

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

February 28, 2013

Present: Mr. Kevin Bodnar
Mr. Michael Breslin (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)
Mr. Salvatore Cortese, Chairman
Mrs. Jan McCabe
Mrs. Maureen McEntee
Mr. Gerard Sittmann, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Maggie Slawinski

Present: Karleen Leahey, Recreation Director
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.

Mr. Tom Bergeron, 4 Druetzler Drive, Morris Plains, introduced himself to the Commission. He stated he is at this meeting to provide updated information from the last time he attended a meeting. He advised they changed their agreement and are now partnering with the Morristown Nationals. He commented on the categories of AAA and AA and also provided additional details about a variety of issues. He advised that this year Little League has introduced a 50/70 and explained precisely what that means to the teams, the field needs, and to playing the game. His commentary also included references to 13 year olds playing, use of portable mounds, Babe Ruth, the vo-tech school, location of the bases, potential competition with Babe Ruth, and the number of Morris Plains participants. He advised he believes that for last year there were 248 for baseball and softball and thinks the number is roughly the same for this year. There were six softball teams last year and six again this year. Overall, everything is pretty great right now. Most of the current interest is coming from the eight, nine and ten year olds.

Mr. Cortese advised he will contact Joe to discuss preparation of the fields and will be back in touch with Mr. Bergeron hopefully by next week.

Mr. Bergeron stated the numbers are good, the Morristown Nationals are good, and that the fields are the biggest issue. He asked about clay.

Mr. Cortese advised that three tandem loads of clay were recently received; this should last quite some time. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be able to assist with moving the clay around as needed on the various fields.

Mr. Cortese asked Mr. Bergeron to call him by Wednesday of next week (March 6) if he has not heard from him yet.

Mr. Bergeron next raised the matter of AEDs. He commented on a Cardiac Science presentation, defibrillators, and the use of defibrillators. He explained that requests have been made to residents of Morris Plains to donate funds for the purchase of the equipment needed. At this point he believes enough money has been raised (about \$2,500). He advised it is important for the police and fire departments to know the equipment they have, exactly what kind it is, and where it is stored/located. He spoke about the possible various locations for additional equipment.

Cross discussion about the storage of the equipment, charging, batteries, use of the equipment for both players and game attendees, training on the equipment, scheduling a meeting to assess the current equipment needs and issues relating to the equipment, where equipment would be best located, and related matters.

Mrs. Slawinski advised that the point of an AED is that a person/the general public does not need training to use it properly. This is why they are located in airports and stores. It will talk a person through the entire procedure. She wondered why there was discussion about a need for training. She also advised about the defibrillators that the police already have available for use.

Mr. Cortese commented about the kind of meeting he thought should be held in connection with the AED equipment.

Mr. Bergeron stated they would like to develop a borough-wide database relating in some way to background checks; apparently there is a current issue regarding background checks where they are being double billed by the company. Little League is willing to give 125 background checks for free and extra ones will be \$1. The purpose of the database would be to be able to know who has already gone through a background check. He explained that some leagues require a yearly background check while others are more than every year. In Little League, background checks would need to be done for all volunteers.

Cross discussion about the request for a background check database, including that perhaps Mrs. Leahey could maintain this database, could it include information as to being Rutgers certified, the issue of each organization's need for a background check,

Mr. Bergeron referred to a date of November 1 in connection with background checks.

Mrs. Slawinski provided information on the various tests she needs to take at the hospital to certify her for different types of treatments in the Emergency Room. This information is maintained on a database spreadsheet such as Excel. She also mentioned that persons no longer involved with Borough sports organizations should be removed from the database.

Mrs. Leahey stated she thinks it is probably a good idea to have this information centralized into one database.

Cross discussion regarding the database, how it would best be developed and maintained, the accuracy of the information provided, receiving information from each of the various organizations, and the responsibilities of the different people and groups.

Mr. Bergeron asked about the procedure for requesting and obtaining the Rutgers-certified training.

He was advised that Stephanie Crowley coordinates this and conducts two courses a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. She generally contacts all the organizations about this via e-mail.

Mr. Bergeron reviewed his action items: (1) set up a safety meeting with Cardiac Science to be held at the Community Center for a date when sufficient attendees are available; (2) decide how many defibrillators to order and determine if there would be discounts in purchasing more than one; and (3) follow up with Mr. Cortese on meeting to be held with DPW staff regarding work that needs to be done and work that the DPW will help with.

The Commission thanked Mr. Bergeron for his presentation.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – January 2013

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Kids Helping Kids – Mrs. Leahey attended their second annual talent show and it was great. It was made possible by a donation that enabled them to pay for the instructors for the show and to purchase tee shirts for the participants and the mentors. She provided members with a copy of the program.

The Community Park Pool – Postcards will be sent out to residents; the former Pool booklet and membership form are no longer sent out. The postcards are a reminder. She has obtained three quotes Staples (used last year), Minuteman Press, and Pinnacle (cannot provide the 3,000 requested; only 2,500 or 5,000). While the Staples quote is not the least inexpensive, she has Staples “credits” and having worked with them last year may provide a smoother process. With her \$70 in credits, Staples will be the least expensive.

Recreation Sports Organization Contact List – Mrs. Leahey updated all the information on this list. She included several items with this.

Summer Camp – She met with the new Camp Coordinator (Susan) together with Mr. Cortese and Councilwoman Fu. Registration will be able April 10, 2013. Susan was advised that all the registration forms are needed in time for them to be available at the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event. The Borough Council has confirmed the Susan’s hiring. Mrs. Leahey advised of the communication that was done with the other candidates for this position. She also commented on several ideas for enhancement programs provided by one of the candidates. These ideas were forwarded to Susan for consideration.

Volunteer of the Year – She has received one nomination for this recognition – Bob O’Brien, who was nominated by his wife Emily and on behalf of the basketball board. She made copies of the write-up presenting reasons why he would qualify for this award. The deadline for additional nominations is passed.

Events – Mrs. Leahey advised that information was sent, but that it was too late to get it in and whether the Commission wants to discuss now or later.

It was decided to table this discussion until a later date.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission’s January 31, 2013 Re-Organization Meeting.

Mrs. Slawinski moved that the minutes of the January 31, 2013 Re-Organization Meeting be accepted as circulated, seconded by Mr. Breslin.

Roll Call

Yeas: Mr. Bodnar, Mr. Breslin, Mr. Cortese, Mrs. McEntee, Mr. Sittmann,
Mrs. Slawinski,

Nays: None

Abstain: Mrs. McCabe

Motion carried.

VOUCHERS FOR APPROVAL

The Commission members reviewed the vouchers presented for approval.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Fu commented on the news of Honeywell's proposed move from Morris Township to the Johnson & Johnson property in Morris Plains. She also commented on the *Plains Talk* and advised that the website is undergoing an update for a new look and layout. The first budget meeting will be tomorrow evening (March 1, 2013). She also provided information received from the Finance Department in connection with timely voucher preparation.

Mr. Cortese advised that Greystone Phase II was approved. There will be four turf fields.

Cross discussion about how wonderful it is that the Greystone project is continuing and how much it will enhance what is available for sports in Morris Plains and in the surrounding communities.

Mr. Cortese asked Councilwoman Fu to thank the Council for their efforts in supporting the Greystone project over the years.

Cross discussion about the roles for volunteers at the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt event and the number of volunteers needed.

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