

**RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 6, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:33 pm by Bill Jacques, Chairman of the Recreation Commission who determined the meeting had been called in accordance with the N.J.S.A. 20:4-6 et seq. Notice of this meeting was given by annual notice to the official newspapers, and posted at Borough Hall.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL:**

L. Monetti ( P ); B. Jacques ( P ); C. Zaikov ( A ); D. Mobus ( A ); C. Murphy ( A );  
J. Pennett ( P ); M. Onuska ( P ) M. Weber ( P ) D. Devine ( P )

**CONSENT AGENDA:** M. Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting, M. Onuska second the motion.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** See attached

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Oath of Office; Debbie Devine  
Survey Questions for Website  
Volunteer Form for Mallory Morales  
Financial Disclosure Forms

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The Commission discussed the details of the Easter Egg Hunt. M. Weber commented on the parking issue and suggested using one side of the street parking only. Also mentioned was making a photo opportunity area with the Easter Rabbit mascot and having a place for the mascot to sit as it is difficult to see when you're in the costume. D. Devine mentioned it was challenging to control the children as they all crowded around while each family wanted to get a picture with the rabbit individually. She felt it would be easier to control the crowd if they had an area for the families to line up. Also mentioned was the slow process of the younger children entering the area of Ost Field to hunt eggs. J. Pennett suggested having the families line up inside the Ost Field fence in order to give all the children the same opportunity to hunt eggs. B. Jacques suggested purchasing an extra 1000 eggs next year and keeping some aside for those children that might not have been able to find any eggs or missed the egg hunt entirely.

**REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE: (No Report)**

Recreation Basketball  
Boys Traveling Basketball  
Somerset County Activities  
Volleyball

Special Events  
Girls Traveling Basketball  
Adult Basketball  
Tennis

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Commission discussed the upcoming Yankee Trip. M. Onuska suggested using a 50/50 for the bus drivers tip. He suggested giving out 3 tickets for \$5.00 to encourage people to donate. All were in favor.

L. Monetti mentioned that a Ness property meeting was scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm prior the Mayor and Council meeting. The Recreation Commission and the Open Space Committee were invited to attend. The meeting will be held at the Ness property. The Mayor and Council would like suggestions for its future use. M. Weber made a suggestion to use the area for a dog park and/or pave an area to use for a roller skate park and fill the area with water in the winter to use for an ice skating rink. M. Onuska suggested a soft play water park and building a snack shack for seasonal income.

The Commission discussed the survey questions for the Borough website that was put together by M. Onuska. D. Devine suggested using Yes or No response boxes instead of lines for answering questions to make the process easier for anyone that might like to give feedback. J. Pennett mentioned using a suggestion box as part of the survey.

The Commission discussed the Youth Service Commission's request to pair up with Recreation to offer some summer camp programs with the left over funds from the Youth Service Annual Grant. L. Monetti mentioned the Minds in Motion programs that could be offered and are available. The Commission looked over the brochure for the programs they offer and all were in favor of working together with Youth Services to offer these programs.

**VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:**

***Egg Hunt;***

L. Monetti – Refreshments & Gift Cards	\$61.92
Coffee/Donuts & Décor	\$86.75

***Yankee Game Trip;***

Tickets	\$2510.00
DeCamp Bus Service	\$1038.00

**VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL: (Continued)**

***Community Picnic;***

Fun Services – Amusements & Rental Machines	\$2500.00
Music with Care – DJ & Interactive Concert	\$800.00

***Basketball Referee Reimbursements;***

T. Defrancesco	\$300.00
C. Zaikov	\$550.00
J. Lawrence	\$550.00
J. Benvenuto	\$300.00
C. Dahl	\$550.00
M. Dahl	\$300.00
P. Savulich	\$180.00
P. Hockmeyer	\$400.00

Hicks Septic – Temporary Restroom	\$65.00
W.B. Mason – Bathroom Tissue for Mobus	\$56.70
Game Time – Replacement Parts (Missing Bolts)	\$61.64

***ADJOURNMENT***

As there was no further business B. Jacques called to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, M. Onuska second the motion. All were in favor.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard, rescheduled from May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda Monetti*

Recreation Secretary

**WATCHUNG RECREATION**  
**COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

**April 6, 2016**

***Tennis;*** Registration for the Spring Tennis programs are in place. A sign has been posted at the entrance to the park to advertise the program. Flyers have been posted at the library, in the school Friday Backpack, posted on our website and Facebook page as well as sent out by resident email.

***Easter Egg Hunt;*** The Borough had a great turnout for the event held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Phillip's Field. The Lion's Club as well as Commission members B. Jacques and M. Weber helped distribute the eggs. Our newly appointed alternate member D. Devine assisted J. Rutishauser, a member of our office staff, as she navigated in the Easter Rabbit costume and she also helped organized the picture opportunity for the families. M. Weber helped hand out the game prizes and D. Devine picked up the coffee and Munchkins as that was part of the refreshments we offered as well as waters and juice packs. A. Wright from the DPW set up the tables and cones as well as the caution tape to hold the crowd back from entering the egg hunt area before the race. The event was started by the Mayor and the DJ made the announcements as well as ran all the games. As parking was an issue, residents had to walk from a distance if they did not arrive early which resulted with some children missing the egg hunt portion of the event. 2000 eggs were purchased and were gone in about ten minutes. The Mayor suggested we purchase more eggs next year and hold some aside for any child that did not make it to hunt on time. Also mentioned was to start a line with cones for the Easter Rabbit photo opportunity in order to give everyone a chance to get a good picture with their children. The DJ did a wonderful job of getting children involved in the games and the prizes kept the children interested and engaged. Many children stayed for the game portion of the event. The Mayor would like to see more gift card prizes for golden eggs at next year's hunt as we only had four this year vs. last year's hunt when we had purchased ten \$10.00 gift cards. Last year with the \$1000 donation from the Lions Club we had a larger budget to work with. The total cost of this years event was \$884.00. With the \$500.00 donation from the Lions Club the Borough contributed a total of \$384.00 to run the event.

***Hick's Temporary Restrooms;*** The temporary restroom was delivered to Phillip's Field on March 16<sup>th</sup> and was in place for the Egg Hunt event. The unit will stay at Phillip's for the baseball season and be moved when needed to other locations for events such as the Fishing Derby and Community Picnic in order to accommodate the larger crowds at those events.

***Yankee Trip;*** 50 Tickets for the June 24<sup>th</sup>, Yankees vs. Minnesota Twins game have been purchased for \$50.00 each. Details will be put on the website and sent through the schools as well as put on our facebook page and sent out as a resident email. DeCamp Bus Lines has made accommodations to supply the Borough with a bus in the amount \$1038.00 with the parking fee included. The Commission decided to have the Borough supplement the cost of the bus and have the ticket holders pay \$15.00 pp toward the bus and \$50.00 pp for the game tickets. Tickets will be available for purchase through the Borough's Pay Pal account. The total cost of the tickets will be offered for \$65.00 per person and will be non-refundable. The tickets will be on a first come first served basis and will be offered to surrounding towns after the first month of their availability. The bus line has been contracted and the pickup location has been approved by J. Cina to be held at the Police Department. The bus will leave at 4:30 pm but will be listed to leave at 4:00 pm on the flyer in order to accommodate those that might have issues with traffic, giving that circumstance some leeway as that has been an issue in the past. As soon as the tickets are received in the office the Paypal account will be activated. Without the cost of refreshments that will be offer the Borough's cost would be \$303.00 to supplement the bus fee if all tickets are sold.

***Community Picnic;*** All vendors are confirmed for the event and donations are continuing to be offered. Several businesses and organization have offered to participate at the event or make a donation. See the March Coordinators report for details of donations and confirmed vendors.

***Mobus Playground Inspection;*** Several members of the DPW have completed a Playground Safety and Maintenance Inspection class recently so that they would be qualified to make any repairs at the Mobus playground. The Borough's insurance company completed an inspection at the park and found some bolts and screws missing from some of the equipment although there are no safety concerns at this time. The parts have been ordered and the DPW will make these repairs as soon as the parts come in.

Respectfully Submitted By,

*Linda Monetti*

Recreation Coordinator