

Somerville Recreation Committee

Somerville, New Jersey

February 7, 2024

February 7, 2024 – BOE Office, 22 W. Cliff Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Meeting came to order at 6:02pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Eric Allena, Mallory Burgan, Jason Kraska, Ashley Rau, Tom Scherr, AJ Smith, (Council Liaison) Roger Vroom, and (Recreation Director) Kathy Gerndt

ABSENT: Tori Cesario, Helen Depopolo and Chris Peake,

Chairwoman Rau 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 3, 2024, 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 January 3 minutes. M. Burgan seconded the motion which was approved 3-0-2 (Rau and Scherr abstained; Smith late)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATION: None

RESOLUTIONS: None

HANDOUTS:

1. Meeting schedule (revised)
2. Committee directory
3. Permit Fee Schedule (draft)
4. Spring Soccer Flyer

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR- K. Gerndt

1. Turkey Trot was very successful – we had 1354 participants, attracted new sponsors, and raised \$35K towards the two new inclusive playground projects. With success comes the need for change so we'll be looking at different set-ups for 2024 for registrations, and packet pickups, and perhaps the location of tents. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this community event so special.
2. Winter sports are underway and will conclude at the end of February.
3. Registration is open for spring soccer leagues (grades 1-8) and adult softball. Details are being finalized for the remaining programs – youth tennis, adult pickleball, and youth soccer clinics.
4. Work should begin shortly at the basketball court on Park Avenue. PSEG will be upgrading the lights. The work for the court improvements (regulation size, backboards, resurfacing) will go out to bid. This is the final project due to damage that occurred during Ida.
5. Facilities flooded again on January 9, but no additional apparent damage was sustained. Pool, playgrounds, tennis, pickleball and basketball courts, soccer and baseball fields all flooded. Very frustrating – seems like we take one step forward and then two backwards when it comes to improvements/renovations.
6. The Rec Office will be closed Feb 14-19 and Feb 26-28 --- online registration is encouraged.

COUNCIL LIAISON – No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Programming/Events:** No reports
- 2) **Grants:** J. Kraska reported that the Borough has hired an outside company to handle the application process for the Federal grant for Southside. He also reported that the Borough is moving forward with the all-inclusive playground upgrades for Walck and Carol Pager. TandM will be writing bid specs. CDBG applications are due on March 22, not sure what the plans are for this year.
- 3) **Outreach:** No report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The 2024 Permit Fee Schedule was presented by K. Gerndt suggesting no changes. J. Kraska made a motion to accept the fee schedule, T. Scherr seconded the motion which passed 6-0.
2. 2024 Pool Operations were discussed. Committee recommended that the Borough go out to competitive bid for this year, while continuing to look to partner with the YMCA or staff in house well in advance.
3. Subcommittees were formed –
 - a. Family Fun Ride – Chair, AJ Smith
 - b. National Night Out – Chair, Tom Scherr
 - c. Halloween – Co Chairs, Ashley Rau and Tori Cesario
 - d. Turkey Trot – Chair, Jason Kraska
 - e. Grants- Chair, Jason Kraska
 - f. Outreach – Chair, Chris Peake assisted by Mallory Burgan
 - g. Seniors was eliminated since the Mayor is forming a Seniors/Veterans Committee
4. Memorial Bench program was recommended to Council for approval. J. Kraska made a motion to warranty benches for a period of ten years, AJ Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The current cost of the bench is \$1300 installed.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, J. Kraska made a motion to adjourn. A. Rau seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0. The meeting adjourned 6:48pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at 6pm at the BOE Conference Room.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary