

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

June 28, 2012

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar

Mr. Michael Breslin

Mr. Salvatore Cortese, Chairman

Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Maggie Slawinski

Mrs. Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director

Councilwoman Laurie Fu

Absent: Mrs. Jan McCabe

Mrs. Maureen McEntee

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."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Leahey advised that the minutes were not able to be completed due to the absence of the Recording Secretary.

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.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT –June 2012

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

On June 5, 2012, she met with George Ross to discuss the organization of Recreation Commission information to be posted on the Borough web site. This will now be her primary source, especially in light of the loss of the Highlights.

On June 11, 2012, she met with Denise Brennan the new Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Administration for Hanover Township. She wanted to discuss the current Morris Plains programs and also to brainstorm about future ideas and events. Denise was very impressed about the quantity of recreational opportunities that Morris Plains was offering.

She advised that she has been approached about refunds. She showed the persons involved in requesting refunds the refund policy and verbally explained the refund policy. She recommended these people bring their issues to the Commission members at a meeting if they were unhappy about the policy, but they are unable to do that. Mrs. Leahey agreed to bring their issues to the Commission on their behalf.

Refund Requests

Mrs. Leahey provided information concerning the three refund requests. The first involved the Pool where a family was moving to another state. He was hoping to negotiate a prorated agreement. This individual also has two children in camp and would only be able to attend until the first week of July. He asked that it be noted that he had been a volunteer with the Farmers' Market. The consensus of the Commission was that while they would like to provide refunds to this person the existing refund policy must be adhered to.

Continuing, she advised that the second person to contact her did so on the first day of Summer Theater advising she did not know that it was the first day. Mrs. Leahey explained how participants were advised of the first day. The mother of the participant also indicated that had the name of the play been known at the time of registration, her daughter would not have signed up, although Mrs. Leahey believed she advised she would know the name of the play at a point in time, but indicated they should contact her versus her contacting everyone. Mrs. Slawinski will follow up with this person. The consensus of the Commission members was that this situation does not meet the requirements for a refund with the information currently known.

Mrs. Slawinski also provided information as to what she told those interested in the summer theater program, including that the date was on the registration sheet.

Community Park Pool & Summer Camp Programs

Mrs. Leahey advised the Pool total is \$112,000. The total for summer camp and camp enhancements is \$94,210.

Mr. Cortese cautioned that costs do not exceed revenues.

Cross discussion about events and bus trips.

Mrs. Leahey provided additional information/proposal relating to discussion at the May Commission meeting concerning possible fall recreation program offerings. A number of these programs relate to dance.

Cross discussion about this proposal for possible fall programs, including the minimum number of participants in classes, number of class sessions, possibly charging per group, keeping costs consistent with the approved Fee Schedule, the expanded administrative responsibility, age groups, amount of administrative fee, and cost per person.

Mrs. Slawinski expressed a number of concerns she has regarding the dance program proposal offerings including that there may be some overlap between these programs and school-offered programs.

Mr. Cortese also commented on the various programs being proposed, including the jazz/hip-hop for 11 to 13. He suggested perhaps changing the age of 13 to 14 so that it does not create an overlap with other programs.

Other members thought it was worth giving the proposal a try and see how it works out.

Cross discussion about bids –competitive and sealed – and what the definitions and requirements are for each, including discussion of vouchers/purchase orders.

Cross discussion about some of the events that have already taken place.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The Commission members reviewed the vouchers for approval. Mr. Sittmann moved that the vouchers be approved, seconded by Mrs. Slawinski. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

From the Borough Council

Councilwoman Fu provided information on the most recent Borough Council meeting. She advised of two new police officers, additional road widening work on Route 10 East being proposed by the State and that the Borough has been encouraging the State to pursue, that the State and County are considering widening of Speedwell Avenue at the intersection with Hanover Avenue with additional turning lanes, and a widening of West Hanover Avenue up to Stiles Avenue.

Family Day

The report was presented on this event. All paperwork is in-house which allow for payment to the vendors. All volunteer assistance is arranged for. Counselors have now been identified to assist with the ride activities and as back-up; they are being paid for four hours. Mr. Bodnar verbally provided a list of the volunteers. Certain sports groups were more readily cooperative than others in agreeing to serve as volunteers at Family Day. He gave all necessary details on volunteer/counselor coverage and the organizations that will be participating for fund raising. Logistics for the day's events (weather issues, generator use, etc.) were briefly discussed and will be discussed further off line.

NEW BUSINESS

Little League

Little League would like a small shed to be placed on one of the fields to avoid the current difficulty in moving equipment from one field to another. It will not be intrusive/visual and will be between the dugout and the trees. Their proposal is to ask the vocational school to build it; they will pay for supplies. The proposal for the shed involves Fields 3 and 4.

Cross discussion of other alternatives for a shed including a golf cart and a large "storage box" similar to one used for basketball storage needs and that Little League will need to make this request to the Council.

Councilwoman Fu asked if there was any specific information she should be prepared to provide to the Council. She requested that she be advised as to what the final decision is as to what is being asked for.

Little League wants to have an evening end-of-the-year Pool party; it will not cost the Borough anything since it will be paid out of Little League's budget. Little League has already asked Charlie at the Pool about this. No specific date is scheduled yet.

Cross discussion about the fact that precedent on such Pool parties has been set since the Teen Center was allowed to hold one as well as the Pool party the Fire Department holds. But, will other organizations want to hold parties, too? This discussion also included how long such parties can run and the necessary arrangements for Pool personnel to be working.

The consensus was that the Commission has no problem with Little League holding such a Pool party.

Senior Picnic and Splash Party

Mrs. Slawinski asked Mrs. Leahey about obtaining funds for the Senior Picnic and also requested assistance in making signs for the Pool Splash Party. The Splash Party is scheduled for July 21. She is thinking about selling pre-event/sale tickets to this event primarily in order to ensure having sufficient (but not too much) food available at and controlling the amount of sandwiches/food taken at any one time since earlier party attendees were taking three and four sandwiches at a time. Weather will also play a role. She discussed food that would need to be ordered, probably from Ronnie's since participants enjoyed this food very much in the past. Admission to the Splash Party is generally about \$20 or \$30 a family and \$7 per person, including food, drinks and entertainment.

There is no budget for this event.

Cross discussion about whether to sell tickets, when to sell them, where to sell them, where to place signage (primarily at Roberts Garden), other advertising, ordering the food and buying additional food items, possible rain date, and the

impact weather will have on the Splash Party. There was discussion about whether any budget lines might be able to cover some of the expenses; \$500 is needed.

Mrs. Slawinski advised cookers are needed for the Senior Picnic.

Mrs. Leahey said Mr. Banks has volunteered for this event.

Mrs. Slawinski said that Mrs. Bezold will coordinate the set up for the Senior Picnic. She also asked for opinions on which grills work better (the big one is best). The Department of Public Works (DPW) will provide the grill(s). She also reviewed how much of certain supplies (such as charcoal) will be needed. Theater is only available from 12:30 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.

Mr. Breslin advised his son will help with this event.

Summer Camp

Mrs. Leahey provided an update on how the children's summer recreational programs are doing.

Teen Center

Cross discussion about the new patio at the Teen Center and whether it might be possible to install a pavilion-type structure somewhere on the property. The possibility of renting a tent from VFW was also talked about. A tent could be used either on rainy days or on very hot days. There are three adults and four counselors at the Teen Center for the summer program; there may be a need to ensure proper supervision coverage for activities in two different areas to comply with insurance requirements.

Commission Meetings

Mr. Cortese asked about whether a meeting will be necessary in July.

The consensus of the Commission members was that there probably was not a need for a July meeting; there was no July meeting in 2011. There will be no August meeting.

Mr. Cortese advised he will think this over as to whether a July meeting is needed and will advise the Commission members. He also advised that Greystone approved Phase 1 and bids are due on July 3, 2012. Turf fields may be available by late spring/early summer 2012. Additional information is available on the Morris County Park Commission web site.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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