

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

November 17, 2016

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar, Vice Chairman
Mr. Michael Breslin
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Chairman
(arrived at 7:37 p.m.)

Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Lysa Gagliardi, Events Coordinator

Absent: Mr. Jake Cahill
Mrs. Maureen McEntee

Councilwoman Laurie Fu

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bodnar 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. Bodnar opened this portion of the meeting to comments from the public. Seeing no one, he closed the meeting to the public.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT – November 2016

Bonfire - Ms. Gagliardi reported that the expenses for the Bonfire totaled \$1,127.35. This was out of a budget allocation of \$1,500. This left a balance of \$372.65. She anticipates that the expenses in 2017 will be more since there was a cut back on the food due to the date change and she used decorations from last year. She reminded that for next year the timeframe will be 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday.

It was suggested that one additional light be arranged for the back corner; perhaps one of the fire trucks could be turned around facing down the road to provide extra lighting.

February Event – Ms. Gagliardi advised that ideas are still being discussed for a recreational event to be held during the month of February.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sittmann requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's October 27, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Mrs. Slawinski moved that the minutes of the October 27, 2016 meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. Voice vote. All in favor, except Mr. Breslin who was not present at this meeting. **Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Leahey advised she has a letter of thanks for assistance and efforts in 2016 received from the Morris Plains Fire Association for the Halloween Parade and Party.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – November 2016

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Halloween Parade and Party - She stated she plans to discuss with the Fire Department the possibility of holding this event on the Sunday prior to Halloween versus on Halloween itself due to overwhelming the nearby neighborhoods. Immediately following the parade and party, the participants start to visit the nearby neighborhood houses for trick or treating activities.

Cross discussion about the proposed plan to hold this event on the Sunday prior to Halloween, including re-considering the area where the event is held – maybe Community Park or Watnong Park; problems with the food – too much being taken by the adults in attendance; and possibly giving out inexpensive prizes again.

Mrs. Leahey said that if there is no opposition, she will discuss possibly changes for the Halloween Parade and Party with the Fire Department.

There was no opposition to this proposal.

Kids Helping Kids- Mrs. Leahey advised of a question from the Kids Helping Kids coordinator; she commented on a reading program that was moved from the Borough School to Mountain Way School to accommodate the mostly kindergarten and first grade children who were the main participants. This program has grown tremendously in popularity and for the first time children had to be turned away from participating. She stated a high school student volunteer has been assisting her with this program and because of increasing demands on her, Mrs. Leahey would like to be able to pay her a small salary. There is sufficient money in the budget to do this; she explained precisely how the volunteer helps the program. She wants to pay her so this volunteer does not leave to take a part-time after-school job. Payment would come from the Kids Helping Kids budget.

Commission members agreed with this proposal to offer a small salary to the Kids Helping Kids volunteer.

Summer Theater Program – Mrs. Leahey reported she has spoken with Joe in an attempt to reach a compromise. The compromise they agreed to is that since the conference room is not used for enhancement programs it is available for other uses. Joe wants to start Theater at 12:30 p.m. and until 1:30 p.m. he would review the songs and related work in the conference room (or any other room that may be available). If the Multipurpose Room is available, this room will be used instead of the conference room. By eliminating a second session of an exercise program or other program, the Multipurpose Room would become available from 1:30 p.m. on.

Cross discussion about the compromise and other matters and logistics related to the Summer Theater Program, including scaling back whatever program is to be offered; lack of lights and sound system; problems of entering the venue prior to the show and the saving of seats; costs of renting equipment; seating issues, including possible use of portable risers; and fee to be charged for the program.

Summer Enhancement Art Classes – Mrs. Leahey provided her thoughts and comments regarding these classes, including possible use of space at the Teen Center. Perhaps another “Paint the Town” event could be held since it is extremely popular.

Enhancements at the Pool – Mrs. Leahey advised that the suggestion has been made to possibly offer a stroke clinic or a water polo team that would be for the teenage participants.

Summer Camp and Enhancements Registration – Mrs. Leahey stated the first date will be April 19, 2017. It is later because Borough School has its spring break the previous week.

Personnel Issues – Mrs. Leahey advised that she is still talking with the person who served as Camp Director to determine if she will do so in 2017. Councilwoman Fu told her that all further discussion of this matter must be done in Executive Session. By the next meeting this issue will need to be finalized.

The Swim Team Coach position is being advertised on the Bulletin Board and will be for five days. If no one is identified through this method, it can be placed on the website.

Pool Refund Issues – Councilwoman Fu's committee that addresses such matters decided that a refund cannot be given. However, it did agree that a no-charge Pool membership could be offered to this person for the 2017 season. Mrs. Leahy called this person, and she was fine with this resolution.

Pool Photographs – Since there were problems with the camera in 2016, arrangements were made to set the system up so that people could provide their own photographs via e-mail that she could place on the badge. She would then mail or bring the badges to them.

Cross discussion about some issues that might surface with this process.

Volunteer of the Year Nominations – Mrs. Leahey advised she has sent out an e-mail with a deadline for nominations to be received for the end of this month (November 28, 2016). This can then be discussed at the next meeting; several have been received thus far and copies are in each Commissioner's folder.

Fee Schedule – Mrs. Leahey stated this was discussed at the last Council meeting. Marked-up copies showing how the Council marked up the proposed fee schedule provided to them are also in each Commissioner’s folder.

Cross discussion about the changes made to the Fee Schedule by the Council such as that the non-resident fees and the senior couple fees are to be decreased. Mrs. Leahey commented on the other changes proposed by the Council.

The Commissioners and Mrs. Leahey discussed various details of the Fee Schedule. Also discussed was that Mrs. Leahey explained that funds ran short for the Summer Camp in 2016, and she needs to determine a way that that does not happen again in 2017.

Mrs. Leahey was authorized to request that Councilwoman Fu bring to the Council’s attention that an additional \$200 will be required for the Summer Camp next year to address the shortfall that occurred this year.

2017 Budget – Mrs. Leahey advised that the budget is due to the Treasurer. Mrs. Leahey explained that she has not yet had an opportunity to review proposed the pool budget data with the Treasurer as she is waiting for the Treasurer to set a date. She has provided “all the numbers I have” to the Commissioners. She has also provided information since September.

Cross discussion about budget/expense related documentation and information, including references to committed numbers.

Mrs. Leahey referenced a spreadsheet and reviewed information on various pages with the Commissioners.

Mr. Sittmann commented on Pool chemicals and costs associated with these chemicals. Apparently, there was a savings on these chemicals last season.

Mrs. Leahey, Mrs. Gagliardi and the Commissioners discussed the various 2017 events together with commenting as to what amounts were best for each event and why.

2017 SPECIAL EVENTS/GROUPS AND BUDGETED AMOUNTS

<u>EVENTS/GROUPS</u>	<u>BUDGET AMOUNTS</u>
Bonfire	\$2,000.
Fireworks	\$22,100.
Halloween Parade & Party	\$250.
Theater	\$4000.
Summer Concert Series	\$4000.
Splash Parties	\$1500.
Family Day	\$10,000. (An additional \$5000)
Block Dance	\$750.
Senior Picnic	\$1250.
Recreation Events	\$1500.
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny	\$1700.
Senior Exercise	\$1,200
Volunteer Night	\$200.
Community Band	\$700
Babe Ruth	\$500.
Grapplers	\$500.
Morris Plains Little League	\$2500.
Soccer	\$2500.
Hockey	\$1000
Wildcats	\$1500.

Watnong Park	\$500.
Railroad Club	\$400
Swim Team	\$2500.
Lacrosse	\$2500.
Basketball	\$3000.
Sports Fund	\$500.

Cross discussion about the Railroad Club – when they are open, what they exactly do, who the volunteers are and where do they live, and related questions.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

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

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS

Cross discussion about the 2017 Bonfire, costs involved, should additional food offerings be made available beyond hot dogs and hamburgers, and related questions. This discussion also included talking about possibly having/selling sticks to toast marshmallows on.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary

