

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

August 3, 2022

August 3 Virtual Meeting <https://meet.goto.com/941127141>

The meeting came to order at 7:03pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: Eric Allena, Robert Fenster, Karen Monetti, and AJ Smith

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 T. Scherr to approve the June 1 minutes. Motion was approved 4-0-1 (Rau abstained).

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATION: Thank you note from Peggy Scott and family for making Jay's Community Garden a reality.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 22-0606-164 Approving event permit for Just Another Day to use Carol Pager Park for adult kickball tournament on July 30 from 11am-5pm (Rain date is Aug 6).
- 22-0606-165 Approving event permit for Somerville Elks to use Carol Pager Park for Jack's Kids softball tournament on July 9 from 7am-4pm.
- 22-0606-166 Approving Colleen Reh-Sweeney to be hired as Pool Supervisor at \$20/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-167 Approving Henry Cruz to be hired as Pool Supervisor and Lifeguard at hourly rates of \$20 and \$17 depending on position from June 18-Aug 21.
- 22-0606-168 Approving Julian Spivey to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-169 Approving Rosaura Torres to be hired as Pool Supervisor at \$20/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-180 Approving Jordan Todaro to be hired as Pool Supervisor and Lifeguard at hourly rates of \$20 and \$17 depending on position from June 18-Aug 21.
- 22-0606-181 Authorizing the administrator to offer employment to seasonal pool staff to enable training and employment hours of seasonal staff and memorializing the hiring of said seasonal employees at next available council meeting.
- 22-0606-183 Approving Cole Russo to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-184 Approving Christian Diaz to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-202 Approving Daniel Corbin to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-203 Approving Anna DeCone to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-204 Approving Doreen Todaro to be hired as a CPO/Pool Director at \$100/week from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-209 Approving Sara Thiessen to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-210 Approving Jakob Anderson to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21

- 22-0606-232 Approving Joseph Jimenez be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-233 Approving Hailey Bentz to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0606-234 Approving Vanessa Thompson to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0801-242 Approving Paige McDonough to be hired as a Lifeguard at \$17/hr. from June 18-Aug 21
- 22-0801-252 Memorializing Kelly Griffin to be hired as a lifeguard at \$17 per hour from June 18-Aug 21.
- 22-0801-253 Memorializing Megan Mack to be hired as a pool supervisor at \$20 per hour from June 18-Aug 21.
- 22-0801-254 Memorializing Kyla Hnasko to be hired as a pool supervisor at \$20 per hour from June 18-Aug 21.

HANDOUTS; None

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt reported the following:

1. Walck Pool is open daily from 12-6pm. The last day is Sunday, Aug 21.
2. John Long Spray Park is open daily from 11am-6pm.
3. Michael Lepp Spray Park is open daily from 10am-6pm.
4. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on June 30th for the Drew McLachlan Memorial Basketball Court which is located at Carol Pager Park. Many thanks to the Drew Fund and other partners that were instrumental in completing this project.
5. A ribbon cutting was also held for the Jay Scott Memorial Community Garden located on Veterans Memorial Drive. The event which was organized by the Environmental Commission was held on
6. Saturday, July 9th.
7. I attended a Pool Directors certification class and passed the exam which is valid for three years. Required in the State of New Jersey to limit potential liability.
8. Fall soccer registration closed on July 30. Teams are being finalized for grades 1-8. Coaches are needed for first-second grade boys, two teams.
9. Fall Ball men's softball started on July 27th at Torpey Field and will run through mid-Oct.
10. As discussed at our last meeting, the Rec Commission purchased tables and benches for the new basketball court at a cost of \$3245, as well as a sign for the Community Garden for \$53.
11. Firehouse Field will be renamed in the very near future as the Henry P. Vander Veer Memorial Park. The land was donated by Minnie Kenyon Vander Veer in April 1921 and it was never properly acknowledged. The Borough has purchased a sign like the one located at the corner of N. Bridge and Green St. The area will be referred to as Memorial Park to avoid confusion with Van Derveer School.
12. The Borough's Park permit was amended to prohibit the use of charcoal grills.
13. I met with the DSA – the Spooktacular will be held on Friday, Oct 28 from 3-7pm. Rec will utilize space on Courthouse lawn for the pumpkin decorating.
14. Registration opened for the 7th annual Turkey Trot --- early bird pricing for the month of August is \$30. Sponsorship forms were mailed last week. Site is sommervilleturkeytrot.com
15. I'd like to thank Roberta Harmon, who is a member of the Environmental Commission, for keeping the kiosk at Carol Pager updated.
16. Electrical repair work is being done at the basketball court on Park Avenue. The resurfacing project will be going out to bid soon.
17. Work should be beginning next week at the basketball courts on Mercer Street. The playing surface will be pro blue and grey.
18. The Borough is waiting to hear from the County about our grant application/presentation for Lepp Pool.
19. A small team has been working on the Federal grant for Chambres Park (Kevin, Rodney, Paige, Jason and myself). T and M is also involved. As a reminder, plans have already been decided on back when we initially received the Green Acres funding. The plan is to restore the playing fields, playground, and pavilion.
20. The Council approved considerably scaling back the playground that was supposed to be built by Parc Apartments.
21. The NJ Tree Foundation is interested in planting trees at Chambres Park in the fall.
22. I will be on vacation from 8/13-8/23.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Wied – commented on pool staffing issues/challenges.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Covered previously – no additional reports.)

- **Programming- Events**
 - National Night Out
 - Halloween
 - Turkey Trot
- **Grants**
- **Outreach**

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS:

J. Kraska is concerned about the changes to the playground at the Parc Apartments, particularly the response from residents, safety issues, and additional maintenance.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by J. Kraska, seconded by A. Rau, and approved 4-0-1 (Scherr abstained). Meeting adjourned 7:46pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5 at 7pm

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary