

Borough of West Long Branch

Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes- April 8, 2019

Members in Attendance:

Debbie Ronan, Chair
Lorraine Strohmer
Susan Trocchia
Larry Mays

Also in Attendance:

Lori Cole, Borough Clerk
Carrie Kochman – Resident
Dan Kochman – Resident

Meeting Called to Order at 7:29pm.

1. Borough Clerk, Lori Cole swore Larry Mays into office for the position of Recreation Commission -Alternate Member #1. The commission members officially welcomed Larry.
2. Debbie gave a resident, Carrie Kochman, the opportunity to present an idea for a new annual event in town. Carrie presented a '**Lantern Walk**' and explained that it is a global tradition within many communities to bring people together and welcome the change of the season. The event is a representation of 'light in the face of darkness' as daylight savings time ends. She expressed how this event would bring all members of the community together; young, old and of various ethnicities and religions. She provided many ideas for the possibility of music and refreshments at the event as well as a lantern-making event prior to the celebration. The Recreation Commission members voted and approved the event. The event will be held on November 9, 2019 with a rain date of November 16, 2019. The timing of the event will be sometime around 4:30PM. Art teachers at the WLB Schools and Shore Regional will be contacted to see if they wish to make a lantern-making project with their students and in turn educate them on what the meaning behind this celebration is. Resident Carrie Kochman will be working with the commission to bring the details of the event together in the coming months.
3. Debbie reported that all is moving along with the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** preparations. Flyers with the event details and for the poster-making contest will be going home to students of the WLB Schools this Wednesday. Councilwoman Mango sent a report that Nanno's Bakery of West Long Branch will be donating 50 bunny cookies to the event. Salina Neuhaus will handle obtaining the rest of the refreshments. Set-up at the Community Center will take place at 8:30AM.
4. Lorraine provided an update for the **2019 Summer Concert Series**. The official schedule is as follows: 7/12- Lights Out, 8/9- Soul Cruisers and 8/23- Route 80. The total cost of the bands comes to \$7,650. There will not be a band this year for the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration. Lorraine will be submitting paperwork to Shore Regional High School to check if their building could be used as a back-up venue in the event of rain. She will also be checking with Councilman Migliaccio on the amp line requirements needed for the bands. This year there will be a simple lawn banner to advise residents 'Concert this Friday!' which will most likely include information to direct them to the borough website for further details.
5. **Valenzano Park**- Larry advised that he visited the park and it is in dire need of attention. The playground equipment is in very bad shape and rusted out in spots. It can potentially be a hazard and needs to be removed and discarded of.
Conway Park- Lorraine mentioned the only real issue was the Portable Toilet was in need of servicing.
All Parks- Portable Toilets have been ordered for all parks for the upcoming season.

6. **Summer Recreation-** Debbie informed that the program was not approved to be held at Shore Regional High School. The rear gym will be under construction this year and use of this space will not be available. Building usage approval was sent to the Frank Antonides School that has been used in years past. We are awaiting approval from the Board of Education. Debbie has been in contact with Mr. LaBush whom has been the Assistant Director of the program for several years under Nick Cammarano who unfortunately will not be returning this year as Director. Mr. LaBush was offered the position and we are still awaiting his acceptance. There are currently two candidates for the Assistant Director position that will become vacant in the event LaBush assumes the Director position. Debbie will be in contact with council for the approval to hire two assistants while still remaining within the budget.

Meeting came to a close at 8:36pm

Submitted by:
Heidi Bahr, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, May 13th at 7:30pm