

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

August 7, 2024

August 7, 2024 – BOE Conference Room, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Meeting came to order at 6:06 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: Mallory Burgan, Helen Depopolo, 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: A. Rau made a motion to approve the May 1 minutes. E. Allena seconded the motion which was approved 2-0-3 (Cesario, Kraska, Smith abstained)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATION: None

RESOLUTIONS:

24-0506-152 Awarding a contract to Pave-Rite, Inc. for basketball court improvements at Michael Lepp Park.

24-0520-166 Approving event permit for Just Another Day to use Carol Pager Park for Adult Kickball Tournament and giveaways on July 27, 2024 (Rain Date August 3rd) from 10am to 4pm.

24-0603-175 Approving event permit for Somerville Elks to use Carol Pager Park for Jack's Kids Softball Tournament on July 13, 2024, from 7am to 3pm.

24-0715-217 Authorizing the 9th annual Somerville 5K Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2024.

HANDOUTS: None

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt reported the following:

1. Weather impacted the Family Fun Ride on Memorial Day, but we still had 130 registrations. Thanks to Pops Bike Shop for donating red, white and blue streamers.
2. The Spray Parks opened on June 1. The hours of operation are 10am-6pm at Michael Lepp, and 11-6 at Jong Long.
3. The pool which opened on June 22 is open daily from 12-6 until Aug 18. Residents must register in advance to receive a free 2024 badge. Badges can be picked up at Borough Hall or at the pool. To date, 575 families have registered. Daily attendance is averaging 82 visitors per day.
4. Due to demand, a second adult pickleball session was offered in the spring. Classes were held on Sunday and Tuesday afternoons. Clinics will resume in the fall.
5. A Somerville Community Night was held at the Somerset Patriots game on Tuesday, July 2. 130 discounted tickets were purchased for \$10 each.
6. The final inspection of the inclusive playground at Walck Park is scheduled for this Thursday. Once completed, there will be press releases regarding the project.

7. Plans for a similar inclusive annex are being finalized for Carol Pager. That project will be going out to bid shortly.
8. New LED lights were installed at Vander Veer Park for the courts and soccer field.
9. Construction is underway at the Lepp basketball court.
10. Fall soccer registration for league play has closed --- we will be entering 13 teams.
11. NNO was cancelled due to the weather. Undecided at this time if it will be rescheduled.
12. Men's Fall Ball Softball was scheduled to begin tonight – six teams are participating. The league runs through mid-Oct.
13. Letters went out to past sponsors for the Turkey Trot ---Taylor Oil and Brown & Brown have already committed as Sign Sponsors. Additional sponsorship letters will be mailed next week to prospects.
14. Memorial benches were purchased by three Somerville families. Two benches have been installed at the Carol Pager playground, and another one was recently installed at the playground at Walck. Thank you to the Brizuela, Sutphen/Melone, and Wasser families for their generosity.
15. I'm meeting with Olivia Manning from the DSA next week to discuss plans for Halloween – (Thursday)
16. Plans are in place to minimize damage from expected flooding on Friday.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Vroom said that the format for the 5-year plan hasn't been determined yet. He also said negotiations are still ongoing regarding the proposed playground at 40 Haynes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Programming/Events:

- a) **Turkey Trot:** J. Kraska reported that there will be a pre-race packet pick up at the Farmers Market on Sunday, November 24 from 10am-1pm.
 - b) **Halloween:** T. Cesario suggested expanding the categories for the House Decorating Contest. All agreed with the idea. Committee also discussed potential dates for the Spooktacular and were in favor of Oct 31, 2024.
- 2) **Grants:** J. Kraska reported the Borough is still submitting additional paperwork for the federal grant for Southside. It is still preliminary – money has not been awarded yet. The committee requested that this information be communicated with the public. K. Gerndt will follow up with K. Sluka.
- 3) **Outreach:** No report

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Wrestling update: E. Allena said Branchburg and Somerville are forming a combined, non-rec team. Practices will be held in Branchburg and the team will be participating in a new league.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Funding for the inclusive playground at Carol Pager Park. K. Gerndt reported that the Borough has received a CDBG grant in the amount of \$150k. Estimates for the proposed playground the is required to go out to bid is approximately \$200. J. Kraska made a motion to subsidize the project up to \$30K based on the existing plan. A. Rau seconded the motion which passed 4-1 (Allena).

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, J. Kraska made a motion to adjourn. T. Cesario seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:41pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4 at 6pm at the BOE Conference Room.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary