

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

September 10, 2015

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

Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Sheryl McNichol, Events Coordinator
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

Absent: Mrs. Maggie Slawinski
Mr. Jake Cahill

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The July minutes could not be approved due to a lack of a quorum of those who had been present at the July meeting

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – September 2015

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Correspondence – Mrs. Leahey read a note from resident, Hollie Parillo, complimenting the efforts of Stacey Williamson and the Senior Aquacise classes held at the pool on Wednesdays. She stated that there is interest among the participants for having the class run for more than 4 weeks (6 or 8) next year. The Commission will discuss whether/how this could be possible. Another note was received from resident, Joan Sambrowski, complimenting and thanking the Commission for offering the Summer Concert in the Park series.

Sports Program Stipends – Mrs. Leahey reported that three groups, to date, have not signed and returned their vouchers to request their stipends for 2015. They are Babe Ruth Baseball, Morris Plains Swim Team and the Grapplers Wrestling.

Summer Camp and Enhancement Programs - Mrs. Leahey presented a spreadsheet showing the income and expenses for these programs. She reported on the success of the summer programs. She also provided an update on the “Paint the Town” enhancement program which is led by Kristen Howie. The class is very popular and children typically must be turned away, so Kristen has proposed that another instructor be brought on board (Kristen recommended an associate of hers) to run a second class. This should accommodate all those who would be interested. Mrs. Leahey also reported on a Hobby Quest program that was unsuccessfully offered and created much disappointment for the participants and parents. Refunds were provided to participants, and the program will not be brought back next year. Mrs. McNichol (whose daughter was in the class) commented on how pleased the parents were with the way that Mrs. Leahey handled the situation and made the best out of it for the children.

Splash Party – Mrs. Leahey reported that this rescheduled event was a huge success.

Garage Sale Days – Mrs. Leahey stated that permits are being issued, booklets/maps will be printed and Mrs. McNichol will be responsible for distributing them on Oct 3 and 4.

Bonfire – Permit applications have been made. Hay will be provided by Agway. Pumpkins will be provided for decorating/take home. Kevin Soutar will provide music. A portajohn will be available. The Police and DPW have been alerted. Lights will be provided by DPW.

Swimming Pool - The “Pool Committee” (Ms Slawinski, Ms McCabe, Pool Mgr. Diamante, Mr Sittmann and Mrs Leahey) met to discuss possible options for increasing membership and other revenue at the pool. A walk through was also held at the pool to explore the maintenance/facilities needs at the pool. Mrs. Fu will discuss the pool with the Council B&G Committee to discuss next steps and will then get back together with the Pool Committee.

EVENTS COORDINATOR’S REPORT – September 2015

Winter Activity - Mrs. McNichol gave a report following up on a discussion at the July meeting on whether to hold a “winter” recreation activity. The possibility of holding an adult comedy night or a murder mystery dinner event was raised. There was concern over where we could hold such an event (since Bretton Woods is closing?) Mrs McNichol advised that she received inquiry from resident Ed Nicholson who has local music students who could perform a concert for the community at the community center or at the school. The Commission asked Sheryl to collect more details (cost/date, etc) so that a decision could be made at the October meeting.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Little League – Mr. Sittmann commented that there are some concerns with Little League this year due to their reliance on the DPW to do an increased amount of work, especially in light of the extended season and the need for modification of a field (50/70). He suggested that this be discussed with the board and rectified for next year. He also raised an issue with the 50/70 field. There is a Morris Plains team that will use the field, but additionally there is a Hanover team which has members from Morris Plains that would like to use the field. That team will need to complete an application, and charges may be necessary.

Soccer – President, Jeff Emge invited the Commission to opening day events on Saturday, Sept 12 at 10 a.m.

Sports Leagues/Organizations – will be invited to the October meeting to present any needs/news to the Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORT OF COUNCILWOMAN FU

Councilwoman Fu gave an update on upcoming town events including the 9-11 Memorial Service, Paper Shredding at the Library, Operation Takeback for prescription drugs on Sept 26. She also stated that the Council and Mayor recently had the opportunity to visit the newly renovated Honeywell headquarters. 350 employees will move in on Sept. 15. Approx 1000 employees will be in by end of October. The Council was very pleased and impressed with the building.

She also commented on a litter problem that has been occurring at Simons Park. Groups tend to gather at the turf and the basketball court and leave their trash all over the facility. Our new Clean Communities Coordinator, Ellie Falco, has posted a banner to discourage littering and is working with the DPW to provide some larger receptacles. Mrs. Fu also stated that some “no littering” signs will be posted and one trash can will be brought inside the gate so that players see it as they leave the facility. The situation will continue to be monitored.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Sittmann, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to hold a brief executive session to discuss personnel related business. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. McEntee moved the meeting be adjourned at approx. 8:50 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McCabe. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary