

WATCHUNG RECREATION
COORDINATOR'S REPORT

February 11, 2014

1. Watchung Recreation has partnered with Green Brook Recreation in offering the ski trip to Camelback Mountain on February 9th. Both towns were offering the same trip on the same day and not having much success selling tickets early on. After Watchung offered the trip to the surrounding towns I was informed of the ski trips that were offered in the past in both Long Hill Township and Green Brook. Both towns had cancelled their trips in prior years due to the lack of interest. This year Green Brook decided to pay for the bus and offer the tickets at the cost of a group ticket hoping to fill their bus. As Green Brook is now joining Watchung, they will continue to offer their residents the group ticket price and pay Watchung \$21 for each Green Brook resident attending the trip. A total of 50 tickets are available and with each 15 tickets sold Watchung will receive a free ticket.

2. The final details of the US Sports programs are now taking place. Attached is the agreement made with Watchung, Warren and US Sports coordinator John Williams for the programs that will be run on Warren and Watchung fields. All programs will be offered to residents of Watchung, Warren, Green Brook and Long Hill Townships and will be run through Watchung Recreation, including those programs run on Warren fields. This agreement was made with Watchung and Warren in order to keep costs down for the use of the Warren fields. Warren has agreed to rent the fields to Watchung at a lesser rate through our reciprocity agreement so that US Sports can keep their costs down for all residents involved. The cost for the Warren fields will be half of the fees Watchung will collect from US Sports for any programs run on Warren fields. Watchung charges \$10. per registered camper, per program, so we would pay Warren \$5.00 per registered camper for each program run on their fields. Watchung Recreation collected a total of \$250. for all programs run at Mobus Field by US Sports programs in 2013. This year we have doubled the amount of programs being offered and with the surrounding towns now invited to participate in these programs we will most likely double that amount. Watchung will however be required by JIF to insure these programs even though they will be insured by US Sports.

3. The amount of participants in the High School basketball intramural games has been increased to now include 36 students from the original 32, thanks to Dave Mobus who was able to include 9 participants on each team as more students showed interest. The 8 week program will now run into the second week of March as the games were cancelled on Jan. 22nd and then again on Feb. 5th due to the school closures.
4. The discussion to appoint Mike Onuska as the second alternate Recreation Commission member has been moved to the next Mayor and Council meeting which will be held on February 19th. An approval should be made then and M. Onuska will then be invited to attend our March meeting.
5. Warren Township's Bon Fire event on January 18th had a huge turnout of residents. They had estimated over 1000 residents attended even though the temperatures were in the 20's. They offered hot chocolate and coffee, the girl scouts gave out baked goods and they had a food truck where you could purchase hot dogs, fries and chicken. They had a small carousel and train ride, a horse and buggy ride and a local high school band played music through the event inside the pavilion. The fire department attended the huge bon fire of Christmas trees that many residents huddled around to keep warm. They also offered an area of small contained fire pits to roast marshmallows. The event ended with a beautiful display of fireworks. Warren Recreation appreciated my involvement and mentioned that maybe next year Watchung could bring something additional to the event to add to what is now being offered.