

**Board of Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
February 19, 2019**

The Regular meeting of the Board of Recreation Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 in the Community Center.

Chairman Coiley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone who attended the meeting said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Commissioners: G. Salese, R. Brueno, P. Monteverdi, P. Berkenkamp, M. Giorgio, Chairman J. Coiley, Tom Quirk, Program Coordinator/ Assistant to the Superintendent (PC/AS) , and Supt. D. Brennan.

Committeeman Mihalko was absent, as well as D. Schill, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Coiley read the following statement: Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act by posting written notice of the meeting at the Municipal Building, 1000 Route 10 and posting such notice to the following newspaper: Morris County Daily Record and filing same with the Township Clerk.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** John Scagliozi, 8 Lionel Road, Whippany addressed the Commissioners about the plan to put a turf field at Brickyard and to move the playground to the left side of the pool. To summarize Mr. Scagliozi does not want the playground moved and questions the need for a turf field at all. He stated he put his “blood, sweat, and tears” into building the park as it is now, and he raised the 100K for the existing playground. He further noted concern about underground power lines to the left side of the pool.

Chairman Coiley explained there are several different plans for consideration. With the location Mr. Scagliozi is referring to, he explained that when he looks at the park where it is now, he sees a beautiful park, but also a concern for safety. When there are football games and other activities there is a busy street to cross.

Mr. Scagliozi again expressed his opposition and states he plans to fight the turf field as well as moving the playground. Chairman Coiley told him it was his right to do so, however noted he is not sure this is the right board to address his objections. He explained this board governs Recreation and oversight of parks and the pool. Projects are *recommended* and then it becomes up to the Township Committee to decide.

Commissioner Berkenkamp suggested to table further discussion until Committeeman Mihalko is present for clarification. Chairman Coiley thanked Mr. Scagliozi for coming, appreciated his input and invited him to come back.

Terri Baird, 180 Parsippany Road, Whippany addressed the Commissioners regarding several issues. First, she noted that the Recreation Commissioner's Meeting conflicts with the Planning Board Meeting. Second, she asked if the plans are available to view for the proposed changes at the park. Supt. Brennan clarified that currently the plans she is referring to are more renderings for our use rather than professionally scaled blue prints. She advised Ms. Baird they are available at the Engineering office if she would like to see them. Ms. Baird stated her main concern is about the trees that border her property at Brickyard. Since Hurricane Sandy a lot of trees have been uprooted, including many 100-125 foot high old oak trees. Her concern is the area has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, including mosquitoes that have tested positive for West Nile Virus. She noted the Morris County Mosquito Commission's current recourse is to spray the area. Ms. Baird explained she is a bee keeper and the spray is killing her bees. She explained in detail why the current procedure is not working and the best option is to take care of the fallen trees. Chairman Coiley asked her if her purpose here is to ask the Recreation Commission to recommend to the Township to clean out the debris from the downed trees. She responded "yes". Chairman Coiley stated her suggestion is valid and plans to take it up with the Arborist as well as the Health Department. Mr. Scagliozi added that he already had a meeting with the Arborist, Dave Leo, Tom Gallagher, Brian Foran, Brian Pillion, and Mike Mihalko. They walked the path and the recommendation of Tom Gallagher was to remove the trees right away. After that meeting Mr. Scagliozi said nothing was done and his calls to the arborist have not been answered. Ms. Baird thanked the Commissioners and said to call her if they had any additional questions.

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:** Supt. Brennan reported for Mike Mihalko who is on a business trip. He sent an email to Supt. Brennan advising that the proposed budget will allocate \$75K towards a bathroom and concession stand at Veterans Field. Also, another \$350K will be allocated from Open Space towards a multipurpose field at Brickyard. He will give a full report at the next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supt. Brennan received a thank you letter from the Interfaith Food Pantry for 37 pounds of food collected and donated prior to the holidays.

In addition she read a letter from Lester Senior Housing thanking her for the Dial A Ride service and included a \$300.00 check of appreciation.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Supt. Brennan reported for Dave Leo on the following:

**Bee Meadow Pool Lifeguard Stand Installation – Phase II:** Received 90% progress RFP package from Consultant on 1-29-19. It is anticipated that a request for quotes will go out by the end of February with a return date in March with installation required to be complete by the end of April.

**Bee Meadow Pool Dual Slide:** Anticipate installation in the fall of this year; however, it may be possible to install prior the end of April contingent upon the consultants' proposal and consultation. Supt. Brennan noted a request was made to bypass bidding because the plans are proprietary. If the request is granted installation will be completed in April.

**Basketball Court:** Completion of plans and specifications anticipated by beginning of March with installation this summer.

**Malapardis Park Tennis Court Resurfacing:** Completion of specifications anticipated by beginning of March with installation this summer.

Chairman Coiley questioned the possibility of keeping the basketball courts open later than sunrise to sunset. He is concerned that the Township kids have no place to go and seem to be hanging out in parking lots. He has witnessed the activity at Jim Fear Park in Morris Plains and wonders why we can't do the same for our youth. There was discussion of lighting issues as well as the need to change an ordinance. Supt. Brennan and PC/AS Quirk will look into the ordinance.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Wildcat Camps:** Supt. Brennan briefly recapped the discussion at the last meeting where it was decided not to hold the Wildcat Camps any longer because of the problems associated with two of the coaches. After that meeting she had a discussion with Mr. Kaiser (Athletic Director) and Mr. Kelly (Principal) from Whippany Park High School addressing the issues. Subsequently the football coach came to talk with her and they had a productive conversation about what can and cannot be done with that program. She pointed out that in all fairness there had been a lot of changeover and it wasn't always clear about what could and could not be done. As a result it was agreed that we would give this program one last try and they will be monitored for compliance.

#### **PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

**Basketball Nights at Whippany Park High School:** Boys night was held on February 7<sup>th</sup> and the girls on February 11<sup>th</sup>. All the teams enjoyed being called onto the court and being acknowledged at the high school.

**Ski Club Wrap Up:** The last trip of the season was held on February 8<sup>th</sup>. PC/AS Quirk was happy to report there were only minor injuries reported this season.

**Wrestling:** The wrestling season has been completed. Artie Erhardt was happy with the way the season went. Both Supt. Brennan and Quirk feel Mr. Erhardt did a great job and noted it was a pleasure working with him.

**Girls Lacrosse:** Currently there are 15 registered in the grade 5-6 level, 19 in the grade 7-8 level, but only 1 registration for the grade 3-4 level.

**Public Safety Academy:** An assembly at the middle school will be held in the later part of April or early May. This year the plan is to put a video together with all the highlights from the previous academy to show during the assembly.

**Rutger's Clinic:** Recreation has partnered with Hanover Township Little League and will be holding a Rutger's clinic here next Wednesday. If anyone is interested you can register through Community Pass.

**Kickball:** Hanover Township Youth Football has partnered with Recreation to run the kickball clinic. Thank you to Gabriela Salese who played a major part in organizing this program.

**Spring Permits:** PC/AS Quirk advised the deadline for Spring permits closed on Friday, February 15, 2019. Permits will be issued as they were last year and instead of a separate Spring and Summer permit they will be merged into one permit. A lot of applications have been received.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**King Kong:** King Kong on Broadway has been rescheduled to March 3<sup>rd</sup> from the originally scheduled date.

**Paper Mill Playhouse:** My Very Own British Invasion was held at the Paper Mill Playhouse on February 14<sup>th</sup> and was very much enjoyed by all those who attended. The next trip will be in June to see Beauty and the Beast.

**Travelling Teens Preview Trip:** The preview trip to Aquatopia for those in grade 6 was held yesterday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The trip was sold out.

**Summer Programs:** Supt. Brennan distributed calendars from both the Travelling Teens Summer Camp as well as Summer Plus Camp.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Fireworks:** The fireworks are scheduled for Monday, July 1 with a rain date of July 2. Bids are due back next week.

**Summer Concerts:** Supt. Brennan distributed the flyer for the 2019 Summer Concerts. She pointed out that the only concert not listed on the flyer is the Jersey Four as she is still waiting for the contract to be returned.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Hit The Trails Passport with Wegmans:** Supt. Brennan was contacted by Wegmans. They are looking for parks within a certain radius of their store location. Once a park has been identified the trails through the park will be marked as easy, medium, or challenging. As participants walk along the trails there will be raised markers. Participants take their passport (passports available at Wegmans) and rub it over the markers. When the passports are filled they bring the completed passport to Wegmans and collect a free give-away as well as an entry into a drawing to win a \$250.00 Wegmans gift certificate.

The Commissioners gave Supt. Brennan the okay to move forward and contact Wegmans with approval.

**Capital Budget For Pool:** Supt. Brennan received estimates to add a shade covering to the baby pool at Bee Meadow Pool. The lowest estimate came in at \$20K (\$13K for structure plus \$7K for installation). While there is currently \$20K in the capital budget for the pool there are also two other issues that must be considered. The alarm at the pool is not working properly and there are costs for repair and/or replacement. Also, she is still waiting for estimates for the bathrooms. After a brief discussion no decision was made.

## **PERSONNEL:**

**Dial A Ride Driver:** Supt. Brennan asked the Commissioners for permission to hire the Dial A Ride Driver she interviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Berkenkamp to approve hiring a Dial A Ride driver, seconded by Commissioner Monteverdi. All in favor.

**Minimum Wage Increase:** Supt. Brennan is waiting for clarification on part-time seasonal employees with regard to the new minimum wage going into effect.

**MINUTES AND VOUCHERS:** Commissioner Brueno made a motion to approve the vouchers from the February 14, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Berkenkamp seconded the motion. All in favor.

Commissioner Berkenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Monteverdi seconded the motion. All in favor.

**ADJOURNED:** Chairman Coiley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00p.m. seconded by Commissioner Giorgio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Schill