

**The Board of Recreation Commission
of the Borough of Chester**

**Agenda
Regular Monthly Meeting
8/28/18 - 7 p.m. Field House**

Roll Call: Jim Buckley, Kelli Kovacevic, Michael Ferrone, and Stacy Strum representing the Commission. Recreation Director Sandee Moroso-Fela in attendance. Betsy Fila absent.

Introduction of Guests: Mayor Janet Hoven; Kyle Homan, Borough Council; Marla Jackson, Shade Tree Commission; and Paul Allatta, Chester-Mendham Little League.

Call to Order:

Sunshine Law Statement read.

Minutes: Due to a request for changes to the July 24, 2018 meeting minutes, approval of the minutes will be postponed until the September meeting.

Guests/Public Input: Marla Jackson, Chester Borough Shade Tree Commission, presented a planting plan for the concrete stage area at Grove Street Park. The purpose of the proposed planting is to create a backdrop for the stage, making its intended purpose more apparent. The planting would take place in spring of 2019.

Paul Allatta of the Chester-Mendham Little League expressed concern about six trees that were planted along Collis Lane that have grown so large as to obscure the flag at Memorial Field when looking upon it from Main Street. Mr. Allatta is also concerned that the tree limbs are now hanging over the fence onto the playing field and asked if the trees could be pruned. Ms. Jackson indicated the Shade Tree Commission would look into the matter.

Mr. Allatta presented his request to the Commission for additional split rail fencing at Memorial Field to keep spectators from walking immediately behind the backstop. An estimated total of 16 posts and 28 rails would be necessary and Mr. Allatta said the Little League would be willing to install it. Mayor Hoven indicated there might be some materials available from ongoing fence replacement projects in the Borough. Mr. Allatta will determine the balance that needs to be purchased after assessing what is available from the Borough. The Commission will then review and determine whether the Little League or the Commission is responsible for the remaining costs.

Mayor Hoven briefed the Commission on several items. The Borough Council is planning to introduce an ordinance in October pertaining to the Borough's fee structure. Any revisions to the existing recreation fee structure would need to be finalized in time for the October Council meeting in order for them to take effect in 2019.

Mayor Hoven clarified that the Chester Garden Club has an agreement with the Borough to use the gazebo at no cost for the life of the Club.

Councilman Holman informed the Commission that the Historic Chester Business Association informed him that if the Borough raises any fees, they will be forced to take events to another location.

The Commission asked if it would be possible to ascertain how much major event sponsors are giving back to the community and how local businesses feel they are impacted by these major events.

Mayor Hoven provided the Commission with some ideas to improve the Borough's Summer Concert Series including the possibility of obtaining local sponsorships to cover the costs of bands. She suggested that the Commission consider increasing the number of concerts, moving the start time to 4 p.m. and possibly varying the days of the week on which they are held. Mayor Hoven also indicated that the Borough is looking into purchasing a portable stage. The Commission will discuss these ideas further and clarify how much money would need to be raised.

Mayor Hoven informed the Commission that the Borough is considering improvements to the Field House in light of recent complaints about the condition of the floor. The Mayor met with an architect who had a number of suggestions for improvements that might be made to increase interest in rentals including improvements to acoustics and lighting. Sandee (RD) suggested holding an open house to increase awareness of the facility for rentals. The Council will discuss the possibility of funding improvements at its September meeting.

Mayor Hoven informed the Commission that 2019 is Chester Area Pool's 20th Anniversary.

Correspondence/Applications:

1. Shade Tree – planting project for Grove Street Park.

The Commission will review the plan and discuss the matter further at the September meeting.

Old Business:

1. Summer Concert: Third Rail, August 12.
2. CANCELLED-1st Congregational Church: Athletes in Action Soccer Camp at Municipal Field.
3. Food Truck Festival: August 18
4. Baby Sitter Course: Thursday, August 23 at Field House. **12 attendees**
5. Movies in the Park: August 26 showing Wrinkle in Time. **40-50 attendees**

New Business

1. Chester Farmers Market every Sunday from 8-4 until September 30
2. Art Classes: every Tuesday 10-12. **Will start offering evening classes**
3. Chester Cross Country Practice: August 21 until December 7 at Highlands.
Sandee (RD) informed the Commission that a Commission member is needed to serve on the Disciplinary Committee, which meets on an as-needed basis. Member Strum volunteered.
4. Fall Craft Fair: September 6-9 at Municipal Field.
5. Gran Fondo: September 9
6. Fall Tennis: September 18 to October 30. **Sandee (RD) is awaiting a response as to whether the pickle ball tape on the courts will interfere.**

7. Photo Contest: Chester in the Fall, September 21 to November 21. **Flyer is in development.**
8. Chester Harvest Festival: October 13-14.
9. Halloween Ceramic Event: October 27. **Talks of combining with the Township's Trunk or Treat event.**
10. Park Alliance Award Program is seeking nominations.
11. Recreation Funding
 - a. Municipal Alliance funding. **Informed by Township that a certain amount of notice is necessary to utilize these funds.**
 - b. Park/Event fees. **Sandee (RD) and Member Kovacevic will schedule a meeting to discuss and present a proposal to the Commission at the September meeting.**
 - c. Fundraising
12. Park updates/additions
 - a. Mulch has arrived and DPW is awaiting proper weather conditions to install. Total cost was \$1,500.
 - b. Signage for Municipal Field. **Sandee (RD) will look into pricing for a sign. The sign at Grove Street Park serves as a good model.**
 - c. Event fencing concerns. **Mayor Hoven shared concerns regarding the August Food Truck Festival and their use of chain link fencing to enclose the event. The Commission discussed looking into formalizing a policy to prohibit this type of fencing for Borough events while allowing plastic mesh or snow fencing.**
 - d. Pickle ball requests: **Sandee (RD) informed the Commission of a request to tape pickle ball lines on the second tennis court at Grove Street Park. The Commission reiterated their original position that the tape was to be allowed on one court for the rest of the year as a trial.**
 - e. Rockefeller Center: **Chester Historical Society will come to present a proposal at a future meeting.**

Next Meeting: September 25, 2018, 7pm at the Field House

Meeting Adjourned: 9:05 pm