

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

July 23, 2015

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

Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Sheryl McNichol, Events Coordinator
Councilwoman Laurie Fu (arrived at 8:16 p.m.)

Absent: Mr. Michael Breslin
Mrs. Maureen McEntee

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 none, Mr. Sittmann closed the meeting to the public.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JULY 2015

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Summer Camp and Enhancement Programs - Mrs. Leahey advised that the Camps (Camps and Enhancements) this year took in a total of \$93,000. There were a total of 325 campers; there were a total of 130 campers at the Teen Camp. This year she handled the Enhancements a bit differently than in

the past, and she explained what the differences were and what the impacts, if any, were. Everything has been going very well, the children have been great and the counselors have been really great. The weather has also been very good all season.

Office Computer for Photo IDs – Mrs. Leahey reported this computer crashed and all the data was lost. Everything that was on this computer is now gone. She was able to make temporary ID cards.

Cross discussion about how to address this need for photo IDs into the future, how best to address this need, and various alternatives for producing the needed IDs in the future.

Protocol Committee for Summer Camp Issues – Mrs. Leahey reported that there are times when neither the Camp Director nor the Recreation Director are equipped to deal with whatever the issue/problem/incident is.

Mr. Sittmann suggested a committee formed of Mrs. Leahey, Susan Carey, Mrs. Slawinski, and Jake Cahill, since he is also a teacher, could spearhead this effort and develop appropriate protocol. Perhaps a school psychologist would be able to be helpful, too.

Cross discussion about this and how best to address in the future.

Mrs. Leahey believed she, Susan Carey, Mrs. Slawinski and Jake Cahill could make a good effort to begin this protocol development process.

Summer Concert Series – The last concert will be held on this coming Sunday. She has been receiving very positive feedback on all the concerts that have been held. A Commissioner commented that there have been some negatives comments about issues relating to this concert series – primarily parking on Glenbrook road and the noise.

Senior Picnic – Mrs. Leahey reported on this event. The budget was \$1,200.00, and about \$450 remained after the event. This event also produced positive feedback.

AquaSize – Mrs. Leahey advised that Stacy Williamson is coordinating this program. She needs to know how best to pay her – what budget line to apply the cost on – Pool? Senior Event? Another line?

Splash Party – Mrs. Leahey advised this event has been re-scheduled for this coming Friday. Everything is ready for this event. It will start at 6:30 p.m.

Brief cross discussion about the sending out of e-mails.

Upcoming Events – Mrs. Leahey recommended that the remaining six events be further discussed at the Commission's September meeting. She also wondered if the Commission members would like to consider hosting some kind of a winter event this upcoming winter.

Cross discussion about possible social events that might be added to the current schedule, including a possible Comedy Night; activities directed toward adults/couples versus family activities; or some event that would take place right after the Super Bowl.

Fall Recreation Programs - Mrs. Leahey advised that she has provided a spreadsheet in connection with the proposed Fall programs. Mr. Sittmann asked a question about where the participants in the tennis program live – do they all live in Morris Plains?

Mrs. Leahey responded she has never had a class reach a maximum number of participants that would exclude Morris Plains participants. There has never been a problem since she has been in this position.

Brief cross discussion regarding and introduction to lacrosse program that is occurring. She explained this is just for children to try it to see if they would like it. There is no cost involved to participant in purchasing equipment.

Mrs. Leahey stated all the information about Fall recreation programs will be put on the website.

Pool Hours/Pool Activities - Mrs. Leahey advised there has been some discussion about possibly extending the Pool hours to later in the evening. There was also discussion of possibly offering new activities such as bands on one or more evenings. Mrs. Leahey reminded that any changes of this nature will need to be discussed and agreed upon in time for the publication of Pool publicity and information for the 2016 season. She stated this information will need to be in place by February 1, 2016.

An informal committee was formed to study what changes might be made to increase Pool membership and to also create a more enjoyable “Pool experience” for members. This also included commentary on issues relating to not enough shade, not enough time to enjoy that Pool after work on weekdays, and options for securing funding.

Special Events Budget – Mrs. Leahey requested a review of Sports Organizations participation related to Family Day, including the contribution payments that need to be made to the various assisting Sports Organizations especially since letters and vouchers need to be prepared.

EVENTS COORDINATOR’S REPORT – JULY 2015

Summer Concert Series - Ms. McNichol reported that there is one more concert remaining in this series.

Senior Picnic – Ms. McNichol reported that this event was very well received and that all attending seemed to have a really enjoyable time. About 75 to 80 people attended.

Bonfire – Ms. McNichol asked if she would be able to again hire the DJ who performed at this event last year. Together with various Commissioners she and they discussed logistics such as speakers, power sources, level of music, the various supply items that are needed such as pumpkins, bricks, and so on.

Cross discussion about a variety of matters relating to the Bonfire, including whether they should in some way to be determined honor the memory of Joe “Gag”, getting approval for such a thought, and approaching Mr. Cortese to obtain certain information about his contacts for obtaining supplies in prior years.

Mrs. McNichol asked Councilwoman Fu if it would be possible to dedicate the Bonfire event in memory of Joe “Gag” since he gave tremendous help in setting up this event, both during the day of and at night, and then unfortunately passed away later the same evening.

Councilwoman Fu responded that she will bring this request to the attention of the Governing Body.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mrs. Leahey advised some of the vouchers are for refunds due to scheduling conflicts or lack of interest/participation. She also provided an explanation of these situations.

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

Councilwoman Fu arrived at 8:16 p.m.

Mrs. McNichol advised that she, Mrs. Leahey and the Commissioners would like to identify some kind of adult activity/event that could be held during the winter season 2016.

Cross discussion about some of the ideas that might be work and be well received by adults.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Summer League Basketball – While the program is going well, it appears that the numbers are low. The thinking was that perhaps the hot weather is deterring play.

Little League – There have been issues with Little League this year; many requests are being made of the DPW staff, sometimes once a day. “Unauthorized” lacrosse play by young children in the outfield has also posed problems. Little League does not own the fields. Lack of communication among the various users of the fields probably needs to be addressed with Little League and possibly others, too. Also, apparently other municipalities are being allowed to play their Little League games on Morris Plains’ fields, for example, a recent Little League game played on Field #1 under the lights between Morristown and another municipality. An e-mail about cutting the grass was also discussed.

Cross discussion about increasing Little League issues that need to be addressed and resolved, recent communications between Little League and various Morris Plains/Recreation contacts. This discussion also included a problem with improper parking of cars in near proximity to the fields and possibly other areas of the Community Park property.

Mrs. McNichol advised that at one of the Concert Series concerts the band decided to park on the grass near the memorial in the middle of the park. She requested that they move their cars to street parking. A band member stated

they had parked in this area last week without any problem (band members play in more than one band). She advised she was offended by the band's lack of respect to the park's memorial area.

Councilwoman Fu and the Commissioners stated that if this occurs in the future the cars will need to be moved; they cannot remain parked in this area during the concert.

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORT OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Councilwoman Fu updated on the progress being made on the affordable housing project on Tabor Road/Route 53. As to the other development property on Tabor Road/Route 53, it remains in litigation and there are no changes. She also reported on Honeywell's plans for moving its employees into this new location.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bodnar moved that the minutes of the June 25, 2015 meeting be approved as revised, seconded by Mrs. McCabe. Voice vote. All in favor **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

