

MECHANICSBURG RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER The March 10, 2020 meeting of the Mechanicsburg Recreation Board was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Wilson.

MEMBERS PRESENT Chairwoman Ellen Wilson, Vice Chairwoman Meck, Lorrie Weber, Kathryn Johnston and Kathleen Snyder.

MEMBERS ABSENT Diane Nace.

OTHERS PRESENT Councilwoman Agerton, Borough Manager Ciecierski, Pool Manager Canniff and Administrative Assistant Sara Martin. Public as per attached list.

GUESTS

JESS LONG – MASD – DIVE-IN MOVIE

Jess Long of the Mechanicsburg Area School District proposed a partnership with the Borough for the Dive-In Movie event. Jess Long elaborated that the School District made it a free wellness event last year rather than a pay to attend event which increased attendance from approximately 60-70 attendees to 300+. Jess Long explained that this was done with the help of a grant from the Wildcat Foundation that they did not apply for again, as it is not meant to sustain projects. Thus, they are requesting that the Borough pay for the lifeguards needed to run the event. Based on last year's invoice this would cost about \$650. Jess Long acknowledged that this is a late request (after the budget has been prepared) and would understand if the funds are not possible and if so would hope to maybe plan for next year or other future events. Jess Long noted that the concession stand will be open during the event so the pool would be making some of the money back in that revenue. *Kathryn Johnston suggested having people pay a small amount to attend as that tends to give them "some skin in the game" which makes them more likely to behave better, as seen at other free vs paid events.* Jess Long countered that the goal for making it free was to provide the opportunity to use the pool to families who would not be able to afford going if there was a fee. She also suggested that this would hook potential returning customers after being able to enjoy the facilities. *Kathryn Johnston pointed out that those two points are in opposition to each other.* Deeg Meck asked where the rest of the funding was coming from. *Jess Long answered that it was built into their budget.* Ellen Wilson suggested charging \$5 a family, even though there is no real way to enforce that it would at least be some revenue rather than non at all. *Jess Long answered that they wish to remove barriers that would prevent people from attending.* Manager Ciecierski pointed out that as seen at Community Day, people that come to the pool for free don't come back when it costs \$7 a person and that is why the Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership & local churches pay to fund the free pool attendance at Community Day, which is a Borough Council sponsored event. He also expressed concerns about liability. *Lorrie Weber stated that it was a great event but that our problem is we have trouble making a bottom line so, we must figure out how to do so safely.* Ellen Wilson asked how many paid district staff will be in attendance. *Jess Long*

answered that they will be paying four, but that theirs are much more expensive than the lifeguards. Sue Canniff noted that if you charge for the event you must give a percentage of that money back for the movie licensing. Lorrie Weber asked Jess if they have considered sponsors for the event. Sara Agerton added that \$600 is a doable sponsorship amount and she feels confident they can find businesses in the community that will help reach that. With no further questions or discussion Ellen Wilson thanked Jess Long for attending. Jess Long stated that they are always open to work together.

**DOUG MARSICO –
UPPER ALLEN
MECHANICSBURG
BASEBALL**

Doug Marsico informed the Board that new fencing was installed at the East field and Thursday and Friday Pat Mowrey will put down Diamond-tex. He relayed Mowrey's concern about putting ruts in the grass but advised he will fix them if he does. Doug Marsico added that they plan to ask the resident at 310 W Green Street about trimming the tree in their back yard that is hanging over the outfield. Lorrie Weber asked if I asked if permission needed to be granted if the tree limb was on borough property. Manager Ciecierski answered that the Borough will not cut the tree as it is private property and if the Baseball Association had not moved the fences back it would not be hanging over the fence.

**FEBRUARY
MINUTES
DISCUSSION**

None.

ACTION

A **MOTION** was made by Kathryn Johnston and Lorrie Weber seconded to approve the February 11, 2020 meeting minutes. **MOTION** approved.

REPORTS

**PARKS AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR**

- Sue Canniff reported that the brochure is at the printers.
- Sue Canniff stated that the Middle School will be the main hub for summer programs due to the construction this summer.
- Sue Canniff reported that the Unicorn Magic Dance sold out with 267 people registered.
- Sue Canniff informed the Board that the Recreation Department's Lifeguard Certification class is coming up in March and that they are in a partnership with Hampden Township to host while one of their pool's assistant managers will teach both a regular lifeguarding class and a recertification in May. *Ellen Wilson asked where we were at on the pool employees having their clearances.* Sara Martin answered that all who have handed in applications either have their clearances in or have been sent the links on where to acquire them and asked to do so ASAP.
- Sue Canniff stated that she got an email from West Shore United Rugby who are looking for a place to practice and play and thought maybe the midget football field in Memorial Park would work. *Manager Ciecierski stated that the Baseball Association have the surrounding and overlapping fields booked. He pulled up the Baseball schedule on the projector to show that they have almost no fields in the Borough in use after early to mid-April, but clarified that via their scheduling agreement handled by the Recreation Department they have all of said fields booked and in the past have not agreed to free them up for other sporting events even if they were*

not using them. Manager Ciecierski stated that the baseball fields might be muddy to play on, but if the rugby team is ok with that and they can get Baseball to agree they're obviously open for use. Manager Ciecierski also suggested the use of the soccer field at Northside. Sue Canniff said she will ask the Athletic Director, Seth Pehanich.

**BOROUGH
COUNCIL LIASON**

- Councilwoman Agerton reported that she has been out of town, but they have been setting goals with their committees.

**BOROUGH
MANAGER**

- Manager Ciecierski read a letter from Turning Point Church (TPC) who came previously about adopting Finkenbinder Park. They were able to get out and clean park, have put in a new bench, got all the drawn-on graffiti removed and are working on sanding the carved in stuff. They intend to continue cleaning up the trash and graffiti every week and want to purchase a new picnic table. TPC will have Freeze Pop Friday at the park and plan to send a flyer out to the community about that, clean ups, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Breakfast and Truck or Treat events. They also noted when at the park they will have a minimum of one state volunteer with a name tag.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that the Joint Recreation Agreement is in the air and he is waiting on MASD to reach out. He added that the Pool Agreement has been signed.
- Manager Ciecierski stated that Aqua Specialists will be getting the pool up and running this year as we have all new staff handling that with the loss Justin Lewis. Manager Ciecierski noted that the parks employees will be getting the required pesticide and chemical licenses for the pool. He added that he plans to order the AstroTurf for around the pavilion soon so that the parks crew can get that put in before the pool opens.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that the parks crew was up at the Community Garden and removed the junk. He noted that the mowers will be back this year and will be in on Fridays to mow and use Saturday as a rain date.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that the path and classroom stage are in at the Natural Playground and we have the materials to build the rest of the benches, etc.
- Manager Ciecierski stated that Legacy Park Phase 3 should come in soon which would mean another recreation fee once the plan is recorded. Manager Ciecierski stated that the financial report (attached) has what is in the capital improvement fund at Citizens Bank.
- Ellen Wilson asked if Manager Ciecierski has had any word from Mike Glumac regarding the new starting blocks. *Manager Ciecierski answered that Glumac emailed to set up something for this week, but no word on what time that is.*

**PARKS
MEMORIAL**

- Kathryn Johnston asked about the reported shooting in Memorial Park. *Manager Ciecierski answered that was an active investigation with the Police Department.*

- Lorrie Weber asked if the trucks parking in the lot at Memorial had been asked to move. *Manager Ciecierski answered that he will do that.* Lorrie Weber stated that he should also ask them to get rid of the oil and hydraulic fluid the trucks are leaking. *Manager Ciecierski answered staff will likely put kitty litter down to absorb it.* Ellen Wilson asked if anyone knew why they were there. *Manager Ciecierski answered that he had no idea.* Lorrie Weber added that no one asked permission to park them there and that there is a huge parade of them that come through and park every day.
- Lorrie Weber stated that a decision about benches for the large pavilion needs made. *Manager Ciecierski stated that the Board needs to decide if they want to continue with the current set up or replace it with tables.* The Board discussed the merits, requirements and costs of both options. *Ellen Wilson requested that Manager Ciecierski get prices for replacing everything with picnic tables and bring that to the next meeting.*
- Lorrie Weber stated that the roof on the small pavilion is in bad shape and the vandalism at the entrance stones needs fixed.
- Ellen Wilson asked when new mulch will be put in around the equipment. She added that the weeds around the play equipment had been pulled. *Manager Ciecierski answered that the parks crew would try to get it in, weather pending.*

KOSER

- Kathryn Johnston reported that someone wrote on the NextDoor App that there were middle schoolers taking their clothes off in Koser Park.

FINKENBINDER

- Deeg Meck noted that the new bench is very nice and very heavy. *Manager Ciecierski stated that is the bench Turning Point Church donated.*

ACTION ITEMS MSC PRACTICE AND MEET DATES

- Lorrie Weber made a motion to recommend approval to Borough Council for the Mechanicsburg Swim Club to Use the Mechanicsburg Community Pool on Tuesday and Friday Evenings from 5:30 to 8 PM and to Hold Three Swim Meets on Saturday June 6, June 13, and June 27, 2020 from 7 AM to 1 PM. Deeg Meck seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

POOL INFORMATION SHEET

- Sue Canniff suggested a holiday rate (the same price as the weekend rate) for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The Board agreed to change the daily rate information from weekend rate to weekend / holiday rate.

POOL RULES

- Lorrie Weber made a motion to approve the Pool Rules for 2020. Kathleen Snyder seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Sue Canniff noted an issue with patrons disputing rule number 26 – no outside food. The Board agreed they stand behind the rule and her using her discretion in enforcing the rule.

**POOL PARTY/
RENTAL
BROCHURE**

- Sue Canniff noted that the Recreation Office phone number should be taken off the front and suggested that after hours pool party rental should be made available only for season pass holders. The Board agreed making this a perk of pool membership was a great idea. Deeg Meck made a motion to approve the Pool Party/Rental Brochure with the noted changes. Lorrie Weber seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS
DISCUSSION ON
NEW BOARD
MEMBER TO FILL
VACANCY**

- Lorrie Weber reported that she has a potential candidate that she will ask them to send a letter of interest.

**SIGN YEARLY
EXPECTATION
COMMITEMENT
PLEDGE.**

- Done.

**EASTER EGG
HUNT**

- The Board decided to meet at the park at 9:30 AM to set up and rope off the different areas. They also agreed to ask the Fire Department, who committed to attending and helping set up again to come at 10 AM. Staff will transport the candy and prizes to the park on the morning of the hunt.

**DATE FOR PARK
TOUR**

- Ellen Wilson asked when the Board would like to set a date. Councilwoman Agerton added that Borough Council is committed to attend with the Board when they set the date. The Board decided on Thursday, April 23rd at 6 PM.

**DISCUSSION ON
PARKS
COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN**

- Ellen Wilson stated that she thinks taking this back up after the parks tour will be post tour will be helpful

DIVE-IN MOVIE

- Lorrie Weber requested the Board address the Dive-In Movie proposal, noting that it was a big success last year. Deeg Meck stated it wasn't as well attended when people had to pay and agrees the Board should support and help, but we can't afford to pay what they're asking for it. Meck noted that it is not in budget for this year and Jess Long said they didn't need that money from us it will not make or break the event. Manager Ciecierski pointed out that the school charged us \$400+ for a security guard and janitor for the winter concert. The Board thought that was always donated by the school, he agreed in previous years it always had been. Councilwoman Agerton stated that it will be good to partner with school to find someone to sponsor it.

There being no further business, Deeg motioned to adjourn seconded by Snyder the meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Martin
Administrative Assistant