

RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 23, 2013

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

Absent: Mr. Michael Breslin

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. Brian Clark, 10 Madison Avenue, Morris Plains, introduced himself to the Commission members. He asked about the use of the tennis courts on Sunday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Could two courts be reserved for this timeframe? Morris Plains residents would be playing for recreational purposes. They would be planning to play some round-robin type tournaments. He further advised they would like to be able to play June through August.

Cross discussion as to how this probably could best be done, including that it might be able to be covered by completing the normal application to use facilities at Community Park. There was also discussion concerning the issue of sufficient lighting. One or two other issues were discussed that might result from this Sunday evening tennis playing. The final consensus was that this would need to be looked into further to determine a final decision.

Mr. Cortese commented on the procedures for the use of the fields and why these procedures are in place and how they work. He also stated that the Borough Council has overall decision-making control over the use of such municipal properties and facilities; this Commission is primarily an advisory board to the Council. He also raised the possibility that others would come forward wanting to have similar use of the tennis courts on other evenings.

Other members commented on sports organizations and other groups and people who currently are working on various plans for activities at Community Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cortese requested that all members review the minutes of the Commission's April 25, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Mrs. Slawiski moved that the minutes of the February 28, 2013 Regular Meeting be accepted as circulated, seconded by Mr. Sittmann. Voice vote. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Mr. Cortese commented that Mr. Bob O'Brien is now helping him with certain work that needs to be done along with Karen Coffey.

RECREATION DIRECTORS' REPORT - May 2013

Mrs. Leahey presented her report.

Summer Camp and Enhancements – The Commission has taken in a total of \$77,234 so far; \$60,000 of this amount represents the Camp. The numbers are looking excellent for Camp. The enhancement programs are all doing well; she provided additional information on a number of them.

Teen Center - Last year there was a total of 120 at the Teen Center; the current total is already 130. An idea is to check with the Borough School to determine if on rainy days the eighth and ninth graders could use the school's gymnasium. Several days' notice most likely would be needed to the school.

Cross discussion about the need for the ability of the participants in this program to be able to be outside – out of the sunlight – and ideas about how this might be accomplished.

Councilwoman Fu advised she has left a message at the school to discuss this possibility.

Bus Trips – Mrs. Leahey advised she has requested a schedule of the planned bus trips from the person coordinating these trips.

Community Park Pool – The Pool fee will go to the higher fee as of June 6, 2013. The Pool amount is now at \$50,000 will experience a significant increase just before June 6.

Hiring of Staff – the Hire and Non-Hire Letters were mailed out today. A total of eleven individuals were not hired. She believes that due to discussions with Susan and careful review, there is justification for why each of the eleven people was not hired. Prospective hires received e-mail messages and a telephone call as needed (based on whether or not they were responding). She provided breakdown information on the hiring: (1) 5 Adult Supervisors; (2) 6 Senior Counselors; (3) 16 Counselors; (4) 12 First-Year Counselors; (5) 12 Junior Counselors; (6) 6 Substitute Junior Counselors; and (7) 2 Art Counselors for a total of 59 counselors. This is the same number and proportions as for 2012 except for the sub part. Susan has developed a schedule. There will be permanent subs during certain timeframes.

Dorney Park Trip and Tomahawk Lake Trip – These two trips are not doing very well at this time.

Dorney Park is scheduled for July 24, 2013 and there are 18 people registered with a total of 48 needed. Monday (May 20) was the last day to sign up; she sent out an e-mail flyer reminding people of this trip.

The Tomahawk Lake trip is scheduled for July 12 and there are 27 people registered with a total of 48 needed. Susan advised her to hold off on the deposit a bit longer.

Mrs. Leahey advised she has ordered all the checks for the bus and trips; she will void whatever needs to be handled that way. She expressed concern as to how best to handle the matter of the deposits. The deposits have not yet been demanded.

Cross discussion about these two trips and how best to proceed. The consensus thinking was to try to hold off and keep the trips open as long as is possible.

Theater Program – There are 24 registrants for this program. The goal was for 25 registrants. However, with the 24 participants, the program will be able to work well. She has been in contact with Joe about the logistics of this program. A total mentioned was \$600, but she has advised Joe that she cannot absolutely guarantee him this amount.

Splash Party and Summer Concerts – Signage will be displayed at Roberts Garden on June 1, 2013 concerning these two events.

Communications Received – Mrs. Leahey advised an e-mail was received from a woman who would like to have a table at Family Day to recruit for the Cub Scouts. Mr. Bodnar will speak about this request.

Mr. Bodnar stated that the Commission's long-standing policy has been to not permit any type of solicitation take place at the Family Day event, no matter how worthwhile it may be.

Cross discussion about this type of request, including that the biggest reason to continue this policy is that once this door is opened, it is likely that others will request to be able to do this, too. Members discussed various ideas that might be able to be permitted that would assist worthwhile organizations in recruiting new members and providing information to the general public. The issue of the "special" Sunday evening use of the tennis courts was mentioned as another situation that presents this "opening of the door" dilemma.

Sunday Evenings Use of Tennis Courts – Mrs. Leahey advised as to the normal procedure and policies relating to having a key for the tennis courts and using the tennis courts. She re-confirmed that Councilwoman Fu will check into the matter of being able to reserve tennis courts on Sunday evenings as requested by Mr. Clark. Once Councilwoman Fu has a determination, Mrs. Leahey will inform the Clarks as to what it is.

Several Commission members added their comments to his discussion.

Cross discussion concerning a variety of matters relating to the Family Day event such as which organizations are traditionally responsible for selling what product. This included food items such as hamburgers and hot dogs (Little League), drinks (Swim Team), pretzels, popcorn and ice cream. It was suggested to move Swim Team's location to where food items are being sold or even to consider creating a food court.

Members also discussed ideas for games that might be able to be introduced at this event and also what the overall purpose of this event is in connection with the organizations that assist and those that sell food.

Councilwoman Fu Comments – Councilwoman Fu spoke about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 25, 2013, beginning at 9:00 a.m. She provided information on different segments of the parade.

Cross discussion about the use and maintenance of the various Borough fields, including who typically uses them, equipment that may be needed and/or other items such as sheds, clay, and backstops, Little League issues and responsibilities, the possible need for one or more meetings to resolve some of these matters, the role of the Department of Public Works (DPW), and the role of the vo-tech school.

Mr. Cortese raised the matter of certain signs with Councilwoman Fu and he and she briefly discussed.

Mr. Cortese raised the subject of the Greystone turf fields and asked members to contribute their thoughts regarding use of the fields. He commented on how much more children are playing sports today and how many more children are playing. He spoke of sending a letter concerning the need to have opportunity to use turf fields. This letter would be sent to lacrosse, soccer, football, and possibly other sports groups, too. A meeting with the Borough School might be a good idea. The County will maintain the schedule of who is using which field when.

Commission members provided their thoughts as requested.

Mr. Cortese also shared information with the Commission about a number of matters. There was reference made to Morristown and Morris Township. He also commented on the issue of participants being a mix of Morris Plains residents and non residents.

Councilwoman Fu asked Mr. Cortese for clarification about what he precisely wants her to do. This related to language.

VOUCHERS FOR APPROVAL

The Commission members reviewed the vouchers presented for approval.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cortese reported that work on the basketball court at Simon's Park had begun. He provided additional information relating to basketball/basketball court. He advised that he and Mr. Sittmann will be meeting with a representative from Pepsico in connection with the Pool concession stand.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business, Mr. Sittmann 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