

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2023 – 8:00 P.M.

Scott Yappen	Chairperson	x
Shawn Conner	Vice Chairperson	x
	Member	
Nicole Halajian	Member	x
Danielle Conroy	Member	x
Kelly Eller	Member	x
Eric Dietz	Member	Late
Jeri Quirk	Alternate 1	x
	Alternate 2	
Jack Gallagher	Council Liaison	x

Also in attendance: Mayor: Alex Rubenstein, Catherine Biancone: Recreation Secretary, Lou Esposito: Historical Society

Call meeting to order, meeting opened at 8:04 pm, flag salute, moment of silence, roll call

- Motion by Shawn to approve minutes from January 9, 2023 meeting, second by Danielle. All in favor.

- Council Liaison Update: Jack Gallagher: Dog Park and CO Johnson Park Upgrades:

French & Parrello will provide revisions of the plans to reflect the changes discussed at recent meetings.

Sean reports that the sport leagues do not want to maintain the bathrooms

Jack believes that sports want to have bathrooms and they shouldn't have to maintain them

Alex suggests that sports should be able to make sure that kids are not abusing bathrooms.

- Completed Events

Coat Drive:

Pet Store in Byram: collected 6 bags of coats. The next drive at the store is Feb 25th

Bin in front of Food Pantry: collected 8 bags of coats

Alex offered storage in his barn if needed

Catherine will post an update on the coat drive

Senior Bingo Event:

Approximately 25 seniors attended

They would like to do it again

Seniors expressed an interest in having the Bocci court cleaned up, bus trip to a casino,

Mahjong, and an educational session on Medicare

They are looking forward to the Chair Yoga event in March

- Upcoming Events

Hike:

Shawn is hosting on Saturday, February 18 at 10:00am at Jefferson Glen Bike Trail Path.

Shawn mentioned that it would be nice to have another volunteer to help.

Jeri said that she might be able to help.

Catherine will send out a Nixle reminder.

Polar Plunge:

Sunday February 19 at 10:00 am at Lake Lackawanna Beach

Volunteers: Shawn, Eric, Nicole, Alex, Jack, Jeri (maybe)

Sharon from Food Pantry will be there

Approximately 13 registered

There was a discussion to determine if there are enough participants to continue the event and the committee felt the event should continue

Catherine explained that Risk Management advised against having children under 18 participate

Public Comment: Harvey Roseff strongly disagreed with that policy

Shawn will price out coffee and hot cocoa. Alex will pick up in the morning

Nicole has access to the shed for the Parking sign

Catherine will send out a Nixle reminder

Movie Night:

Coordinating with PTA at the Byram Lakes Elementary School, Feb 24 at 7pm

Movie: The Bad Guys provided by Recreation Committee

Snacks and drinks provided by PTA

Committee volunteers: Shawn, Nicole, Danielle

Family Game Night:

March 10, 7-9pm at Byram School

Recreation Committee will provide games

PTA will provide snacks

Additional Discussion:

Eric reported that Forest Lakes did not express an interest in a Fishing Derby

There was a suggestion to research Tilcon or Cranberry Lake

Shawn would like to host a kayaking event in the spring

More research on logistics and place to host the event will need to be done

Presentation: Historical Society: Byram Fest 2023

Brief Summary:

Date and Time: Saturday, September 9th, 12p-9p

Food Trucks: 12p – 9p, Catherine will begin procurement

Fireworks: to close out the evening, Catherine will begin procurement

Inflatables: Catherine will begin procurement

Beefsteak Dinner/Brownstone: general consensus was that this event should be held prior to Byram Fest, either Friday night or in advance of Byram Fest

Beer Garden/High Grade: Further discussion needed regarding permits, logistics etc.

Stage/Bands/DJ: Further discussion needed regarding bands, local acts, MC, incorporating DJ services

Hourly Game Events (Corn Hole/Potato Sack Races, Dunk Tank etc): This idea was well received by all.

Fundraising: Historical Society has received grants for advertising and is confident that their fundraising efforts can support additional activities above and beyond the traditional activities supported by the Recreation Committee.

There was a brief discussion with the Historical Society, Recreation Committee, and Joe Sabatini regarding logistics: parking, beer garden permits, and Township resources. It was agreed that these topics will need to be addressed.

There was a discussion about inviting Township Committees and local non-profits to have tables as long as they are not selling anything: Scouts, PTA etc.

- Facilities Sub-Committee:
See comments above under Council Liaison Update
- Programs Planning:

Danielle reviewed the proposed programs

Alex and Jack informed the Committee that Administration has interviewed each council member individually to see what their vision of recreation is in the future

Art class sponsored by PTA: cost covers supplies and pays for teacher, 25 kids registered, turned away 15, Danielle is collecting the money for the program

Danielle would like to know if the Recreation Committee could fund raise to pay for a part time recreation staff member

Yoga class update: Free class, 6 kids, sponsored by PTA

Committee members reviewed the proposed programs

There was a discussion about presenting the program ideas to Council for their review

Public Comment: Harvey Roseff invited the Committee to a Council meeting

There was a discussion of attending the March 7st Council meeting

Kelly made a motion for Committee to send the slate of programs to Town Council for review
Second by Shawn, all in favor

Public Comment: Lou Esposito asked Danielle to clarify what she wanted to raise money for.
There was a discussion to inform Lou about the evolution of recreation over the past few years
and what the Committee is trying to accomplish as far as pay for play programs.

Public Comment: Harvey Roseff asked if the Recreation Committee has approached the school
to use the Open Space.

Shawn explained that at this point we don't have a need for it.

- Budget Review:

Shawn gave a brief overview of the 2023 budget. He is still finalizing and will present it at
the next meeting.

There was a question posed: If we have a surplus in the budget, can it be used for operational
expenses in the Recreation Department?

- Trex:

The Recreation Committee will not be doing another Trex Challenge

- Open Space Committee Member:

There was a discussion about Scott being appointed to the Open Space Committee
Shawn made a motion to appoint Scott to the Open Space Committee, Eric second, all in
favor

- Recreation Committee Reorganization:

Chairperson:

Kelly nominated Scott for Chairperson, Scott accepted, no second

Nicole nominated Shawn for Chairperson, Shawn accepted, second by Jeri, all in favor

Vice Chairperson:

Shawn nominated Scott for Vice Chairperson, Scott declined

Nicole nominated herself for Vice Chairperson, second by Shawn, all in favor

Items for Future Meeting:

- Budget review for 2023
- Review sub-committees

There was a discussion about using Zoom meetings for members who can't make it to the meetings. Alex said it can be done as long as he has enough notice.

Open to the Public:

- Annalise asked where she should park the bus for the Polar Plunge. Alex, Catherine and Annalise reviewed the parking lot on Google Maps, she will park on the grass to the left of the Lake Lackawanna parking lot.

Motion by Shawn, second by Jeri for adjournment at 10:40pm. All in favor. The next meeting will be Monday, March 20th, 8:00pm at the Municipal Building.