

RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 24, 2011

Present: Mr. Michael Breslin  
Mr. Salvatore Cortese, Chairman  
Mrs. Jan McCabe  
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski  
Mrs. Janelle Swift  
Councilwoman Suzanne McCluskey

Absent: Mr. Kevin Bodnar

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Cortese 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."

Mr. Cortese advised that Mrs. Schlosser will be leaving effective March 8, 2011.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Cortese opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda.

Melissa Gibson introduced herself to the Commission. She stated she will be providing an update on Kids Helping Kids program. The organization is now in its fourth year of providing community and recreational service for the children. The organization is modeled after Pathways of New Jersey, a State organization; a program to Kids Helping Kids also exists in Montville.

Continuing, Ms. Gibson advised that the program trains mentors in grades three and up to work with "little buddies", younger children, some of whom have special needs/hidden disabilities. She also recognized the program's committee members who she stated give considerable help along with the work she herself does. She gave special thanks to Karleen who provides significant help with this program. She also thanked the Commission for its help, too, as well as the Municipal Alliance. She advised the program self funds through class registrations and grants. The program is open to all children. She provided a variety of details of how the program works.

Ms. Gibson requested that their programs be listed along with the summer camp enhancement programs so that information on all programs can be distributed at the same time. These programs run during the same timeframe as the enhancement programs.

Several Commission members asked questions of Ms. Gibson, including about the program's opening for a part-time paid student-assistant employee; the impact of the Commission possibly not having a Recreation Director; and a request for a list of what the organization's proposed summer programs will be.

Cross discussion about details of how the Kids Helping Kids program operates; how registering for classes would work in terms of the mentors and the children being mentored; the kinds of programs (social vs. academic) being proposed for the program's summer classes; and fees charged for Recreation Commission-sponsored classes.

Ms. Gibson thanked the Commission members for their time and consideration.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Cortese advised that the minutes of the Commission's January 27, 2011 Reorganization Meeting will be approved at the Commission's next meeting.

### **SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM**

A question was raised about the hourly rate that would be paid to student assistant for the Kids Helping Kids program.

Councilwoman McCluskey provided information about this, stating that the person would not be paid through the Recreation Commission, but rather by the mentoring program. She also commented on other elements of the Program.

Cross discussion about the mentoring program.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Sittmann commented on a recent document that was distributed in connection with the Pool.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

#### **Volunteer Recognition Night**

Mrs. McCabe reported on the Volunteer Recognition Night event that is scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2011. She showed a flyer that will be mailed out to a variety of organizations, most of which are "under the Recreation Commission umbrella." In addition, she provided details relating to awards to be presented and the creation and purchasing of the awards.

#### **Sports and Parks Issues**

Mr. Cortese discussed a variety of sports related matters, including issues relating to the fields. He commented on the problems that will not doubt be created as a result of the heavy snow during the winter months. He also discussed his ideas and probable methods

of how best to deal with these potential problems. This included possible landscaping for a Watnong Park field area near the train tracks; he estimated the cost would be approximately \$2,500.

Councilwoman McCluskey advised of new swings that were installed this past fall.

### **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt**

The plans and work for this event are progressing very well. Karleen will prepare the tickets and the flyer this year. Also discussed were issues relating to the tickets which will be \$4.00 per child and \$8.00 per adult. This year there will be two balloon artists (if possible) since this activity was very popular last year. Details of how the egg hunt will be conducted were also discussed.

Mr. Cortese reviewed the new system and how checks will be handled. Also discussed was how expense receipts and purchasing of supplies will be taken care of.

Councilwoman McCluskey commented on the use of the Borough's Costco card. She also advised of possible sources of supplies needed that can be obtained through the Internet and delivered to the site. She also reminded that any costs under \$30 go through petty cash.

Cross discussion about vouchers needed in preparing for this event. The vouchers would be for the facility and appropriate additional items such as vendors providing activities.

### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Cross discussion about various costs and reimbursements for certain expenses.

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

Mr. Cortese stated the vouchers approved are highlighted in yellow.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman McCluskey commented on the recent Plains Talk and the 9/11 Memorial on Route 53, mentioning there is rendering of the Memorial at the Community Center and Memorial fundraising tee shirts are on sale online. She also advised about the Community Garden and that residents have already signed up for this activity.

Continuing, Councilwoman McCluskey also commented on upcoming activities of the HSA, including Bowling Night and some of the prizes that will be offered in connection with this event.

Another topic of discussion was artwork that is hung at the Community Center that some considered a bit on the "scary" side. Councilwoman McCluskey stated the artwork was done by one of the employees and that it is being moved to be replaced by new artwork.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Cortese advised he met with Mr. Bob Webster who provided him with an update in relation to the 9/11 Memorial activities, including the fact that corporate contributions have been received. He also asked that Commission members try to help spread the word that donations are still needed for the Memorial.

There being no further business, Mrs. Swift moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Sittmann. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Karleen Leahey  
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan  
Recording Secretary