

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

February 2, 2022

February 2 – Virtual Go To Meeting 297-347-485

Meeting came to order at 7:02pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Eric Allena, Tori Cesario, Jason Kraska, Chris Peake, Ashley Rau, Tom Scherr, AJ Smith, (Council Liaison) Fred Wied V, and (Recreation Director) Kathy Gerndt.

ABSENT: Robert Fenster, and Karen Monetti

Chairman Chris Peake 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 6, 2022, 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) advertised 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:

A motion was made by J. Kraska and seconded by A. Smith to approve the January 5 minutes. Motion was approved 6-0-1 (Cesario abstained).

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATION: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 22-0118-039 Approving Christopher Banos as a score keeper at a rate of \$15.00 per game for the Recreation Department.

Mayoral appointment: Tori Cesario to the Recreation Committee (exp 12/31/24)

HANDOUTS;

1. Member directory (updated)
2. Committee structure and subcommittees
3. 2022 Permit Fee Schedule
4. Spring Soccer Flyer

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt reported the following:

1. Welcomed Tori Cesario to the Committee.
2. Snowman contest didn't take place due to unfavorable conditions. There was social media chatter about the use of the term "snowman" suggesting something gender neutral. Snow pals seem to be widely acceptable. Hence, we will roll out a Snow Pal/Snow Creature Contest in the near future.
3. Spring soccer registration opened on Feb 1. Deadline is March 4 (Grades 1-8). Very strong numbers so far. We may need additional coaches if three teams are needed in some divisions.
4. Looking for a men's recreational softball team for Wednesday night Mayor's League.

5. The Environmental Commission submitted another grant through the NJ Tree Foundation to plant additional trees at Chambres Park along the Greenway/Peters Brook. Similar project to the one that was completed at Firehouse Field.
6. I've asked Kevin Sluka to revisit naming Firehouse Field --- much too confusing.
7. Ida Update: Playgrounds will be repaired late March (weather permitting). Work includes new tiles, mulch, and replacing damaged equipment. Field work is also scheduled for Carol Pager; waiting on an estimate for Lepp. John Long Spray Park repairs and testing will be done the week of March 14. Soccer goals/nets have been ordered. Nothing further to report at this time on pools, basketball courts, fencing, etc – still under discussion with Finance Committee.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Wied also congratulated Tori Cesario on her appointment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Programming- Events**
 - Family Fun Ride
 - National Night Out
 - Halloween
 - Turkey Trot – J. Kraska submitted two alternate routes to PD for review
 - Seniors/Active Adults
- **Grants** – T. Scherr presented an overview of the Borough's 2019 Master Plan (Recreation). He noted that six of the fifteen recommendations were related to the Greenway. Tom also reviewed the NPS initiatives with the Committee. The subcommittee will meet on March 2 to prioritize projects for planning/grant purposes. Upcoming deadlines- Somerset County Open Space; NJ American Water; and AARP Challenge Grant.
- **Outreach**- No report.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairpersons for subcommittees were selected as follows- Family Fun Ride (AJ Smith), National Night Out (AJ Smith), Halloween (Tori Cesario), Turkey Trot (Jason Kraska), Seniors (Karen Monetti), Grants (Tom Scherr), Outreach (Chris Peake).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2022 Permit Fee Schedule- J. Kraska made a motion to approve the proposed schedule; T. Scherr seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 7-0.
2. Discuss signage (design and wording) for the Jay Scott Community Garden. (tabled)

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS: Briefly discussed meeting options – in person vs virtual.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business C. Peake made a motion to adjourn. T. Scherr seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned 8:02pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6 at 7pm.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary