

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 – 8:00 P.M.

Members Present: Len Bicher, Bob Brady, Dina Trunzo, Jackie Pellek, Bob Androsky, Nicole Halajian

Other: Alex Rubenstein, Jennifer Kerr

Absent: Jeri Quirk

Jennifer attended because she is interested in becoming a new member.

Alex started the meeting letting everyone know that may not have heard that Jennifer Kerr had resigned as she has accepted FT employment..

Byram Day:

- There was low turnout due to weather. Most vendors started leaving around 3:45 and at 4:15 were told to pack up due to possible storms.
- The dunk tank only made \$400. There weren't many kids attending.
- There needs to be more to keep the kids involved. Suggestions were carnival games, more inflatables, rides, bean bag games, more prizes, obstacle course, magician, face painting, balloon art, reptile/animal shows, demonstrations, more competitions like the pie eating contest
- The girl scouts were not interested in participating
- There were less food stands/options. The county health department requirements are intensive and it is hard for vendors to get approval. Can we work something out with the county to make the process easier?
- Suggestion to consider food trucks. Non-profits would be given first-choice and a deadline to commit to selling food. If the deadline is past then the space will be offered to food trucks
- It was a nice perk not to charge the booth fee for non-profits
- Change of day and time was a suggestion. Byram evening would start 3 or 4pm with dinner, concert or movie, and fireworks. Alex will discuss June 8, 2019 with the Council.
- Only complaint was from the LuLaRoe booth. She chose to face the woods and was not happy with her location. She complained about the weather and not being allowed to bring her dog.
- Possibility of flow of events – craft/vendor fair first, then concert/movie, then fireworks. Have to keep kids occupied.
- 5k run – need a certified course and scoreboards. Standard rates are \$25-\$30 per runner. There has been an issue in the past of closing the streets and OT for police officers. If the

run is held on Sparta Stanhope Road or Brookwood Road then the road wouldn't need to be closed. Cones and volunteers would be sufficient. Another possibility would be Lake Drive/Lake Lackawanna golf course, which is a mile loop.

- Involve the Salt Shakers

Budget: Committee was asked for input regarding the recreation budget.

- CO Johnson Fieldhouse
 - Upgrade of facilities. The fieldhouse needs an entire update of meeting room, downstairs storage, bathrooms, and kitchen (layout of kitchen, industrial stove).
 - Teams and leagues need to respect the space but may not do so because of the disrepair of the building.
 - Should the fieldhouse be converted to a rec building/civic space/meeting space?
 - Summer camp uses the building as storage for equipment.
 - Football uses it on rainy days to watch movies and review plays
 - The space is under-utilized
 - Scheduling needs to be addressed. The calendar needs to be updated and a central way to book needs to be developed. The module on RecTrac can be used to schedule meetings.
 - The next Sports Council meeting is October. Suggestion was that the head of each sports league attend a Recreation Committee meeting once quarterly.
 - Discussion about the trophies cases in the fieldhouse. Do we need to keep the trophies? Yes-people coming in see it as a good tradition. Kids see their trophies. Could each sport will be given one shelf to display trophies as they see appropriate. New trophy cases are needed.
 - Regarding the kitchen, Len stated that the county comes out annually to inspect. The food handler does go through the food safety course.
 - Can the downstairs storage be moved to outside trailers?
- A master plan of CO Johnson Park by a professional is needed. The study will show which areas need improvement/update and how the space can best be used to meet the needs of the community. Dina shared some possible names of companies with Alex that do park Master Plans.
- Recreation Commission: There was discussion regarding the Recreation Director position job staying PT versus FT and also on moving the Recreation Committee to a Recreation Commission. Alex did not see the position going to FT.
 - Members feel that the perception of the Council is that the Recreation Committee is not valued. The Recreation Committee does not have any power and any suggestions usually fall on deaf ears.
 - If the Committee were to transition to a Commission, it would need to be active and valued. Regardless whether it stays Committee or becomes a Commission, the committee feels a paid Recreation Director is still needed.

- Turf fields – would love to have to be able to play games in during bad weather. Practice areas would have to be established.
- Suggestions for Tamarack – pavilion for shelter (at least 20x20), picnic tables, water fountains, playground
- Playgrounds need to be assessed from a safety and a maintenance perspective. Consider upgrading them and making them bigger.

Other:

- Lacrosse is becoming more popular. Can field use be converted? Is there any field under utilized? When Tamarack is open 8 is not needed. 6 is needed for practice. 8 can be converted but is not reliable because of drainage issues.
- Jake's Law – Governor recently signed this into law. Every county needs a playground that exceeds the ADA and it is tied to Green Acres funding in that counties that submit applications to build inclusive playgrounds will be prioritized in funding.
- Field management is an issue. The fields get shut down too quickly. If it is raining early in the day but stops the fields are still closed. There is no one in charge on the weekend. There needs to be a balance. If the fields are closed on the weekend there should be a notice from the town. The coaches should be held responsible if they play on a wet field.
- Dog bag posts should be installed around the fields. People have not been picking up after their dogs. Alex stated anyone who witnesses someone not picking up after their dog should call the police.
- Bob A. left a message with John Frisky regarding the student council and what the kids want to do on Byram Day. Bob will follow up.
- Pickleball was approved and the lines need to be painted
- Recreation committee meetings will continue to be the 3rd Wednesday but changed to 8pm. All meetings will now be held at CO Fieldhouse.

Follow-up:

- Alex to address town council for Byram Day date of June 8, 2019
- County health department process for food vendors
- Scheduling/calendar needs to be developed for building/field usage
- Alex will pursue costs for a professional plan
- Alex will create a recreation committee email list
- Bob A. to contact student council regarding Byram Day
- Pickleball lines need to be painted

The next meeting will be October 17 at 8:00 p.m. at the CO Johnson Fieldhouse