

Borough of West Long Branch

Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes- June 11th, 2018

Members in Attendance:

Joe DeLeonardo, Chair
Debbie Ronan
Lorraine Strohmenger
Salina Neuhaus
Ilene Guzzi
Gregg Malfa
Ronald Karpe

Also in Attendance:

Chris Neyhart, Councilman
MaryLynn Mango, Councilwoman

Meeting Called to Order at 7:32pm.

1. The **Annual Fishing Derby** was another huge success with over 70 children registered. Everything ran very smoothly. Debbie stated that registration under the gazebo worked out well along with serving the pizza during the down time while judges calculated the results. Councilman Neyhart reported that there were 83 fish caught. Local PBA 141 generously paid for the pizza served at the event, D & M Trophies again provided the trophies and Mark Nitzel donated some poles and kits. There were many others who donated and helped out to make this event a huge success, the Recreation Commission would like to send them thank you letters. Councilman Neyhart recommended the raffle tickets be handed out after the fishing is complete. Pushing it back later will hopefully prevent people from leaving prior to the numbers being called.
2. **Summer Recreation**- As of now there are 124 campers signed up and 44 signed up for the art class. Counselors have been approved and hired. They will be meeting Wednesday prior to the first day of camp. Everything is set with Shore Regional and events have been planned; Blue Claws game, slides, ice cream truck, etc.
3. **4th of July Fireworks**- Flags will be ordered. The AC unit in the trailer is being checked to confirm proper function. A new firework company has been hired this year with a promise for a higher display range over the trees at the lake. There is concern with the cost and where the additional required funds will be sourced from; the new company is charging \$2,000 over the original budgeted amount of \$13,000.
4. **Summer Concert Series**- 8/24 has been confirmed and we now have a full line-up: 7/13- Friend Zone, 7/27- Lights Out, 8/3- The 80' Show, 8/10- Tequila Rose and 8/24- Jersey Jukebox.
5. The new **Bocce Ball Court** installation is moving along nicely. The grass has been removed and the ground leveled for both courts. Weather permitting volunteers are hoping to get the fabric laid on Wednesday afternoon and the large railroad tie beams set and spiked. Councilman Neyhart noted Eosso Brothers Paving of Farmingdale has generously donated the fabric. John Guires will also generously donate the stone that is needed for the courts.

They are hoping to have the courts completed by the end of the month. Once complete we look to have leagues and tournaments with a possible entry fee. Creating a committee to handle this will have to be considered. Councilwoman MaryLynn suggested a town sign in the park acknowledging the Recreation Commission for this new addition. Councilman Neyhart is hoping to line benches down the middle of the two courts via funds raised from a tournament for that specific purpose. There have been many donations and volunteers thus far; Councilman Neyhart will provide a list of all who have contributed.

6. **Fall Fest-** Sunday 10/21 has been confirmed. Ilene checked with Hoffman's Ice Cream to have their truck present for the event. Hoffman's is interested and will be looking into the necessary permits. Joe inquired about additional entertainment. Options include a petting zoo or pony rides. They would be a nice addition but there is concern for lengthy lines that they will attract. The Community Center is on board to sponsor a beer garden. They will have to handle all of the details regarding permits, ordinance and the proper procedures in running it. Locations to consider are at the open area around the lake off of Throckmorton or at the Community Center property. If at the Community Center there would need to be a shuttle of some sort, however this brings concern of parents separating from children. Salina suggested having entertainment near the beer garden such as a small band. Also noted, an additional portable toilet will be needed at the beer garden location. In 2017 there were 17 vendors and we would like to increase this amount. Salina will solicit to the vendors at Ocean fest in Long Branch, Debbie and Lorraine will be speaking to the vendors at the Methodist Church's event. Councilman Neyhart would like to have a food drive at Fall Fest with bins set up all throughout the event. We would create a separate flier for the food drive and work with the local food pantry in town.
7. **Bingo Night** at the **Community Center** is still being looked into. As a sponsor, the Recreation Commission would most likely provide refreshments and possibly the bingo boards. Details must be ironed out. The Community Center would be in charge of obtaining the necessary license from the state.
8. **Christmas Sing-a-long-** As of now the date for this event would fall on Sunday 12/23. We would like to consider hosting a 'Tree Lighting' earlier in December in lieu of the sing-a-long. There is some concern for backlash over veering from tradition once more. All agreed that an event two days before Christmas would be difficult for many. The event would remain with a sing-a-long aspect but also focus on the tree lighting. A new name for the event would have to be considered. Offering more quality entertainment was suggested. Salina noted that there are many talented students who could perform. The location would remain at the Franklin Lake. This tree lighting would potentially take place the weekend after Thanksgiving, 12/2. Joe looked into possible horse drawn carriage rides, which are costly and the carriage only carries 6 riders at a time. There is also the option of carolers or characters that dress up in holiday costumes. These preliminary ideas will be further inquired.
9. The design of **Town Flags** is in the process of being finalized. We have the logo and need to get final approval on the wording. There are also 34 poles that must be prepped and painted. Councilman Neyhart suggested we obtain at least three estimates for this task.

Meeting came to a close at 8:46pm

Submitted by:
Heidi Bahr, Secretary

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