

Borough of West Long Branch

Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes- December 10th, 2018

Members in Attendance:

Joe DeLeonardo, Chair
Lorraine Strohmenger
Susan Trocchia
Salina Neuhaus
Debbie Ronan
Carrie Sniffen

Also in Attendance:

MaryLynn Mango, Councilwoman

Meeting Called to Order at 7:32pm.

1. Joe opened the meeting by announcing to the Commission that this will be his last meeting, as he will be resigning from Recreation Commission Chair effective the end of the year. Joe thanked everyone that has helped over the years and expressed his appreciation for all of the hard work everyone has put forth to make the Recreation Commission what it is today. Joe has dedicated over 15 years to the WLB Recreation Commission and has made many wonderful ideas become a reality. We sincerely appreciate this dedication and all that he has accomplished, he will be greatly missed. Joe provided his letter of resignation to the secretary and the keys to Borough Hall, the Santa Mailbox and the Bocce Ball Shed were given to Debbie Ronan who has offered to accept the role of Recreation Chair. Lorraine has the keys to the trailer. Joe also provided a list of general information to the secretary and Debbie. He recommended that the keys to the gate and light box at Valenzano Park be changed due to coaches possibly making copies and distributing them to various coaches. He explained that this may put the lighting ordinance in jeopardy. Joe also provided the 2019 Budget Request which will be forwarded on to the CFO, Mike Martin by Heidi.
2. **Holiday Tree** – The tree lighting was a very successful event. The turnout was good despite the weather, but the rain held off for the event. Next year we will consider holding the event on a Friday or Saturday in order to include a rain date. One of the two entertainers cancelled last minute however it worked out fine with just one. Debbie mentioned that they will no longer be setting up the castle at this event; it is very difficult to coordinate with weather and the event is just as nice without it. She also mentioned that next year we will need to purchase large canisters of cocoa mix rather than the packets and will also need even more cups and marshmallows. Also for next year, Debbie would like to have the sign simplified so that it more visible to passersby and also to hopefully continue with having the tree professionally lit. The tree lighting company was wonderful to work with and they provide both instillation and disassembly of the lights. Commission members noted what a wonderful Santa Jason was and

asked Joe to pass along their appreciation. Members addressed the negative backlash on social media pertaining to the tree and Menorah located at Woolley Park. Councilwoman MaryLynn reassured members on the Boroughs decision for the location of the Menorah and that she personally sought and confirmed the approval with several Jewish families in the community. Next year we will put in place a better process in order to have the trees at both locations lit on the same night. Lastly, Carrie noted there are still 2 port-a-johns located at Franklin Lake. Heidi will confirm with the company that the unit delivered on Friday 11/30 should have been removed on Monday, 12/3. Carrie also noted that all units at all locations should have been removed by November 15th. Heidi will reconfirm with Patricia Reevey who previously advised that there are units at each location that remain year-round.

3. **Upcoming business for 2019 –**

- a) Our next event is the Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on Saturday, April 20th. Planning for this event will begin shortly.
- b) Plans for the town flags that will be displayed on the lampposts at Franklin Lake will be moving forward. We will be considering other design options.
- c) The commission will need a member to take over management of field usage permits. Members suggested either Ronald Karpe or Gregg Malfa. This will have to be discussed with them as neither were present at the meeting. Also, the permit usage process will have to be re-worked and discussed in further detail.
- d) The past **Movie Night** was evaluated and considerations of taking a year off from this event were had. This matter will be discussed further in the coming months.

Meeting came to a close at 8:24pm

Submitted by:
Heidi Bahr, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, January 14th at 7:30pm