin shortly at the affordable housing site on Route 53.

Brief cross discussion about Greystone – what is the latest on the building demolition project and issues relating to certain play fields. This discussion also included commentary about various sports organizations and issues relating to field maintenance and condition.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**Summer Basketball** – There is significant participation in this sport this year. Also included discussion about basketball courts, their location, and when they are generally in use.

**Tennis Courts** – A question was raised about the project to re-surface the courts.

**Family Day** – The Commission members discussed how various matters in connection with this event will be handled, most particularly how to handle the need to re-schedule to the Rain Date (Sunday, June 28, 2015) – who will make this decision; who will notify the various vendors; by what time vendors need to be notified; and related matters. Everyone is set for both days.

It was decided that a decision will need to be made by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2015, and then vendors and all others who need to be contacted will need to be called.

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Members also discussed such matters as how the parking is expected to be handled; emergency traffic circulation at the site; porta-potties; set-up at the site; any possible availability of Borough-owned tents; food that will be provided at the event; which fields different rides will be located on; the volunteers who will be helping; and a question as to whether the Family Day event could be held be on one day and the fireworks on another (not at all likely).

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