

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

April 6, 2022

April 6 at the BOE Office, Conference Room, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville, New Jersey.

The meeting came to order at 7:02pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Eric Allena, Tori Cesario, Jason Kraska, Chris Peake, Ashley Rau, Tom Scherr, and (Recreation Director) Kathy Gerndt.

ABSENT: Robert Fenster, Karen Monetti, AJ Smith, and (Council Liaison) Fred Wied V

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 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 motion was made by J. Kraska and seconded by T. Scherr to approve the February 2 minutes. Motion was approved 6-0.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATION: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 22-0307-069 Approving the submission of the 2022 AARP Community Challenge Grant for funding for the Somerville Greenway Revitalization.

Resolution 22-0321-097 Accepting a donation for the rehabilitation of the basketball court located in Carol Pager Park from Pave-Rite, Inc., in collaboration with the Drew McLachlan Fund and authorizing the waiving of local fees and naming the basketball court in memory of Drew McLachlan.

Resolution 22-0321-102 Awarding a contract to Ben Schaffer Recreation, Inc., through the New Jersey Purchasing Alliance for repairs to Patricia Webster Basketball Court on Mercer Street.

Resolution 22-0404-116 Approving a submission of a grant application to Somerset County Recreational Grant Program for Michael Lepp Park Pool improvements located at 22 Park Avenue.

HANDOUTS;

1. Sign-up to Excel in Tennis
2. NJ Santos Rush Soccer Clinic & Games
3. Junior Pioneer Basketball Clinic

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt stated that it feels good to be meeting in person after a two-year hiatus. She then reported the following:

1. Spring sports began this week. Registration numbers were very strong. 12 soccer teams, and 60 kids participating in the soccer clinic. Registration is still open for youth tennis on Monday or Wednesday afternoons, and the Junior Pioneer Basketball Clinic on Wednesday nights.
2. Park repairs have begun. The playground at Carol Pager is closed until further notice for tile replacement. Work has been completed at our other playgrounds – mulching and part replacements. Fencing work is ongoing. Infield work is in progress. Basketball courts at Mercer St and Park Ave will begin shortly. Work will also be done at Walck Pool.
3. Work has also begun on the basketball court at Carol Pager courtesy of the Drew McLachlan Memorial Fund.
4. Competitive bids will be opened on April 19th at 10am for Pool Management Operations for Walck only. Hours of operation were listed as 12-6pm seven days a week, June 19- Aug 21 (9 weeks).
5. John Long spray park is scheduled to open in late May. Hours of operation will be 11am-6pm. Repairs are needed at Michael Lepp.
6. April 23rd --- SBI will be holding their annual Opening Day. Earth Day Community Clean Up will also be held that day – organized by the Environmental Commission and the DPW Dept.
7. Speaking of cleanups, many thanks to Jason Kraska for organizing a massive clean-up a few weeks ago, and to all those that participated. Great team effort!
8. The Somerville Recreation Running Club is holding weekly runs on Wed at 6pm, and Sat at 10am. Meeting spot is Firehouse Field parking lot. All abilities are welcome. Please use STRAVA to connect to members. Thanks to resident, Melissa Landis for her assistance with this.
9. The Tour of Somerville has confirmed that we can hold our annual Family Fun Ride. Details are still be worked out, but there is no parade this year.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Wied – absent/no report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Programming- Events**
 - Family Fun Ride
 - National Night Out
 - Halloween
 - Turkey Trot – J. Kraska reported that we will be utilizing the same course in 2022.
 - Seniors/Active Adults
- **Grants** – The Borough has applied for a \$400k grant through the SC Open Space program for improvements to Lepp Pool.
- **Outreach**- will assist with improving communication.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SHS Athletic Hall of Fame Grant – ideas were discussed. Committee decided upon pre-season training for players and coaches in the amount of \$2500.
2. E. Allena commented that fields should be opened earlier.
3. K. Gerndt suggested purchasing bleachers, tables, benches, trash cans. for the new basketball court at Pager.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by J. Kraska, seconded by A. Rau, and approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned 8:37pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1 at 7pm.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary