

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

January 3, 2024

January 3, 2024 – Verve Restaurant 18 East Main St, Somerville

Meeting came to order at 6:21pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Eric Allena, Mallory Burgan, Tori Cesario, Helen Depopolo, Jason Kraska, Chris Peake, AJ Smith, (Council Liaison) Roger Vroom, and (Recreation Director) Kathy Gerndt

ABSENT: Ashley Rau, Tom Scherr

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 4, 2023, 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) advertises 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: J. Kraska made a motion to approve the October 4 minutes. T. Cesario seconded the motion which was approved 5-0-2 (Depopolo & Peake abstained)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATION: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Reorganization 2024

Appointment of Recreation Committee Members:

Helen Delopolo 3 year 12/31/25

Tom Scherr 3 year 12/31/25

AJ Smith 3 year 12/31/25

Appointment of Council Liaison

Roger Vroom

Resolution 23-1120-335 Approving Anthony James Smith an hourly employee at a rate of \$22.00/hour for the Basketball Gym Supervisor.

Resolution 23-1218-356 Approving CJ Banos, Zach Gottlieb, Travis Binkley, Hudson Resner, Avery Runyon, and Riley Runyon as score keepers at a rate of \$17.00 per game for the Recreation Department.

HANDOUTS:

1. Proposed meeting schedule
2. Committee directory

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt

1. Thanked the 2023 committee members, including those that couldn't be here tonight, for a job well done.
2. Extended congratulations and welcome two new members on their appointments, Helen, and Roger.
3. Soccer season concluded in early November and basketball and wrestling are up and running.
4. Our Halloween events were a big success, as was the Turkey Trot. Further details will be provided at our February meeting.

5. At the Borough's Reorganization Meeting, Mayor Gallagher stated that there will be increased emphasis on Recreation. He specifically mentioned programs for seniors and veterans.
6. Rec may also have a larger role on Memorial Day.
7. A long-range plan needs to be developed this year.

COUNCIL LIAISON – Councilman Vroom introduced himself and stated that he looks forward to working with the committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Programming/Events:** No report
- 2) **Grants:** No report
- 3) **Outreach:** No report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Elect Chairman and Vice Chairman: Ashely Rau was nominated for Chairman by J. Kraska and seconded by C. Peake. Tori Cesario was nominated for Vice Chair by C. Peake and seconded by AJ Smith. The nominations were voted on separately and approved unanimously.
2. Approve the proposed meeting schedule: J. Kraska suggested amending the meeting schedule to meet monthly at 6pm on the first Wednesday of the month. M. Burgan made a motion to accept the change; A. Smith seconded the motion which was approved 7-0.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS: E. Allena inquired about the recent flooding. H. Depopolo suggested pursuing unified colors and mascots throughout the Borough and Schools. K. Gerndt thanked Rick and staff at Verve for their continued support.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, C. Peake made a motion to adjourn. H. Depopolo seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0. The meeting adjourned 6:49pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7 at 6pm at the BOE Conference Room.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary