

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2021 – 8:00 P.M.

Len Bicher	Chairperson	x
Scott Yappen	Vice Chairperson	x
Jeri Quirk	Member	
Jennifer Kerr	Member	
Kymerli Morris	Member	x
	Member	
Nicole Halajian	Secretary	x
Donna Griff	Alternate 1	x
	Alternate 2	
Jack Gallagher	Council Liaison	x

Also present: Alex Rubenstein

Call meeting to order, Meeting opened at 8:05pm

- Minutes from February 17, 2021 – Motion by Kymerli Morris, second by Donna Griff to approve the minutes. Motion passed

- Statute for the Recreation Committee:
 - Len can provide a copy of the ordinance for anyone who would like one. The Committee is an advisory role. The Committee may be viewed as oversight by people on social media but that is not the case, the Committee is only advising/making suggestions.
 - The Committee can discuss activities and events and make a motion. The motion then goes to the Town Manager who will then inform the Council. Events/activities are for the benefit of Byram Township residents. Many events/activities are budgetary based. We need to plan for next year and get to the approval process.
 - The budget is \$18,765 and stems from celebration events such as Byram Day, Miss Byram, holiday lights and party, movies in the park, senior events, misc events. The bulk is towards Byram Day (about \$15K). Byram Day can be cut down a bit such as getting the squad to cook burgers and hot dogs. There is money to move around.
 - The expectation is Committee members jump in and help run events, not just township staff. Events are relied upon volunteers to kick off and follow through.

- New items from the committee
 - Easter bunny event. Do we have time to pull off an activity by 3/27? Jack advised that the Lakeland Squad will be going around town. The Lakeland Squad usually holds an egg hunt at Wild West City but it will not be held this year due to the pandemic. It was suggested that we partner with the Squad next year.
 - Pickleball: is there an event that can promote pickleball? Is there an expert that can introduce pickleball to residents? An event can be organized on a weekend. Donna will look for someone interested in teaching a class. First Goal: bring awareness that

we have a pickleball court. Then advertise a pickleball introduction and mini tournament.

- Donna and Scott to organize: July 10 pickleball expo day at CO Johnson park. Bring a picnic lunch.
 - Walking/hiking (Walking with the AHS Doctors (w/Atlantic Health which was in plans with Scott Yappen and Mayor Rubenstein last year pre-Covid). Atlantic Health would like to sponsor events. Sponsorships have to be offered to every business in town by public notice. Alex suggested to wait for the April meeting to plan the next “Hike with the Mayor.”
 - Griffin & Howe / Hudson Farm courses such as NJ Fish & Wildlife Hunter Education, etc. Len advised that we cannot advertise for businesses. Scott stated that other towns have a newsletter and advertise businesses/services in town. A newsletter would have to be approved by the Council. Who would put together a newsletter and would there be a cost?
 - There was a discussion on social media to promote Byram Rec activities and facilities/trails, and dedicated FB Byram Rec page for recreation promotion and citizen outreach like surrounding towns. Jack asked what the opposition was and Nicole stated that we asked for social media and an email address in the past and Joe had advised that there is no manpower to monitor an email address or social media page.
 - Motion by Scott Yappen, second by Donna Griff to create a Byram recreation social media presence inclusive of a Facebook page. Motion passed
 - Monitor various social media like Nextdoor, FB, and others for citizens suggestions related to rec (rec coordination, wifi at COJ, dog training, lake access for all, use of a public indoor space for arts/crafts/courses, etc.).
 - Alex advised “It’s Your Dog LLC” made arrangements in 2008 & 2009 at the Consolidated school. There was a good turnout (5-6 dogs) and classes went well. However the building had become unavailable and has since sold.
 - The beach at Cranberry Lake is state land. (no access to clubhouse or parking lot). The boat ramp is also public.
 - Johnson Lake has public access but is very difficult. A parking lot would need to be built.
 - Panther Lake was sold and they will be investing in the property and are discussing sewage with the town. Is it possible to discuss reduced membership for Byram residents?
 - Jeff Lake is public and has a boat launch.
 - Wifi is in the works for all parks eventually.
 - Miss Byram: Nicole would like to have the competition outside at CO Johnson. Kymberli and Donna will help coordinate.
- Partnership with other Programs:
 - Mt. Olive & Sparta programs are posted on the Byram Township website. There is a discount for Byram residents.

- Byram Fest:
 - Kymberli, Donna, and Jeri met as the subcommittee. The proposed date is 10/8 with rain date of 10/9, 6pm-10pm. It was decided to approach the Council with a date of Saturday, October 9 and rain date of October 10.
 - fireworks at 9:15pm. Food, fireworks, volunteer DJ with small stage, rent a sound system
 - Bring back some elements of Byram Day. Instead of food trucks have local restaurants sell food (Alex advised to approach local restaurants to gauge their response). Instead of selling spots have Byram businesses set up booths from 6pm-8pm. Invite PTA, Byram schools info booth.
 - Set up “touch a truck” with fire truck, police car, DPW truck, ambulance
 - Theme of “Re-Opening Byram”
 - Some inflatable rides (keep budget conscious)
 - Invite band and cheerleaders (Len stated they’re normally not available on a Friday)
 - Volunteers to cook burgers, hot dogs. Hand out Gatorade, water, chips (Fire dept and Squad). However food trucks were a draw and was a shorter evening event. Simple, short and sweet. The last event was successful.
 - A coin drop would need a release from the State
 - Need police presence and parking volunteers
 - K-8 can sell candy (for their Washington DC booth). Police handed out light sticks and spinners

- Other Items from the Committee:
 - The snow is melted. The fields open April 1.
 - Stanhope & Netcong are not interested in shared services
 - There were 3 or 4 applicants for the Recreation Leader position

Motion by Scott Yappen, second by Nicole Halajian for adjournment at 9:56pm – approved by all. The next meeting will be Monday, April 19, 2021 at 8:00pm, via Zoom.