

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

December 7, 2022

December 7 at the BOE Office, Conference Room, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville, New Jersey.

The meeting came to order at 7:04pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: Eric Allena, Tori Cesario, and Karen Monetti.

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. 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:

HANDOUTS:

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt reported the following:

1. The basketball courts at Mercer Street are open. Benches were installed.
2. The sign was also installed at the Henry P. Vander Veer Memorial Park.
3. Received no response to the letter that was submitted to the Governing Body regarding the playground at 40 Haynes.
4. Youth basketball and wrestling have started.
5. Registration is open for the DTS (Drills, Thrills & Skills) Basketball Clinic for Gr 1& 2. Starts in January.
6. Trees were planted at Lepp Park courtesy of the NJ Tree Foundation.
7. The Spooktacular and the Turkey Trot were a success!
8. I'd like to acknowledge the Somerville Civic League for their commitment to the Van Fleet Gardens. They purchased an additional memorial bench that will be installed in the spring and have continued to maintain the gardens. Great example of community teamwork.
9. Conversely, there was vandalism that was disheartening at the newly installed Drew McLachlan Memorial basketball court. Perhaps it's time to install cameras.
10. Had a finance/budget meeting. Not expecting any changes from 2022 levels for operating or S&W.
11. Walck Pool will not be open in 2023. Planning to open Lepp once renovations have been completed.
12. The Borough expects to go out to bid shortly for improvements to the basketball court at Michael Lepp Park.

13. Chris, Jason, and Bob's terms are expiring. Due to time constraints, Bob has elected not to be reappointed. On behalf of the Borough and our committee, I'd like to extend our sincere thanks to Bob for serving on the Rec Committee since Jan 1st, 2020.
14. The Borough's Reorganization Meeting will be held on Jan 3 at 7pm in the Council Chambers.
15. Arts on Division received a grant to paint a mural in the road at the intersection of N. Bridge St and William St which ties into the Peters Brook Greenway.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Wied thanked Bob Fenster for his service. He acknowledged receipt of the playground letter and apologized that there was no response from the Council. He also reported that the Borough's Reorganization Meeting will be held on January 3 not on New Year's Day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programming- Events

- Halloween - K. Gerndt reported that the Spooktacular was fantastic, and that the courthouse lawn was a much better venue than Borough Hall. She also reported that the house decorating contest was a success and three winners were awarded gift cards from local merchants.
- Turkey Trot - K. Gerndt reported the following
 - 970 registrations
 - 873 participants finished
 - In conjunction with SAFE, we donated over 500 pounds of food and supplies to the Food Bank of Somerset County
 - Raised approximately \$24K
 - Thanks to all the volunteers, Borough employees, participants and spectators that helped make the event a success!
 - Preparations are already underway for 11/23/23!

Grants- J. Kraska reported that the Borough is going out to bid for improvements at Lepp Pool. Bids are due January 5th. Jason will be submitting a grant application to the NJ Department of Community Affairs on behalf of the committee and Borough for playground improvements at Walck Park.

Outreach– no report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: J. Kraska made a motion to pledge Trust money towards the playground improvements at Walck Park as needed. T. Scherr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS:

K. Gerndt suggested that we hold the Reorganization meeting at Verve.

K. Gerndt also suggested that we explore putting cameras in our parks to combat vandalism.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by B. Fenster, seconded by C. Peake, and approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned 8:04pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 4 at Verve Restaurant at 6:30pm.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary