

RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes

October 5, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Watchung Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:40 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 (P); D. Mobus (P); J. Pennett (A);
M. Onuska (P); M. Weber (P); D. Devine (P)

CONSENT AGENDA: M. Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7th, 2016 meeting, M. Onuska second the motion.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: See Attached

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Volley Ball Flyer
2. Men's Basketball Flyer

REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE:

Recreation Basketball
Boys Traveling Basketball
Somerset County Activities
Volleyball

Special Events
Girls Traveling Basketball
Adult Basketball
Tennis

C. Zaikov reported that basketball try outs will be held in three weeks. He also mentioned that there be will travel teams for 5th and 6th grade boys and that 6th grade girls might be combined with some lower grades depending on the number of students interested.

L. Monetti reported that women's volleyball and men's open gym basketball will be starting in October.

REPORTS OF CHAIRPEOPLE: (Continued)

D. Devine mentioned that during the Fishing Derby there were a few ties for trophies and so she suggested that we purchase a few "Winner" trophies for next year.

C. Zaikov mentioned that Brookhill Swim Club would be open to Recreation to run a program there if the Borough was interested. M. Onuska suggested running a teen program there as requested by some parents in the Recreation survey.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

L. Monetti reported that after the resignation of Otto Hartman there are now two alternate commission member positions available.

NEW BUSINESS:

After posting a recreation survey on our website the commission discussed the resident responses. Some concerns were parking for seniors and the handicapped at the Borough's events. The commission suggested marking the first row of parking at Mobus as handicapped. M. Weber suggested having a drop off zone. L. Monetti mentioned that she will allow parking on the grassy area along the guard rail of Brookdale Road for volunteers and vendors and also allow the handicapped to park there as well. She mentioned that she will contact M. Nunn and see if a sign can be posted for additional parking at Valley View School.

Other suggestions made by residents with the survey is to gear more activities toward teens, offer more food options at the events, have a concert in the park, offer more movie nights, include more vendors at our events and offer night time events for adults.

Some concerns mentioned was that there is no lights around the walking path at Watchung Lake, for those residents that wanted to walk in the evening. Also mentioned was the overgrowth and the poison ivy around the lake as well as the goose issue. Also suggested was to extend the walking path so that there is easier access from the library bridge to Best Lake.

Some ideas that were suggested were to add some shade at the playground at Mobus, utilize the lake for row boats or kayaks, offer a summer program at Brook Hill, use Camp Endeavor for a dog park and use Phillip's Field for more programs.

L. Monetti mentioned that the Easter Egg Hunt and Movie Nights worked out well having them at Phillip's Field and that she would like to continue to have these events there in the future.

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:

Fishing Derby;

Karl Baumle – Bait	\$31.26
L. Monetti – Refreshments	\$50.83

Movie Night; L. Monetti – Movie DVD “Zootopia”	\$24.60.
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Recreation Basketball;

Jersey Basketball Association – 5 Teams @ \$145. ea.	\$725.00
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Harvest Festival;

Melanie Kubilus – Face Painter	\$275.00
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Seashore Amusements – Obstacle Course, Swings, Popcorn & Cotton Candy Machine Rental	\$2000.00
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Team Life – AED Contract for Defibrillator	\$295.00
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Hicks Septic – Temporary Restroom 9/15 – 10/15	\$65.00
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L. Monetti – Volleyballs & Harvest Festival Décor	\$94.35
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Halecon, Inc. – Basketball Court Renovation	\$7175.00
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ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business B. Jacques called to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm,
M. Onuska second the motion.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 2nd, 2016 at
7:30PM at Borough Hall, at 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Secretary

WATCHUNG RECREATION
COORDINATOR'S REPORT

October 5, 2016

Movie Night & Ice Cream Social; Approximately 250 people came out for the event, some came out just for the Ice Cream Social but most came out for the movie. Fun Services provided the screen, sound and projection. Having the movie at Phillip's Field worked out really well as they were able to secure the screen to the bleachers and there were no issues with the geese as we had last year. The event went well with the PTO serving ice cream sundaes first then 15 minutes prior to the start of the movie, waters and popcorn were served by Recreation members Maryann Weber and Debbie Devine. Mike Onuska purchased and delivered 5 cases waters from Costco. Otto Hartman donated the ice from Twin Brooks and John and Karen Pennett helped out with the set up and picked up the last 6 cases of water leftover from the picnic as we were getting low. The evening was extremely hot and humid about 89 degrees and twice during the movie it started to rain which thinned out the crowd and ultimately ended the event early by about 15 minutes. Residents had great feedback as everyone, parents and children enjoyed having the event to connect with family and friends at the beginning of the school year. The garbage was an issue as the bins were full and overflowing after the Ice Cream Social portion of the event and that was not handled by the ladies of the PTO. Luckily John Erber was able to get several firemen to help empty trash cans and put in new bags. Next year we should consider using DPW for clean up at the event. The cost of the event came to \$1328.03 using the 6 cases of waters as well as the 12/12oz. bags of popcorn leftover from the Community Picnic.

Basketball Court Repairs; Halecon Inc. from Bridgewater repaired the courts the last week of September. They were recommended by MCR the company the Borough used for the playground equipment. Tiny holes were detected in the surface prior to the repair and this issue was also noticed on the tennis court surface. Halecon inspected the area and mentioned they were able to pull out small pieces of wood out of the holes They said that it looked like these small pieces of wood were imbedded in the surface and with any moisture the wood swelled and pop out causing these holes. This is not an issue we have seen in the surface of the courts prior to this year.

Holiday Programs; Mr. B and US Sports will run holiday programs available to students that need care when school is not in session. Information will be on our website.

Fishing Derby; Not many people were at the lake by 9:00am which was the start time of the event so we waited until 9:15 to start as more people were at the lake by then. By the time the event was in full swing we had about 150 people and 44 children registered. Two girls from Buffalo Wild Wings came to the event. They donated bottled waters and 20/ \$10.00 gift certificates for BWW that were given out as participation awards to those children that did not win a prize. The girls also helped out at the refreshment table and took pictures. Carl Baumle a former Optimist Club member helped out measuring the fish with the help of Debbie Devine who kept the score board. Joe Nappe and the Blue Ridge Sportsmen donated tackle and prizes and came with several men that helped out making the event run without incidents. John Pennett and Bill Jacques were able to pick up the refreshments. Dave Mobus gave out the tickets for prizes and trophies. There were many happy faces on the children that won a prize or a trophy and I believe every child caught at least one fish. Again mostly Sunnies were caught, one Bass and two Catfish. Ron Jacobson from NJ Fish & Wildlife came with a truck of fish to display for the event. He had several containers of fish with different species so that the children could see them up close. Also he was able to donate 50 Catfish that he threw into the lake in and around the children and families as they were fishing which was very exciting for everyone to witness. The weather was cool and sunny and it turned out to be a wonderful day for everyone in attendance. Coffee, Munchkins and Waters were served. The cost of the event came to \$262.09 for refreshments, bait and trophies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Monetti

Recreation Secretary