

Borough of West Long Branch

Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes- February 10, 2020

Members in Attendance:

Debbie Ronan, Chair
Lorraine Strohenger
Matt Sniffen
Larry Mays

Also in Attendance:

Councilwoman Mango
Councilman Migliaccio
Resident- Aaron

Meeting Called to Order at 7:43pm.

1. Debbie asked Matt to begin the meeting with our mission statement.
2. Debbie inquired if anyone has heard from member Gregg Malfa. He has been unable to attend meetings for some time and may be open to surrendering his term to a new member. He will be contacted.
3. Debbie reported that the recreation commission budget passed at the January 29th council meeting. There is an additional \$7,000 worked into the budget for the purchase of an enclosed box trailer. Member Matt Sniffen initiated and organized this effort and was thanked. The trailer will have multi-use as storage and concession at events. It will be stored at Valenzano field. There is also an additional \$2,000 to re-build the deteriorating concession stand located at Valenzano field. This unit will be used for storage. Councilman Migliaccio has a few ideas regarding these matters and will work with Matt to move forward on the projects. Debbie noted that cleaning out the old concession stand is of first upcoming priorities.
4. **Easter Egg Hunt-Saturday, April 11th:** Debbie questioned if the egg hunt event could still take place on the Community Center grounds, weather permitting. Councilman Migliaccio confirmed this is permissible but the commission should consider port-a-johns for bathroom access to attendees. Debbie advised she will request building usage at Frank Antonides if the weather does not cooperate. Debbie will be inviting volunteers to tape the eggs closed at the next Rec Commission meeting to be held on **April 6th** due to the timeframe. There will again be a poster contest this year. Debbie will reach out to Saint Jerome School and Heidi will contact the art teacher of the WLB schools to coordinate. Debbie will provide paper fliers to Saint Jerome for the event and the fliers will be added to the virtual backpacks at the WLB schools.
5. **Upcoming Event notes:** Debbie noted that the fishing derby will take place on June 6th this year. She will be looking to hold the **Summer Recreation** program at Shore Regional and begin making the necessary arrangements. There is still hope to have larger American flags attached to the lighted telephone poles on Locust Ave. in representation of the **4th of July** holiday. This effort will have to be organized. Lorraine questioned if music should be added to the 4th of July celebrations this year. A few residents expressed how they missed the entertainment but there is concern that it would not be cost effective due to the small area of the lake it will impact when spectators gather all around the lake. **Movie Night** is set for September 25th and the movie will be determined as the date approaches. Debbie noted that the **Lantern Walk** will take place again this year with the date still to be determined.
6. **Summer Concerts:** Lorraine advised that she has been looking into some new ideas for this year's concert series. There will most likely be 4 concerts due to budget. The 80's band booked last year did not have a good turnout; therefor she is looking into alternative options. One idea is to have a blue grass band. She noted that Tequila Rose will again be booked for

Fall Fest along with Gary Smolokoff for the Christmas Tree Lighting. Lorraine would like to see a possible dance floor with line dancing added to the Fall Fest this year. Location of the dance floor and cost will be considered.

7. **Fall Festival:** A date still has to be determined for this year's festival. Councilman Migliaccio suggested moving the date up in October and scheduling on a Saturday in an effort to accommodate a rain date. Debbie noted how that would be ideal but the rain date poses an issue when booking many attractions such as the inflatables and band. She will reach out to the companies to see if this is a possibility. The weekend of October 11th is a possible date for the event. Cornstalks will again be picked up and installed the week prior to the event. Members noted the issue with the hanging banners this year. The option of a large ground banner will be re-considered. Scarecrows lining the telephone poles on Locust Ave. could also double as signage for the event. It can be a possible fundraiser event to work with the WLB PTA on. Councilwoman Mango offered to look into if there was a sign ordinance issue that would prevent this option and if so, a way to work around it.
8. **Christmas Tree Lighting:** Debbie advised that the lights have finally been removed from the tress at both Franklin Lake and Woolley Park. We will remain with the same lighting company next year. Matt suggested we re-negotiate the price for the tree at Woolley as it is such a small tree that takes only minutes to decorate. Debbie advised that there are funds in the budget this year to again try for an ice skating rink. The menorah will be put up a few days before Hanukah which falls on 12/11.
9. **New Ideas:** Debbie suggested the commission hosts a New York Yankees game trip. The tickets can be up-charged to include the cost of busing. Details will have to be worked out as far as dates, age restrictions due to chaperoning or if a chaperone will be necessary. Larry suggested the commission hosts a Trunk-or-Treat this year, possibly to be held at the Community Center. It can be held on the day before Halloween or on Halloween. Many towns host such an event and families have been trending away from the door-to-door trick-or-treating. This will be revisited.

Meeting came to a close at 8:30pm

Submitted by:
Heidi Bahr, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, March 9th at 7:30pm