



Recreation Meeting Minutes October 16, 2023

Shawn Conner	Chairperson- term ends 2024	Present- at 8:05 pm
Nicole Halajian	Vice Chairperson- term ends 2025	Present
Danielle Conroy	Member- term ends 2023	Present
Eric Dietz	Member- term ends 2023	Present- at 8:07 pm
Kelly Eller	Member- term ends 2024	Absent
Jim McBain	Member- term ends 2025	Absent
Scott Yappen	Member- term ends 2023	Present
Jeri Quirk	Alternate #1- term ends 2025	Absent
Don Bogardus	Alternate #2- term ends 2023	Present

Also in attendance was Recreation Director Debbie Armeno, Mayor Alex Rubenstein, and Council Liaison Jack Gallagher arrived at 8:08 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Nicole Halajian called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m., Nicole then led the flag salute with a moment of silence.

Recreation Director Debbie Armeno conducted roll call, we had 3 members, 1 alternate present, 5 members and 1 alternate was absent at time of roll call, please note in the chart the arrival times of 2 members. At 8:07, we had 5 members, 1 alternate present at the meeting.

Nicole Halajian asked for approval of the minutes from the September 16, 2023, meeting, Danielle made a motion to accept the minutes, Nicole seconded the motion, Don Bogardus abstained due to not being a member at that meeting. We did not have a quorum to accept the minutes, so tabled until we do.

Shawn arrived and resumed Chairperson role at meeting he asked the Mayor for Byram Town Council report since Councilman Gallagher was not present. Mayor Rubenstein discussed the French and Parillo engineering has been approved for the COJ #8 field project, redo field, press box, and lighting. This field will be designated for games only to preserve the field. Councilman Gallagher arrived and had nothing to add.

Shawn and Eric arrived, and we were able to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2023. meeting.

Recreation Director Debbie Armeno gave a report:

1. Went over Family Monthly Programs list for 2024, discussed the listing and vision.
2. Discussed all flyers in packet for current and future programs.
3. Discussed pay to play programs for the Spring.
 - a. Minds in Motion
 - b. Mini Movers Dance
 - c. Chef it up.
 - d. Am/PM Fitness (partner w/ school)
 - e. Jewelry Making class

4. Debbie discussed Senior Chair Yog/Stretch, Strength and Balance class plus Senior game day.
5. Debbie discussed Ski Club and the meetings what the 2024 program.

Scott Yappen asked Director Armeno if she had read through the survey that was brought up by the Recreation Committee, Debbie replied that she had and that is what she based the Spring programs and Family activities on. He then further asked about sports programs and what we are going to put on, and Debbie stated that the Sports Groups in town put on camps and we are not going to duplicate services, of there is a sport that is not represented then we could consider bringing in USA Sports or another group to conduct such program, he then continued to ask about the survey and Chairperson Shawn reiterated what Debbie had stated and we moved on. Scott then questioned Pickleball or tennis and we stated again if there is a demand we can look into it.

Recreation Director discussed the 2023 remaining budget and gave the amount left in the budget and advised of a refund from the DJ for items not used on the rescheduled date. Debbie also reminded them that the 2024 budget with activities was due by the next meeting in November.

Shawn asked for a report from the Events Sub Committee report:

1. Senior Walk, Mayor stated I just need to give him a date and location and he will be there to lead the walk.
2. Senior games will be on November 11 at noon in the Municipal Building- Shawn asked for volunteers to help from the Committee. He asked Debbie to investigate a good BINGO set.
3. Halloween Decorating Contest- Debbie advised that we 10 properties at time of the meeting. Scott told Debbie is it her job to get 1 property from Cranberry Lake since we never get anyone from there. The Committee discussed how to break up and go judge and Debbie suggested a sheet with the criteria so everyone judges on the same merits. They also wanted all of the addresses placed online and Debbie said absolutely not, we can not do that nor will we, the Committee stated we did in the past, but we are not doing it moving forward.
4. Christmas Tree Lighting was discussed, we have all pieces in place and are ready to go. We have all of our HS student volunteers in place and all supplies that have been ordered have been received.
5. Letters to Santa- Debbie needs to get green and red envelopes and we have the mailbox set to go.
6. Holiday Decorating Contest, we briefly discussed this and going to advertise soon.

Shawn asked to discuss the completed events:

1. Byram Fest: Moving the date from September to late in August not to interfere with sports games, practices and camps. They are targeting August 24 with a rain date of August 31. I have been asked to contact Howard from Mega Bites to make sure these dates will be good and get on schedule now. I will also have to speak to surrounding towns to make sure their "DAY" is not on those 2 dates.

We discussed changing the layout a little to have 1 egress in so when we set up tables everyone passes them, they also discussed how some food trucks seemed to far out and did not get a lot of foot traffic. Although the games field was used getting in/out was a chore based on entrance either 1st or 3rd base sides, the Mayor suggested maybe cutting an access point in the outfield

fence. He stated other fields have it just not this one. I stated maybe we move them to the field with the inflatables since we had plenty of room, cutting the fence not always the best. We discussed inviting nonprofits, such as Scouts, sports groups, church groups, etc. It was decided that no businesses will be able to participate, we do not want it to end up like a Flea Market with them selling items, it was also discussed that no outside food vendors from restaurants in town will be allowed to participate, only the food trucks through Mega Bites. The Committee was firm on this.

We are having a planning meeting in November and I suggested that we meet once a month and get this "buttoned" up and done by March. This will make things like advertising, planning, and overall scheduling a lot easier for everyone.

2. Fright Night at Lentini Farms: Nicole reported 5 tickets sold and Danielle stated she went with her family and had fun.
3. Pet Parade had to be cancelled due to lack of time to advertise.

Shawn moved to Programs Subcommittee update: He stated he wants to reform this committee. He asked for volunteers and will report back at the November meeting.

Shawn moved to Facilities Subcommittee update: Shawn stated he wants to reform this one too, Scott brought up the poor condition of the tennis courts on the Municipal property, the Mayor stated that would be discussed after Election Day. Shawn mentioned that the DPW has been doing an awesome job with the fields have been very responsive to things that need attention.

Shawn moved to Space Committee update: Due to lack of quorum there was no meeting.

Shawn asked if there were any other Committee Reports, and the Trials Committee was brought up by the Mayor looking at a hike and Shawn stated he would do one at Cranberry Overlook. Shawn will give a few dates and we can get a flyer out.

Shawn asked for any Agneda topics for next meeting. No one had any.

Shawn asked if anyone had any items for future meetings, Scott asked about grants and if Debbie is researching and finding any that would be useful. Debbie advised that she looks monthly through several sights like NRPA and NJRPA, and will continue to look, she sent 3 over to Joe and Phil to review.

Nicole questioned if the Township was going to move forward on the purchase of an LED sign at WAWA, the Mayor stated that WAWA was not willing to do this and neither was Quick Chek. There is no good visibility, and the DOT will not put at the corner due to high rate of speed. Discussion ensued and at the end Nicole made a motion to bring this to the Mayor and Council to purchase and install 2 LLED signs, 1 on this side of town and 1 at COJ Field, Eric seconded, and all were in favor. Debbie to send an email to Joe and Cindy on this.

Eric wanted to let everyone know he was not continuing with the Rec Committee when his term is up at the end of the year, but it was a pleasure serving.

Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 pm Eric seconded all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted- Debbie Armeno, Recreation Director.

