

Borough of West Long Branch

Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes- June 10, 2019

Members in Attendance:

Debbie Ronan, Chair
Lorraine Strohmer
Susan Trocchia
Ilene Guzzi
Ronald Karpe
Salina Neuhaus

Also in Attendance:

Councilman Neyhart
Councilwoman Mango
Jerry & Diane Natale – Residents

Meeting Called to Order at 7:39pm.

1. Recreation Chair, Debbie began the meeting with our mission: “ To provide our community with various activities and events for residents of all ages.”
2. Field Usage Chair, Ron expressed many concerns regarding the fields. All fields are in complete disarray; the baseball fields are in need of clay and covered in holes, the grass cutting is not being kept up on and there are many safety issues amongst all fields such as broken fences and broken bleachers. Ron explained how he has personally attempted to fix multiple holes located at the fields and currently the Shore Blue Devils Baseball League is applying and raking clay and even mowing the grass at their own expense. Ron feels it is unfair to require permits given the condition of the fields. There is also an issue with organized teams that do not possess a permit, playing at the fields and leaving trash. This in turn leaves a mess for the permitted teams to clean up. Ron is requesting immediate action of the town to remedy these issues. The permit application should also be updated to express permits must be on hand when the fields are being used and there should be signage at all fields that explain that use is prohibited without a permit, etc. Councilwoman Mango suggested we charge a permit fee to help with the maintenance costs of the fields but it would be unethical given the current conditions; the town will have to fix many issues before this could be moved into action. The councilmembers also expressed that they hope to see big changes within the DPW that would directly affect our current field maintenance issues. MaryLynn and Debbie agreed that a punch list will be made and coordinated to begin taking action on these issues, one at a time.
3. **Parks and Fields Updates:**
4. **Valenzano Park-** The broken bleachers were addressed and will be removed immediately as they are a hazard. The fencing will also need to be repaired as soon as possible due to it being a safety issue. Debbie expressed that there may be extra money in the budget and would like to use the money to add benches and fix up around the monument area. Councilman Neyhart suggested we look for sponsors as well. Debbie would also like to update the playground equipment.
Conway Park- Lorraine informed that the park is in good condition.
Ronan Shirvanian Park- Councilman Neyhart reported that electricity for lighting and a fountain are still in the plans for the future. There are many people utilizing and enjoying the bocce courts. Debbie would like to move forward with the removal of the unsightly telephone poles and find an alternative to their purpose if needed. Salina had mentioned the need for ground bee control within the park.
Woolley Park- A new sign has been ordered.

Franklin Lake- Debbie spoke to Mayor Tucci and Councilman Migliaccio and they are ready to get the Gazebo project underway. Sturdy, weather-resistant materials will be required. Stand-alone benches will be set within the gazebo rather than attaching seating to the structure itself. Salina mentioned that Jeff Chambers has volunteered to help with the construction repairs needed. Lorraine will speak to members of the Lions Club, who originally built the gazebo, to see if they would be willing to help or contribute. Resident Jerry Natale brought up concerns for the vegetation growth within the lake and advised that it is better to address the issue sooner rather than later for ease of remedy and cost factors.

5. **Fishing Derby-** Volunteers and donors were thanked. Debbie gave a special thank you to Lorraine for helping set-up and run the event. Thank you to Christina Ronan for taking the pictures that were submitted to the NJ state Federation of Sportman's Club and also to Emily Ronan for designing the event flyer. Councilman Neyhart reported that there were a total of 106 registered children. He also acknowledged and thanked the businesses and organizations that donated supplies, food and prizes. There were seven categories of winners but every child left with a prize that day. The event ran very smoothly and only went slightly over the \$1,000 budget, costing \$1,167.
6. **Summer Recreation-** The program begins at the FAS School on Monday, June 24th. The new camp director, Ariana was unable to attend our meeting but reported that there were currently 76 campers signed up. She has also purchased the supplies needed and is currently planning the trips; with the Blue Claws game prospectively for July 11th. She is also researching the Popcorn Zoo as a possible outing. Ariana is waiting to hear back from FAS for more details regarding the building and grounds. Debbie reported that the Assistant Director, Jeff Labush has resigned which leaves a vacancy for that position. She recommended Kristen Gomez to take to available spot as she has attended the camp, has been a counselor in training as well as a counselor in past years and knows the program very well. Being a resident she is also familiar with the school and grounds.
7. **Summer Concerts-** Lorrain reported the following lineup: 7/12- Lights Out, 7/19- West End Dogs, 8/9- Soul Cruisers, 8/23- Route 80. She is working to obtain building usage approval for the SRHS auditorium in the event of rain on the 8/9 and 8/23 show dates. The school secretaries will be contacted to see if displaying the concerts on the school signs is permissible. She also plans to have them displayed on the large temporary electronic sign to be positioned at Franklin Lake since there will be no banners used this year. It has been confirmed that there will not be a band at the **4th of July Fireworks**.

Meeting came to a close at 8:37pm

Submitted by:
Heidi Bahr, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, July 8th at 7:30pm