

The Board of Recreation held a special meeting on January 31, 2019 at 7:30pm to appoint Mark Monteyne as Board of Recreation Director.

Present

President Kevin Barnes
Vice President Oliver Dittamo
Donna Alvino
Tom Mele
Dan Palazzo
Mickey Pascucci
Nancy Ricca
John Mancinelli
Debbie Andriani

President Kevin Barnes stated that there were questions that needed to be asked by the Board and answered by Mark Monteyne before the board took the responsibility to appoint him as the Director. Debbie Andriani, Council, stated that the Borough Attorney could not make the meeting because of being in Trenton, but stated that this meeting was not an interview and no questions were to be asked.

Citizens to Be Heard

Jennifer Britting-stated that she has been working with the board for the past two years by attending meetings and being a member of the Totowa Day committee. She stated, "The Board always welcomed me." She stated that Totowa Day was awesome and that there was confusion as to the change. She stated, "I don't understand the change." Debbie Andriani responded that the Mayor and Council recognize that the Board has done a great job and now they want to take it to the next level and enhance everything they have done. She stated that this is a huge compliment to the Board of Recreation.

Kristin Karam asked, "Was the job posted?" Debbie Andriani stated that the Mayor and Council have selected him and he would be reporting to the Board of Recreation and they appoint him.

Carla Grant questioned, "Why a fulltime director at the expense of the taxpayers?" Debbie Andriani answered, "We are going to offer more." Mark Monteyne stated that he was going to support the school by going to the gym classes, support the PAL and the Senior Citizens. Carla Grant stated, "That's a lot of money and what else are you going to do as a fulltime position?" Mark Monteyne responded, "It is my job to prove it by doing more programs." Carla Grant asked for an example of what he would be bringing in. Mark Monteyne responded he will be working on team spirit and encouragement in grades K-8 with the children. He stated he would like to bring in lectures, speakers to the gym classes, build spirit and hope and bring back Field Day at Washington Park School. Jennifer Britting and Kristin Karam stated that they have Field Day at Memorial School and why not at Washington Park. Debbie Barone explained that they have instead Student Appreciation Day which includes movies and game like activities along with the school barbeque.

Mike Greco stated that he knew both gentlemen, Mark Monteyne and John Mancinelli, and both are true gentlemen. He stated the Board of Recreation is second to none. Whenever the Board of Recreation held an event, his family was there because they knew it was going to be a great event. He stated that he felt that John Mancinelli should have been considered for the position.

Kevin Barnes stated that the Council picked Mark Monteyne and the Board was asked to appoint him. Kevin stated that he had concerns that the Board is responsible for him but they do not know him since he was never a part of the board. Being a business owner, Kevin stated that he had concerns that the

board would be liable for Mark Monteyne. Again, Debbie Andriani stated that there could be no questions asked in public.

The commissioners along with Council Debbie Andriani and Bill Bucher discussed the appointment after John Mancinelli, Mark Monteyne, and the citizens to be heard left the meeting room.

Nancy Ricca questioned if Mark Monteyne comes up with other events as asked, "Would we be responsible to go to every event he planned?" Debbie Andriani stated that the Board does not have to be at everything. "You can do less or if you still want to do what you have done in the past you can continue to do so or Mark will do it." Oliver Dittamo asked if the Board of Recreation was going to be dispanned? Debbie Andriani responded that it was not. Donna Alvino questioned why Mark couldn't be the assistant? Nancy Ricca stated that the Board was just confused. Bill Bucher stated to give him a chance. He asked of the Board, "What are your concerns with him, there's a lot of hearsay out there." Mickey Pascucci asked, "Can we keep doing what we already do?" Debbie Andriani stated, "You can or you don't have to."

Tom Mele made the motion to appoint Mark Monteyne as Director and John Mancinelli as the Assistant Director. Dan Palazzo seconded the motion.

John Mancinelli, Mark Monteyne and the citizens who attended returned to the meeting. Tom Mele stated that the motion was made to appoint Mark Monteyne as Director and John Mancinelli as Assistant Director. Mark Monteyne said, "Thank you, I'm grateful, and I will do my best."

Kevin Barnes made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm and it was seconded by Donna Alvino.

The next meeting was changed from Thursday, February 14th to February 13, 2019 at 7:30pm. Debbie Barone will ask the Borough Clerk's office to put notice on the town's website of the meeting change and notify the newspaper also.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Barone
Secretary, Board of Recreation