

RECREATION COMMISSION

February 29, 2012

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar
Mr. Michael Breslin
Mr. Salvatore Cortese, Chairman
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski
Mrs. Maureen McEntee

Mrs. Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Mrs. Katie Bezold, Events Coordinator
(arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

Councilwoman Laurie Fu

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."

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Cortese opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda. Hearing none, he closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's January 26, 2012 Regular Meeting.

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

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – February 2012

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Colonials Hockey – A letter was to be written to the Commission providing all the necessary information in order to consider a contribution to this organization. Mr. Cortese advised he had not yet received this letter.

Cross discussion concerning various discussions about this with Mr. Banks, Treasurer, that request apparently went directly to the Borough Council, future approval of the stipend by the Commission, information still needed from this group, issues concerning the amounts of contributions to each organization, and procedures for all sports organizations in connection with requesting annual contributions.

The consensus of the Commission was that the amount of \$750 currently allocated to this sports group is too much at this point in time.

It appears that a letter is included in the packet of documentation given to Commission members, but it may not contain all the needed information; however, it was still received late.

Mr. Cortese stated he believes a subcommittee can review this and report to the full Commission at its next meeting. Forming a subcommittee was agreed to.

Continued cross discussion with various members commenting on their individual thoughts regarding this contribution, the need to help at Family Day, issues of penalizing because of being late, not wanting to hurt the children participating in this program, and best procedure to follow

Special Events and Budgets – Mrs. Leahey stated she spoke with Mr. Banks to advise him of the Commission's desire to hold back a 10 percent amount to await sports organizations' help at Family Day. Mr. Banks advised he will not issue any checks until after Family Day; he does not want to issue two checks nor does he want two vouchers. She asked if the sports organizations should be officially advised of this new 10 percent policy.

Mr. Cortese advised they should be told about this new policy. Those who help at Family Day will receive their entire allocation; those who do not help will receive their allocation minus 10 percent. He asked that it be phrased as being given an additional 10 percent (versus losing 10 percent).

State of the Community Committee – School Board Superintendent's Strategic Planning Initiative – Councilman Mangravite is involved with a co-chair regarding this project. There is a survey they would like to distribute, and they have requested Recreation's e-mail list. There is a concern because all Recreation forms indicate the e-mails provided will be used only for Recreation matters.

Cross discussion about how best to address this request.

The consensus was to contact those who have provided e-mails to Recreation and advise them of this survey and how they can participate in it; that Recreation will not provide their e-mails directly to the group doing the survey.

The Commission members reviewed the survey and discussed the pros and cons of whether they should reconsider how to participate in it. The decision was to abide by the initial decision.

Theater Program – Mrs. Leahey advised she included the proposal she received from Joe, who coordinates the summer theater, in the packet to members. He would like to bring a theater arts program to the Community Center as a Recreation program conducting it in the spring and/or fall. This program could include dance and musical theater. It would be for ages 8 to 12.

Cross discussion including that such a program is good for those children who are not involved with sports, kinds of dancing that might be included, that fall would be the best timeframe, the fact that Art in Motion does not want to offer any dance programs at the Community Center, and that Worth-Tyrrell in Morristown (a theater program/school) is closing.

The Commission members decided to offer this program as proposed by Joe in the fall, letting him decide exactly what individual dance programs to offer.

Community Park Pool – Mrs. Leahey provided a sample of the Pool Postcard in the members' packets. She advised she compiled an out-of-town list of anyone who joined the Pool from 2006 to present. She also Googled nearby areas and will use the *Plains Talk* list. The total is 2,600 postcards. They will be printed in color, the printer will affix the labels, bring them to the post office and obtain a bulk rate (27 cents – less than the post card rate). The total cost will be approximately \$1,000. The savings from sending out the brochure is \$3,800. Her plan is to be able to send everything by e-mail next year.

Volunteer of the Year – This discussion will be held off for now.

Mrs. Leahey turned the upcoming portion of the meeting over to Mrs. Bezold.

Comedy Night – A total of 112 tickets have been sold so far. Mrs. Bezold gave details about the comedian who was hired for this program. She also gave details about the event itself, including items rented and decorations.

Cross discussion about issues relating to voucher (possible damage to stage) and obtaining a Certificate of Liability Insurance for any liability (Mrs. Bezold will obtain).

Mary Poppins – This show event is sold out, but has a wait list.

Priscilla – This show event is sold out, but has a wait list.

Commission members discussed other bus trip events that the Commission might sponsor for upcoming months.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt – Mrs. Bezold provided details about this event including, the tickets will be \$5 per person. The menu will include muffins, assorted mini Danish, yogurt, bananas, apples, strawberries, individual boxes of cereal, bagels, orange and apple juices, munchkin doughnuts, and coffee. Bagel costs will be paid by voucher after the fact.

Mrs. Leahey advised that Mr. Banks will provide a check to purchase the menu items. A voucher has also been provided.

Mrs. Bezold advised that two balloonists will be hired.

Cross discussion concerning all the costs for all the items needed for this Breakfast, preparing coupons for ice cream cones from the Morris Plains Friendly's, reusable signage from Staples (there may be a need to get bids from three vendors – this will be checked out), equipment and helpers needed prior to this event, the costume, and whether there should be printing out of color photograph holders, including the wear and tear on the printer and cost of ink cartridges.

The consensus of the members was to let Mrs. Bezold make her own decision about the printing of the photograph holders and that the egg hunt will immediately follow the Breakfast.

Mrs. Leahey asked about a situation where a person enrolled in a program and after one session advised her work schedule changed and requested a refund. She asked what alternatives she could offer since the fee is not refundable.

Members advised she could offer alternate sessions (none were appealing), but only with a doctor's note can the fee be refunded.

Mrs. Leahey advised this is what she advised, and told the members this person might be contacting one of them.

Mrs. Bezold provided information concerning another program that previously was not going to be available, but that now can be available.

USSI Sports – Information provided in members' packets. Volleyball for girls is being added. Mr. Cortese said he will check out the area for volleyball.

Art Programs - Now that Kirsten is on board, there will probably be two programs, one-week each.

Cross discussion about possible other summer programs, such as babysitting.

Mrs. Slawinski provided information concerning the theater program. She explained an issue with Joe who would like to lower the number of participants; she is not in favor of this as she wants to expand this program and not turn anyone away who wants to participate. An idea she has is to title it the Morris Plains Summer Theater Workshop incorporating the set design as part of the theater camp.

Cross discussion about some of the issues that come up as part of offering this program (problems about who has lead parts, and so on), participants could work on either set work or acting/singing work or both, tryouts will always be held, learning curve of being onstage, and mentoring help from older students.

Mrs. Leahey advised that several teenagers (high school age) and parents of such teenagers have asked if there might ever be programs for this group of children. It is teenage girls that are interested. One suggestion that has been made is boxing.

Cross discussion about this including that a supply of pink boxing bags were recently purchased by the instructor for a fall program, that boxing offers some training in self defense, and that classes would be around 5:30 p.m./6:00 p.m. for one hour.

Members asked about programs for boys of high school age.

Mrs. Leahey asked her son, and he suggested handball. A running club might be another possibility.

Mr. Cortese and other members believed it was a good idea to start small and offer some programs for high-school age children.

Mrs. Leahey asked that if any members have additional ideas or thoughts about possible programs for high-school age children that they contact her. She will also check further to see about securing instruction for art.

Mr. Cortese asked the subcommittee members to hold a meeting in mid March to discuss the issues indicated and report to the full Commission at the March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion concerning Little League and what needed to be done with the fields.

Mr. Cortese advised he met with Department of Public Works (DPW) staff and sent e-mails to appropriate persons.

Work still needs to be done at various fields (#1 – third base dugout, #2 – drainage, #4 – dugout roofs are collapsed).

Mr. Cortese advised that in the future sports organizations should inspect the fields, equipment, and so on before coming to the meeting to request an annual contribution. He can also coordinate work with the vocational school staff.

Cross discussion about work still needed, clay needed, electrical work needed, lights at Watnong Park, use of fields by other organizations, meeting with appropriate boards/persons, and equipment/supplies being able to be kept at Watnong Park.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

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

The Commission voted at 9:04 p.m. to enter Executive Session.

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

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Recording Secretary
Maureen Sullivan