

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

October 5, 2022

October 5 at the Borough Hall Conference Room, 25 West End Avenue, Somerville, New Jersey.

(Note the last-minute change in venue because the BOE Offices were closed.)

The meeting came to order at 7:13pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Eric Allena, Tori Cesario, Robert Fenster, Jason Kraska, Ashley Rau, AJ Smith and (Recreation Director) Kathy Gerndt.

ABSENT: Chris Peake, Karen Monetti, Tom Scherr and (Council Liaison) Fred Wied V

Jason Kraska 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. Cesario to approve the August 3 minutes. Motion was approved 3-0-3 (Allena, Fenster, Smith abstained).

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATION: None

RESOLUTIONS:

- 22-0906-276 Amending the hours of operation for the basketball court at Michael Lepp Park and the pickleball and tennis court at Henry P. Vander Veer Memorial Park from dawn to 9pm.
- 22-1003-304 Amending resolution 22-0906-276 hours of operation for the pickleball and tennis court at Henry P. Vander Veer Memorial Park from dawn to 10pm.
- 22-1003-312 Authorizing Spooktacular event to be held on Friday, Oct 28 and waiving parking fees in lots 1, 2, & 4 from 3-7pm.

HANDOUTS:

- Pre-season wrestling clinic (Free for Somerville residents) (Gr K-8)
- Junior Pioneer Basketball Clinic (Gr1-5)
- Winter basketball (Gr 3-8) and wrestling (Gr K-5)
- *Spookyville* House Decorating Contest

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt reported the following:

1. We had a very successful pool season – no accidents or complaints!
2. Total number of visitors to Walck Pool was 2406 which is in line with pre-covid numbers, but lower than expected since only one pool was open.

Year
2022
2021
2020
2019

Lepp
closed
1982
closed
3264

Walck
2406
1551
closed
2334

2018	2900	2392
2017	2917	1965
2016	3117	2264
2015	2360	1754

3. Average daily attendance at Walck Pool was 43 people.
4. The pool and spray parks have been winterized.
5. Soccer season is under way – we have nine teams competing in the Bridgewater League, and 32 kids enrolled in the clinic. Unfortunately, we had no volunteer coaches for first/second grade boys so we weren't able to enter teams for that age group. However, the boys were given the option to register directly with Bridgewater, or to participate in the clinic.
6. Fall Ball wraps up next week at Torpey, weather permitting.
7. Registration is open for the following programs –
 - a. Preseason wrestling clinic
 - b. Junior Pioneer Basketball clinic
 - c. RIB Basketball
 - d. Youth wrestling
 - e. Fall/Spooky House Decorating Contest
 - f. Turkey Trot
8. Anticipating that the same towns will participate in the RIB League (Bedminster, Bound Brook, Branchburg, Hillsborough, Manville, Middlesex, Somerset Hills (Peapack & Bernardsville), and South Bound Brook.)
9. Work is almost completed at the Mercer Street basketball courts.
10. Goals were finally installed at Firehouse Field.
11. Sign for the Henry P. Vander Veer Memorial Park will be installed within the next few weeks.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Wied – absent/no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Programming- Events**
 - Halloween - Plans for the Spooktacular on Oct 28 were discussed
 - Turkey Trot - K. Gerndt updated the committee about the upcoming event on Nov 24
- **Grants-** J. Kraska reported that the Borough received a \$375,000 grant from the County to renovate Lepp Pool. The footprint will be the same.
- **Outreach** – no report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Playground at the Parc Apartments – The Committee drafted a letter to the Borough Council regarding concerns about the plans. B. Fenster made a motion that the letter be forwarded for consideration, A. Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
2. Mercer Street basketball court player benches – B. Fenster made a motion to use Trust money to purchase benches, A. Rau seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by B. Fenster, seconded by T. Cesario, and approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned 7:43pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7 at 7pm at the BOE Office.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary