

The Board of Recreation Commission of the Borough of Chester

Minutes Regular Monthly Meeting 04/23/19 - 7 p.m. Field House

Call to Order

7:05PM - Meeting called to order by President Elizabeth Fila - who also read the NJ Open Meetings Law

The New Jersey Open Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of any public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed and/or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Chester Borough Board of Recreation has caused notice of this meeting to be sent to the Observer Tribune and posted at Borough Hall and anywhere else.

Roll Call

Jim Buckley - absent
Elizabeth Fila-present
Kelli Kovacevic-absent
Kathy MacDougall-present
Heidi Seebohm-present
Stacy Strum-present
Michael Ferrone-present

Minutes

1. Approval of March 26, 2019 meeting minutes- Mike Ferrone made a motion to approve minutes- Kathy MacDougall seconded it - minutes approved

Guests/Public Input

1. Ronnie Badlani & Robbie Bush. Service Learning Project.
Two guests are Juniors at West Morris Mendham High School who are working on a service project for their IB Program. They proposed outfitting the Grove Street Basketball Courts with nets, rims, courtlines and benches. They will earn the money and make the repairs themselves. Commissioner Elizabeth Fila stated that generally the

Recreation Committee is responsible for taking care of the court lines and new nets and rims if needed. Benches were not something we provided and it would make sense to use their resources on providing benches for alongside the court. Commissioner Michael Ferrone suggested that the students come up with a more detailed plan that shows a sketch of exact dimension, materials and placement of the benches on the courts. The students could present it to us at a future meeting or by email. The students were agreeable and we approved them going forward with the project. Commissioner Elizabeth Fila signed the form for their teacher provided that more details would be forthcoming.

Correspondence/Applications

1. **Application for Summer use of Basketball court in Grove Street Park.** June 17 to July 24, Monday through Thursday. 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

What do we as a Commission want? The Summer Basketball program was discussed at length. Commissioner Michael Ferrone noted that there are many out of town players and that the program had gotten much bigger than its initial intention, that its governance may fall under the jurisdiction of the Town Council to possibly include a contract. He stated that the Commission should discuss with the league their plans to ensure that the Chester Borough residents needs are being considered during the months that the program is in session. Commissioner Heidi Seebom stated that the timing is prime time for families with young children to use the park. Commissioner Kathy MacDougall noted that it may be beneficial to the town to bring outsiders to use our restaurants and stores. Commissioner Stacy Strum stated that although parking could be an issue there is ample space at the park for both basketball players and children. It will be refreshing to see the park getting used. She also noted that the majority of basketball players are Chester and Mendham residents and that the league provides job opportunities for teens as referees. We discussed required fee of \$100 per evening that the courts are used as per Ordinance #2018-08 Section 127-1 Fees established 5/15/19. We also discussed the possibility of having the younger basketball players play on that court. Commissioner Stacy Strum stated that the Summer Basketball Program had updated courts at Bragg and BRMS in the past and the organization if asked may be willing to cover the cost to update courts at Grove Street Park. Meeting next week with Administrator at which point this can be discussed further. The Recreation Commission will request the organization present to us on 5/28/19.

2. **Chester-Mendham Little League Application, clay request quote only revision and discussion.** Input from discussion with Administrator and Michael Ferrone. Include discussion on Borough's obligation for items requested for Chester Mendham Baseball. Discussed the proposal from Paul Allatta for 50 tons of Clay at \$4,600. Commissioner Ferrone said he had spoken with our Administrator who said that it would be possible to get the clay at

half that cost through our purchasing coop - Commissioner Heidi Seebohm echoed this as she is familiar with the CoOp. We will discuss further with DPW and the Administrator.

Old Business

1. Use of Grove Street Park for Birthday Party April 28 @ Grove Street Park. Information updated to include about 40 people, using Gazebo and surrounding areas. Parent may have an entertainer. \$100 fee paid. Approved.
2. Black Diamond Karate & Fitness Grand Opening event. April 13 @ Gazebo at Municipal Field. 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Approved after COI sent. \$100 fee paid and Police notified.
3. Community Government Day April 13th, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Municipal building. Michael Ferrone represented the Rec Commission. Commissioner Ferrone said the turnout was about 4 people.
4. Easter/Mother's Day Ceramics – Sun., April 14, 11am-3pm @ Field House. Opening/closing provided by Kathy MacDougall, and Township resident and friend Sarah Fraser assisted in collecting fees. Small group. Commissioner Kathy MacDougall said that the turnout was less than previous classes. She felt that we need to advertise more by placing flyers around town. The event was advertised on facebook , schools , our page etc.
5. Spring Tennis – Tuesdays, April 23 - June 11 from 4-7pm. Started today. Signs posted in 3 spots on courts by Commissioner Elizabeth Fila. Committed to Summer Tennis Camp – July 15-19, 9am-12pm and Aug. 12-16, 9am-12pm, and Fall Tennis Program – Tuesdays, Sept. 17 - Oct. 29 from 4-6pm. Program started today - good participation.
6. New Memoir Workshop – for April – June 13 (2 weeks off), for 8 weeks on Thurs. from 10:00 -11:30 pm. We asked for 6 people to run program. We agreed to 4 people and Deb Fedderly, instructor, dropped her fee to \$50/class from \$60.
7. Doggie Litter Stations. 2 stations have been installed at Grove Street Park. We are still awaiting the preferred location for third Doggie Litter Station from Mayor Hoven at the Municipal Park. Per Elizabeth Fila and Stacy Strum the stations look great!

New Business

1. Update from Committee for Summer Concert Series

Stacy Strum stated that we still need to pick bands. Many that have applied will likely be above our price range. She will send emails to all that have reached out to let them know they must have a COI and to ask how much they will charge to perform. Once the list is narrowed she will send links to all recreation committee members and have them vote on their favorites. Heidi Seebohm will help with the process if needed. Stacy will discuss the use of the Municipal Alliance Monies with Ed Bell Chester Township Recreation Director.

2. **Awaiting on scheduling DPW spring walk through of the recreation facilities and parks.**
Per Elizabeth Fila there is still no date on the walk through by DPW. She did note that the new tether ball has been taken. Heidi Seebohm has stated that the digger is also broken and that the sand toys are broken with sharp edges. Heidi given permission to buy new sand toys and will be reimbursed by the committee.
3. **Memorial Day Commemoration.** Coffee and doughnut donations for Veterans before Parade. Elizabeth Fila has begun organizing the event in coordination with Mayor Hoven. She is working on the details. Mayors from both towns will be attending.
4. **Kids' Cooking Camp.** June 24-28. 9:00 am -12:00 pm. Ages 7-10 years. This will take place in the field house. ShopRite Dietitian Stacie DeLucia, RD, will lead. We are hoping to include yoga, fitness and games each day.

Next Meeting

May 28, 2019, 7pm at the Field House

Meeting Adjourned - Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm - motion made by Heidi Seebohm and seconded by Elizabeth Fila.