

# ***Somerville Recreation Committee***

Somerville, New Jersey

October 2, 2024

October 2, 2024 – BOE Conference Room, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Meeting came to order at 6:03 pm.

## ***ROLL CALL:***

**PRESENT:** Eric Allena, Tori Cesario, Jason Kraska, Ashley Rau, Tom Scherr, (Council Liaison) Roger Vroom, and (Recreation Director) Kathy Gerndt

**ABSENT:** Mallory Burgan, Helen Depopolo, Chris Peake, and AJ Smith

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 violations 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 September 4 minutes. A. Rau seconded the motion which was approved 4-0-1 (Allena abstained)

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** None

**COMMUNICATION:** None

**RESOLUTIONS:** None

**HANDOUTS:** RIB Basketball, DST Basketball Clinic

## ***REPORTS:***

**DIRECTOR-** K. Gerndt reported the following:

1. Spray parks have been winterized.
2. Lepp Basketball court looks great! Not officially open yet, punch list isn't completed.
3. Sealed bids for the Carol Pager Playground inclusive annex are due Tuesday, Oct 15 at 10am.
4. Basketball registration has been very strong. Residents are reminded that space is limited.
5. Twelve towns have expressed interest in the RIB League – Bedminster, Berkeley Heights, Bernards Township, Bound Brook, Branchburg, Hillsborough, Manville, Middlesex, Readington, Somerset Hills (Gladstone-Peapack & Bernardsville), South Bound Brook, and Somerville.
6. Six homes are entered in the Home Décor Contest.
7. As of September 30, 469 "turkeys" are registered.
8. NJDEP informed the borough that the pickleball and tennis courts surfaces must be repaired per the Green Acres Program. This will be a capital request. We already have a \$70K grant. The letter also referenced the Mastriani property and Chambres Park.
9. Park information should be up on the website soon. I edited some of the information that Marge Sullivan had compiled.
10. As a reminder, portable toilets will be removed at the end of October, except for the unit at the PB courts.
11. Received complaints about behavior in parks and issues are being addressed with PD and administrator. Particularly older kids being disrespectful at Carol Pager Playground and using equipment not as intended, and smoking at the pavilion at the pickleball courts. Additional signs have been posted in parks, and info will be posted on website and social media. Smoking is prohibited by ordinance in the parks and violators can be fined up to \$150.
12. Committee members are reminded to express interest in being reappointed– expiring terms Eric, Tori, and Ashley.

**COUNCIL LIAISON** – Councilman Vroom talked briefly about the Emergency Services building.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1) **Programming/Events:**

- a) **Halloween:** T. Cesario reported that registration will close on Oct 24 for the house décor contest. Judging will take place on Sunday, Oct 27. Will purchase local gift cards for awards. Budget is \$250.
- b) **Turkey Trot:** Subcommittee continues to meet and plan for the event. Will offer a 24-hour flash sale that coincides with the Spooktacular, save \$5.

2) **Grants:** J. Kraska reported that there are no major updates. Walck inclusive playground feedback has been very positive. Will submit applications for water filling stations, and a very competitive grant that the Mayor suggested filing.

3) **Outreach:** No report

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Baseball fields at Carol Pager: J. Kraska reported that T and M Associates is preparing a feasibility study and cost estimate for field shift/improvements.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS:**

- 1. K. Gerndt thanked Chris Peake for finalizing/writing the five-year plan.
- 2. J. Kraska said that the BOE is planning to make improvements to various athletic facilities at the schools.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, J. Kraska made a motion to adjourn. T. Scherr seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:44pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6 at 6pm at the BOE Conference Room.

Kathy Gerndt  
Acting as Secretary