



RECREATION MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 9, 2024

Shawn Conner	Chairperson- term ends 2024	Present
Nicole Halajian	Vice Chairperson- term ends 2025	Present
Danielle Conroy	Member- term ends 2026	Present via phone dial in
	Member- term ends 2023	
Kelly Eller	Member- term ends 2024	Present via phone dial in
Jim McBain	Member- term ends 2025	Absent
	Member- term ends 2026	
	Alternate #1- term ends 2025	Absent
Don Bogardus	Alternate #2- term ends 2023	Present
Cris Franco	Council Liaison	Present

Also in attendance was Recreation Director Debbie Armeno, Mayor Alex Rubenstein, prospective members Lynn Apolaro, and Marla Rodriguez (via the phone).

Recreation Chairman Shawn Conner called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m., he led the Committee in the flag salute and a moment of silence.

The Recreation Director conducted roll call, we had 2 members present, 1 alternate and 2 members vis the telephone and 1 member absent.

There was a motion by Shawn Chairperson to table the Reorganization part of our meeting to the February 13, 2024 meeting when we can have all members present at the meeting due to the weather conditions holding some folks back from attending. The motion was seconded by Don Bogardus and all were in favor.

Chairperson Shawn Conner asked for movement on the minutes from the December 18, 2023 meeting, Nicole Halajian, Vice Chair made a motion to accept the minutes, Don Bogardus seconded and all were in favor.

Chairperson Shawn Conner asked New Council Liaison Cris Franco if she had a report, and she had none but did inform the Committee that she will be absent for our next meeting due to travel.

Chairperson Shawn Conner then turned the meeting over to Mayor Rubenstein for any updates and to discuss the CO Johnson Park Completely Inclusive Playground.

At the January 2, 2024 Mayor and Council meeting is was resolved to replace the CO Johnson Playground applying for the Green Acres- Jakes Law Grant for this CIP Inclusive Playground. The Grant deadline is February 8, 2024. In accordance with the grant there needs to be several Public Meetings to go over the Playground and the design and why it would be good for Byram Township and surrounding towns, January 9, Rec Committee Meeting, Jan 16 Town Council Meeting and a Special Meeting on January 30 . They Mayor is looking for the Rec Committee to get the public engaged in this project

asking Shawn to reach out to all the heads of the Sports to spread the word. Also, we will need letters of support and an example of the letter will be available on our website for residents to download and sign and return to the Municipal Building. Mayor Rubenstein passed our drawings of the project to all those in attendance and explained in detail what the project entailed. Council Liaison Cris Franco asked if the playground had to be in that exact location and Mayor Rubenstein stated that we had already had plans completed for that area so moving it now is too late. Rec Committee member Kelly asked to get a copy of the letter and she would send it out to gain support. After the presentation Mayor Rubenstein asked if there were any additional questions or comments, there were none. Zarah Halajian, 8-year-old daughter of Vice Chair Nicole Halajian was in attendance and when asked if she wanted to see a new playground at CO Johnson Park and she stated a resounding YES!

Chairperson Shawn Conner asked for the Recreation Director report:

Recreation Director Debbie Armeno updated the Committee on:
Getting a brochure program called "Flip Builder".

Community Pass is up and running and ready for registrations of Spring Programs.

Polar Plunge, EMS is set to be there, Jesse was ready to lead, flyers have been completed, and spoke on Smores Kits that Nicole suggested we should get. Nicole mentioned that last year we collected food for the Food Pantry and did a coat drive this should be on the flyer and can "FREE" be on flyers"

The Sports Council meeting is set for February 8 at 7pm.

Ski Club was set to begin on Wednesday January 10 but due to the amount of rain we postponed for 1 week and will extend at the end of the program.

Reported on on-going programs, Holiday Show off Winners, Disney on Ice ticket sales and the upcoming Miners game 6/15 for a 6:35 p.m. games \$10 per ticket.

Chairperson Shawn Conner began Committee Member Updates/ Discussion/Reminders/News

Don Bogardus- nothing to report.

Nicole Halajian stated she spoke to BARKS and they are not interested in participating in the Pet Parade in October, she will try others and Danielle Conroy volunteers for OSCAR and she will ask them.

Shawn Conner asked if all the programs that the Rec Director has put together need coverage from the Rec Committee and Recreation Director Debbie Armeno stated no they are all Instructor based. - Cris Franco followed up and asked when she could suggest programs like Pickle Ball and Bocce, Rec Director Debbie Armeno stated that she can contact her and discuss deadlines and program ideas.

Kelly Eller (via phone)- nothing to report.

Danielle Conroy (via phone)- nothing to report.

Chairperson Shawn Conner moved to 2024 Budget, nothing to discuss on it.

Chairperson Shawn Connor made a motion to appoint Don Bogardus as a Liaison from the Recreation Committee to the Open Space Committee, Nicole Halajian seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Chairperson Shawn Connor made a motion to move Don Bogardus from Alternate #2 to a regular member and to make Marla Rodriguez a regular member of the Recreation Committee, Danielle Conroy, (via phone) seconded and all were in favor.

Don Bogardus made a motion to make Lynn Apolinaro Alternate #1 on the Recreation Committee, Chairperson Shawn Conner seconded, and all were in favor.

Chairperson Shawn Conner asked for any other Committee reports, there were none.

Chairperson Shawn Conner asked if there were any topics for the next meeting, Councilwomen Franc reminded everyone she would be absent from the next meeting.

Chairperson Shawn Conner asked for any future agenda items, there were none.

Chairperson Shawn Conner opened the meeting to the public, Dina Trunzo, Joe Condon, and Anneliese were all in attendance. Anneleise asked if businesses could donate to programs or events, Recreation Director stated yes but there is a process that needs to be in place prior to. She is looking to donate the S'mores to Polar Plunge.

Nicole Halajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Shawn Conner seconded all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.