

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

December 13, 2012

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar
Mr. Salvatore Cortese, Chairman
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maureen McEntee (arrived at 8:08 pm)
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski

Present: Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

Absent: Mr. Michael Breslin

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

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's October 25, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Sittmann moved that the minutes of the October Commission meeting be accepted as circulated, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's November 15, 2012 meeting.

The minutes of the November Commission meeting could not be approved at this meeting due to a lack of quorum. Mr. Cortese requested that approval be posted for the Commission's January 2013 meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Cortese opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda. No comments were forthcoming, and this portion of the meeting was closed to the public.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – December 2012

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Basketball – This activity began the night before and some issues have occurred. She provided details about problems that occurred to a beautiful decorated Christmas tree and silver snowman that were located on the stage. The following day it was discovered that the presents that were placed under the tree were unwrapped and lights and ornaments were broken along with other issues relating to the Boot Camp class equipment. The person involved with the basketball game, Emily O'Brien, called her today and explained that when she arrived (late) for the basketball game parents and children were already there. The children were all over the stage, opening the gifts and bouncing balls. The parents were not paying attention to the children's behavior.

Cross discussion as to how such an incident can be prevented in the future, including the failure of the parents to oversee their children's behavior, responsibilities of the parents, responsibilities of the coaches, arrival time of coaches, and possibly contacting parents to spell out what behavior is required in a public facility.

Mr. Cortese suggested that the basketball organization be asked to provide reimbursement for the damages done although stating that the primary fault really lies with the parents.

Computer Issues – The Community Center office computer system has been experiencing numerous problems that are causing difficulties in keeping the office running efficiently.

Councilwoman Fu provided information on efforts that have been made to address such problems and that she is hoping to speed up the ability of the Borough's computer technician to address the Center's issues.

Cross discussion about the procedures involved in alerting the proper people about computer problems, explaining that she must contact the Financial Office because the number of telephone calls to the technician must be limited so that many people are not calling him. The same procedure needs to be followed for containing the cleaning staff also.

Mrs. Leahey added that she was told it would be two weeks before the technician would be able to come to the office. She provided additional information on related computer problems and issues.

Councilwoman Fu stated she will discuss this matter with Councilman Karr again to hopefully identify a solution to these problems in the future.

Junior Colonial Football – Mrs. Leahey advised that in July 2012 she sent this organization a voucher for their stipend, but she has not received anything back yet. The form must be returned by the end of this year.

One of the Commission members offered to contact the organization to advise them that this paperwork must be returned by year's end.

Halloween Parade and Party & Community Bonfire – Mrs. Leahey advised she has provided spreadsheets for both the events. Since the Halloween festivities were not held, the glow sticks were used at the annual Tree Lighting.

Cross discussion about events and budget allocations.

Yoga – Mrs. Leahey advised a class participant that can be longer participate in the class due a medical condition. A doctor's note was provided. She believes the intention here is to receive a refund of the fee for the class, although he did attend two sessions. Since it is unlikely he will be taking yoga again, she does not think he wants a credit. However, his fiancée would be willing to complete the course if the class membership can be transferred to her.

It was agreed this membership would be transferred to the fiancée.

Kids Helping Kids – Mrs. Leahey advised of the Board for this organization, announcing the names of the office holders. She provided some additional information concerning the some officers and future plans for the group.

Cross discussion about similar programs and whether any merger might be possible at some time in the future as well as possible proposed programs, sharing of existing programs, being able to use or not use certain municipal/county recreation areas, volunteer issues, and funding resources.

Mrs. Leahey advised there will be a Kids Helping Kids "Kids are Special Talent Show." A generous donation is providing the funding for this show. She provided additional details about the upcoming talent show.

House Decoration Contest – Members discussed the variety of house decorations that each has seen around the Borough together with speculating which house may win the contest. Members reviewed how the contest will award prizes – one winner for each district and then one overall Borough winner. There was concern expressed to determine a way that the same residents are not winning each year.

Pool Membership Fees – Mrs. Leahey explained the documentation she has provided to members. She specifically referred to a category of New Resident rate (someone moving into the Borough in, for example, late July).

The Commission agreed that there would be no advertising of the New Resident category.

Councilwoman Fu stated this fee is included in the Fee Ordinance.

Budget – Mrs. Leahey stated the information provided is to help complete the 2013 budget allocations.

Mr. Cortese discussed a cost/expense issue related to the Community Bonfire event. He said he will discuss this budget allocation question directly with Mrs. Bezold.

Cross discussion in connection with the Boy Scouts involvement in the Bonfire event and their spending on supplies for the Bonfire and the recreational options provided as well we the amount of food.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilwoman Fu reminded of the invitation to the Borough Council Re-Organization meeting to be held on Monday, January 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. She also advised that the Council will need to hold an additional meeting in January, “bumping” the Commission’s meeting to Thursday, January 31, 2013.

Mrs. Leahey advised of what needs to be done about the date change in connection with the need for publication of the meeting date notice.

Mr. Cortese responded the Commission will be able to hold its January meeting on January 31, 2013 versus January 24, 2013.

She advised the Police Department is seeking to hire an additional police officer.

Mr. Cortese asked if any member had any information to report.

There was a report on Basketball’s Opening Day. There was no report on Hockey or any other program.

Community Park Pool

The Community Pool – Mr. Sittmann advised there are a number of issues. He and Mr. Cortese will meet at the Pool soon.

Mr. Cortese advised an outside grant may be received in connection with the concession stand in the amount of \$5,000. This funding would be used for the exterior of the stand to freshen up its appearance.

Mr. Sittmann advised there will also be a budget request for additional umbrellas and chairs. There are some leaks in the Pool that must be repaired. Additional

minor upgrades will be done, and at the end of the season Charlie will provide his five-year “wish list.”

Cross discussion about a variety of other recommendations for upgrades that either could or should be done, funds permitting. This discussion also included issues relating to how funds for various sports organizations are best used.

Volunteer of the Year

It was suggested that the letter requesting nominations be sent out in January each year. The winning volunteer would be a person who assists the different sports programs or an organization such as Kids Helping Kids.

2013 Budget Discussion

Special Events

Commission members discussed specific allocations for the budget, including the community bonfire (no change); the fireworks (no change); Halloween parade and party (allocation reduced to \$250); Movie Night (allocation eliminated since this event has not been held in several years); theater program (\$3,000 and included a discussion of whether the per participant fee could be lowered and other issues relevant to this program); theater program (Recreation stipend of \$3,500) Splash Party (allocation added replacing Arts & Crafts); concerts/music (\$4,000 – possibly one less concert to be scheduled and perhaps one concert at Community Park); Block Party/Dance (\$1,500); Little League opening day (\$0.00); Senior Picnic (included discussion regarding the need to voucher all costs versus going to Costco) (\$900); Breakfast with the Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt (\$1,900, included a discussion of the per person fee remaining as it is versus raising it); Family Day (potential vendor voucher issues discussed); senior exercise program; and other typical annual budget allocations.

Sports Organizations

Mr. Cortese asked if responses have been received from these organizations or have they attended a Commission meeting regarding their Recreation contribution for 2013. He reviewed various organizations including the Grapplers Wrestling (\$500); Little League (Mr. Cortese asked Councilwoman Fu to inquire whether the Council can cover some of the cost of work done for a total of \$3,500 and provided reasons why he is asking; an itemized bill will be available); that Little League’s rates most likely will be raised; the issue of to what extent the Commission can manage an organization’s Board or mandate how funds received from the Commission must be used; and other relevant comments. Also discussed was the possibility that Little League may somehow “blame” the Commission for the rate increase. Specific subjects for discussion that were raised included the electricity for the fields; the batting cage; budget line

amounts; dropping enrollment in Little League in favor of lacrosse; and whether the Board is functioning as effectively as it might.

Mr. Cortese asked Mr. Sittmann to send an e-mail requesting the itemized bill for the Little League project(s).

Cross discussion about the possibility of requesting that the Little League officials plan to attend a Commission to review some of the issues that are of concern to the Commission. (among them are how many children participate in their program; 2013 plans for projects; and information on funds and finances.

A decision was made that the amounts to be contributed to the various sports organizations would not be finalized at this meeting.

VOUCHERS FOR APPROVAL

The Commission members reviewed the vouchers presented for approval.

Mr. Sittmann moved to approve the vouchers; seconded by Mrs. Slawinski. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Karleen Leahey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary