

Borough of West Long Branch

Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes- February 11, 2019

Members in Attendance:

Debbie Ronan, Chair
Lorraine Strohenger
Salina Neuhaus
Gregg Malfa

Also in Attendance:

MaryLynn Mango, Councilwoman

Meeting Called to Order at 7:39pm.

1. Debbie began the meeting by re-visiting our mission: 'To provide our community with various activities and events for residents of all ages.'
2. **Park Maintenance-** Park assignments were discussed. The purpose and goal is to make sure each park is looked after and kept up properly. Assigned people will look after their assigned park periodically in order to promptly address what needs to be done. One of the main concerns in all of the parks is the park signs. MaryLynn advised that she has already visited all parks and has taken pictures of the signs. She plans to have this issue addressed in the Spring. MaryLynn also advised that she is aware some of the parks need excess funds beyond the budget of the Recreation Commission and that some of the maintenance costs may be eligible to come out of the borough's buildings and grounds budget. It was also mentioned that the Thorne family is resuming fundraising efforts this year for their scholarship fund but may be interested in raising funds for Thorne Park renovations as well. Debbie will reach out to the family. Debbie also presented an estimate for driveway/parking lot repairs at Sorrentino Park as well as an estimate for an overhaul of the walking path around the perimeter of the park. She will be obtaining additional estimates to present to council.

Prospective park assignments are as follows:

Franklin Lake- Debbie

Conway Park- Lorraine

Ronan Shirvanian Park- Salina

Thorne Park- Gregg

Valenzano Park- TBD

Woolley Park- TBD

Sorrentino Park- Ron & Gregg

3. Debbie reported that the Rec. Commission budget was passed at the special meeting held on 1/29/19. Events and budgeted amounts were reviewed.
4. The annual **Easter Egg Hunt** is the next upcoming event. Debbie will be handling most of the details, as she has in years past. She would like to add some new decorations and suggested a possible contest for the students in our local schools. The contest would consist of 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners. The object would be for them to create foam board lawn decorations and photo booth style lawn props. Heidi will reach out to the teachers at the BME and FAS schools.
5. Lorraine is currently working on securing the bands for the **Summer Concert Series** at Franklin Lake. The current plan for this year calls for two larger bands to appeal to a broader audience but she advised we should still have a band for the **4th of July Fireworks** celebration. Salina mentioned that cost should not be an issue to accommodate a 3rd concert,

as there are many well-known bands that are within budget. Several bands were suggested and are being explored.

6. Salina informed that she is going to be working on a new process for vendor permits for the **Fall Festival**. She hopes to make the process easier for everyone. Once details are ironed out she will work with the borough clerk, Lori Cole, to determine what works best for all.
7. **New Events:** In focusing on our mission as the Recreation Commission, new events need to be created for all to enjoy.

A few of the ideas include:

- a) Group trips to see a show, possibly an event for seniors.
- b) Yoga classes at the Community Center. These classes could be for various age groups and levels including mommy & me and seniors. There are a few members of the community who are certified instructors that may be interested in teaching.
- c) WLB ski trip; Salina offered to help organize.
- d) Bingo or Bunko game nights at the Community Center; Heidi will find out details on bingo licensing.

Meeting came to a close at 8:26pm

Submitted by:
Heidi Bahr, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, March 11th at 7:30pm