

Byram Township Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2009

I. Call Meeting to Order

- The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Bill Schilling at 7:30. Flag salute and moment of silence followed.

II. Roll Call

- Present: Bill Schilling, John Pappalardo, Charles Kranz, Colleen Ruth, Tracy Church,
- Absent: Tim Connery, Shawn Armstrong, Kate Walsh, Bob Nosenchuk, John Hebble
- Also in Attendance: Janet Meisner, Dan Rafferty

III. Approval of Minutes, August 2009

- Steve Koreivo made the motion to accept the minutes from the August meeting; Charlie Kranz seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

IV. Committee Reports

Chamber of Commerce

- Taste of the Lakes will be held on November 16th.
- The venue will probably at the Adam Todd, but we are still looking at Perona Farms and other locations.

Board of Education

- No report this month.

Buildings and Grounds

- John Hebble not present – no report.

Byram Day

- Glynis Golden Chair of Byram Day Committee – Race begins at 8:30.
- Opening Ceremonies at 12:00 with Frelinghuysen, Mayor, Council, Scouts flag ceremony, Royalty contest winners, numerous events and contests including HS band, German Folk dance, Fabulous Feet Dance, Hot Dog eating and Water Melon eating contests etc.
- Also Communiiversity includes Environmental Commission talking about Byram's trails, NJIRT Search and Rescue talking about getting lost on the trails, Historical Society talking about the Cat Swamp Hijacking and Murder, Commerce Insurance talking about what to do before you retire, Center for Prevention and Counseling talking about Strengthening Families.
- A reduced number of rides, plus the usual pony rides, family games, vendors and lots of food.
- The day concludes with a concert by Dr. Smith Experience from 5:00 – 7:00.

Lenape Valley Municipal Alliance

- Shawn Armstrong not present – no report.

Open Space

- The dam at Johnson Lake is being repaired. The lake is being lowered and the fish will be relocated to Cranberry Lake for the time period. The Twp engineer has been asked to make some suggestions for the use of the Jones Road field.

Volunteerism

- No one on the committee was at the meeting. Janet and Jimmy O downloaded the application for the Sussex county Hall of Fame. Janet will try to set up a committee meeting to discuss.

Scouts Sub-committee: Bob Nosenchuk, Kate Walsh

- Amy Rochette is working with the Brookwood residents to acquire supplies for her project at Riverside Park. Amy will also be getting in contact with Cindy Church who manages our Clean Communities funding to see if she can get assistance in obtaining some of the supplies she needs.

Sports Council

- Meeting in October for winter sports.

Strategic Planning

- Tracy will be going to school for the next year on Wed nights. Charlie was volunteered to become chair. Later in the meeting we discussed changing meeting nights. If they are changed Tracy will remain chair.

Youth Guidance

- 1st Dance is this Fri. Plans for the Spooktacular on Oct 25 are in place. Plans for the Holiday Party are under way.

Council Liaison

- Bill Schilling asked that Dan make sure that the Council is aware that the first priority to use remaining funds for CO Johnson Park is to get water for irrigation to the fields.
- The first priority for the money designated for Neil Gylling after the wash station is paid for is to replace the softball backstops and fencing

Recreation Director

- One of the primary difficulties this fall has been scheduling programs that were located in the Civic Center to other locations. She and Bill had met with the new Supt in Stanhope & Netcong and discussed moving wrestling to either of the schools but were turned down. They also discussed expanding basketball use to include Saturdays in Netcong and the APR in Stanhope and an unused room in the Linden Ave School for Preschool programs. The Linden Ave School room was turned down. The other facilities for basketball are still waiting approval by the BOE. Janet asked the wrestlers represented by President Sean Kelly and Dave Falleni to present their concerns. They used to have 4 nights in the Civic Center and 2 nights in the BIS gym for matches. They are currently scheduled for 3 nights in the

BIS APR and 2 nights in the BIS gym. This cuts them back by 1 night a week. Their program is growing. Janet had asked the school if they could meet in the Annex Café but it was turned down by the School Administration. Janet said that the school had been very accommodating in that they moved all the scouts and other groups out of the APR to other places, including the Annex café and Lakes School so that wrestling and basketball could share the APR on 5 nights instead of the previously allocated 3. They also scheduled other programs in various places throughout the schools. The current arrangement of the BIS gym and APR reduces practice time for both wrestling and basketball by 1 night each. Sean expressed the concern that unlike most sports wrestling requires substantial set-up and take-down time. Janet said that they could have the BIS gym at 4:30 on the gym days. She would have to check into that possibility in the APR. There are also some days during the season that the PTA uses the APR. The other situation that is being discussed is having wrestling and Open Mic Nights held in the Firehouse. This would provide some additional practice time for the wrestlers. It was suggested that perhaps the town could offer to upgrade the Fire House bathrooms to meet ADA compliance in exchange for the additional use.

- Janet talked about new trends in Recreation recognize that in today's economy people are needing recreation opportunities more and more as stress relievers. They need activities that are close to home and at little or no cost. There is also a national movement by NRPA called "No Child Left Inside". The challenge to the Rec Committee was to come up with programs that would bring families together, be at low or no cost and use the outdoors. Janet talked about biking, hiking and camping. She will be offering a "Picnic Pack" next spring to encourage families to go out and enjoy the outdoors.

V. Other Business

- Membership- Tim Connery is resigning. His email and conversations with Bill state that he does not have the time to participate with the changes in his job. Janet will forward the email to Doris. This would mean that Shawn Armstrong will become a full member and Colleen will become 1st alternate and we need a new member.
- Tracy has school for the remainder of the year on Wed nights. She will not be available and would have to resign also. It was suggested that we change the nights to make it possible for her to attend and remain on the committee. After group discussion it was decided that the 4th Tuesday of the month would work well for those present. Janet will email the remainder of the committee for their availability and comments on the change. Dan will ask what needs to be done to move the meeting night. Sports Council meeting would then also change to the new night 4 times a year.
- Colleen mentioned that it would be helpful for new outdoor activities to have more user friendly trail maps. They need to show parking areas for the trails.

VI. Open to the Public

- Since there was no public in attendance this was closed just the same.

VII. Adjournment

- John Pappalardo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm. Charlie Kranz seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.