

# Borough of West Long Branch

## Recreation Commission

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### Meeting Minutes- January 14, 2019

#### Members in Attendance:

Debbie Ronan, Chair  
Lorraine Strohmer  
Susan Trocchia  
Salina Neuhaus  
Ilene Guzzi  
Ron Karpe  
Gregg Malfa

#### Also in Attendance:

Fred Migliaccio, Councilman  
Lori Cole, Borough Clerk

Meeting Called to Order at 7:36pm.

1. Newly appointed Chair, Debbie Ronan gave a warm welcome to commission members and congratulated Ron Karpe for being appointed as a full member. The Borough Clerk, Lori Cole, swore Ron into oath. Lori also advised the commission now has two Alternate Member vacancies.
2. Debbie introduced her Mission as Chair: 'To provide our community with various activities and events for residents of all ages.' She provided a breakdown of who we already serve and who we should also strive to serve more:
  - a) Who we already serve:
    1. Pre-School – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Easter Egg Hunt
    2. Pre-School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Movie Night
    3. Community – Fall Festival, Holiday Tree Lighting, Fishing Derby, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks, Summer Concert Series
    4. Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> – Summer Recreation
  - b) Who we still need to serve:
    1. Middle School children
    2. High School children
    3. Seniors
    4. Stay at Home Moms

Commission members will be working on new ideas to broaden our outreach into the community. Members each offered to oversee a specific event.

3. **Park Maintenance-** The parks need to be taken care of; Debbie recommended each member select a park to look after in order to ensure maintenance is kept up. Most park signs are in need of repair. Debbie questioned if it would be more cost efficient and effective to hire and outside landscaper to maintain the parks rather than rely on the DPW who is already busy with their other primary duties. Ilene mentioned the need for defibrillators in each park. She has offered to work on the task getting them in place. Each park was discussed in detail:
  - a) **Franklin Lake:** The Town Flags still need to be designed, ordered and installed on the lampposts. Salina offered to reach out to a graphic designer for assistance. Debbie advised that the installation clamps would be included in the order with the flags for easy installation. The gazebo also needs updating. The wood, iron and cement are starting to deteriorate. Councilman Migliaccio advised that the Lions Club who originally built the gazebo, and others have offered to help with repairs

as well as donate. Appropriate materials for strength and durability will have to be decided on.

- b) **Conway Park:** 'Alyssa's Angels' fundraised in the past to complete phase 1 of the Conway Park makeover. Debbie would like to move forward with phase 2 which may include a bathroom, a handball area or pickle ball. 'Alyssa's Angels' are no longer raising funds therefore the cost of this project will have to be sourced elsewhere. The park itself currently needs to be cleaned up; the landscaping needs to be maintained and the large trees must be trimmed in order to make it more inviting and safe.
  - c) **Ronan Shirvanian Park:** The bocce ball courts came out very nice last year and ended up being a big attraction. There is hope to replace the telephone poles with a more appealing fence or barrier. Councilman Migliaccio advised the purpose of the telephone poles is to keep motor vehicles from pulling up onto the grass or driving into the lake. There may be a road project in the future for Walnut Pl. which will provide to opportunity to add a curb and solve the issue.
  - d) **Thorne Park:** There needs to be a makeover in order to make the park more inviting with landscaping and new signage. Ron noted that there are locked equipment boxes that were left on the property, it is unsure who the owner is or who has the keys to access. Local teams will be contacted, and proper steps will be taken to locate the owner and have the situation handled.
  - e) **Valenzano Park:** The gate and light box issue has been discussed in the past, Councilman Migliaccio advised the locks be changed at the discretion of the new field usage permit chair, Ron Karpe. The playground is in need of updates.
  - f) **Sorrentino Park:** The path around the field is in need of maintenance. Ron added that there are sections of the fence missing along the East side of the field that borders a parking lot. It is safety issue. If the fence is to be replaced, another material other than wood should be considered. Debbie mentioned we might be eligible for a grant to fund irrigation at this park. Such grants are provided through soccer foundation groups and Green Acres.
  - g) **Woolley Park:** With it being in a busy location, it could use some beautification to the landscaping.
4. **Field Usage:** Ron Karpe will take over as chair for the field usage permit process. He discussed visiting the fields and the need for maintenance. Ron would like to consider fees to help offset field maintenance costs. He will be implementing a more streamlined approach to the permit process. Permits are required for all who are using the fields for sports. Insurance is required to be provided. An online calendar with scheduling is in the future. This will ensure proper usage of the fields and avoid scheduling conflicts.
5. **Other Business:** Councilwoman Mango will be reached out to see if there is a way to accept submission and payment of field permits as well as summer recreation through an online payment system on our website. Debbie noted she would like to advertise the adult men's basketball to give more people the opportunity to participate. Debbie mentioned an update that the Sports Association has emptied the shed located at Valenzano Park, all Rec. Commission supplies will be stored at this one location moving forward. The 2019 Meeting dates were approved and will be posted to the boro website.

Meeting came to a close at 8:50pm

Submitted by:  
Heidi Bahr, Secretary

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm