

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

April 3, 2024

April 3, 2024 – Borough Hall, 25 West End Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876

Meeting came to order at 6:02pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Eric Allena, Tori Cesario, Helen Depopolo, Jason Kraska, Ashley Rau, AJ Smith, (Council Liaison) Roger Vroom, and (Recreation Director) Kathy Gerndt

ABSENT: Mallory Burgan, Chris Peake, Tom Scherr

Chairwoman Rau opened the meeting and stated, *"The meeting will please come to order. Adequate notice of this meeting as required by the Open Meeting Act has been provided in that on January 3, 2024, a copy of a notice specifying the time, location and date was (1) posted upon the bulletin board outside of Borough Hall, and (2) given to the Clerk Administrator (3) advertises in the Courier News. If any member of this body believes this meeting is being held in violation of the Open Meeting Act, please state your views at this time."* Hearing none, we moved to the next item on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: J. Kraska made a motion to approve the February 7 minutes. T. Cesario seconded the motion which was approved 3-0-3 (Allena, Depopolo, and Smith abstained)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATION: None

RESOLUTIONS:

24-0318-091 Approving event permit for Somerville Rescue Squad to use Lepp Park for community event on March 30 from 11am-1pm (rain date is April 6).

24-0401-119 Awarding a contract to American Pool New Jersey for Pool Management Operations.

24-0401-121 Authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract for engineering design and contract administration and inspection services to T&M Associates for services for Carol Pager ADA Playground expansion project.

HANDOUTS: None

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt

1. Due to demand, additional sessions were added for youth soccer at 10am, and adult pickleball on Sundays at 3:30.
2. Infield work was completed at Carol Pager and Lepp prior to the last storm. Additional clay is being brought in this week.
3. Recently installed mulch was also washed out and will be replaced.
4. Bathrooms at Carol Pager are operational, and portable toilets have been delivered to other locations as needed.
5. Drinking fountains are being installed in several parks.
6. Working on offering various outdoor Yoga programs starting with a Family Yoga event on Sunday, May 19.
7. Hope to offer our soccer league players and coaches goalie training for the first time.
8. SBI Opening Day is Saturday, April 13.
9. The Environmental Commission has several events planned in addition to the clean up on April 20. Refer to their FB page for details.
10. PSE&G completed the lighting project at Lepp – moved and installed new poles and lights to allow a regulation sized basketball court. Specs for the court have been finalized – project will be going out to bid. I selected the same colors as Mercer Street – Pro blue courts and grey key.
11. Don't believe everything you read on social media – hard not to respond to misinformation.

12. FYI, Natalie has resigned from the DSA.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Vroom reported that we should consider offering swim lessons. He also stated that a Masters Plan Committee is being formed to look at zoning and redevelopment areas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) **Programming/Events:**

- a) **Family Fun Ride:** AJ Smith reported that the FFR will be held on Memorial Day starting at 8am. Check in area will be at Starbucks (Main and Davenport St). Helmets will be required. The fee is \$5/family.
- 2) **Grants:** J. Kraska reported that the maximum CDBG grant amount has been reduced to \$125k. Application was submitted for improvements at Vander Veer Park.
- 3) **Outreach:** No report

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Walck Playground – pathway. A motion was made by J. Kraska and seconded by A. Rau for the Rec Trust to fund a walkway connecting the two play areas in the amount of \$6750. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.
2. Committee members continued discussing ideas for their five-year Master Plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Committee discussed ideas for five-year Master Plan.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS:

1. T. Cesario reported that the Farmers Market is seeking participation from non-profit organizations.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, H. Depopolo made a motion to adjourn. J. Kraska seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1 at 6pm at the BOE Conference Room.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary