

The September 21, 2017 Board of Recreation meeting was called to order by President Kevin Barnes at 7:30pm.

Present

President K. Barnes
V. President O. Dittamo
D. Alvino
D. Palazzo
M. Pascucci
T. Mele
N. Ricca
D. Andriani
J. Mancinelli

Absent

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Oliver Dittamo made a motion to accept the previous minutes and Donna Alvino seconded it.

Council Liaison

Debbie Andriani stated the Mayor and Council along with the Library, and the Health Department are holding their annual Health Fair on October 21st at the PAL from 10am – 1pm. Debbie asked the Board if we can provide someone such as a face painter or a balloonist for something for the children inside the building. The Mayor and Council attended the opening day for football and soccer and remarked that the fields look great. The tennis courts are being utilized daily which is a good thing. Tom Mele questioned Debbie why the lights at the pool were disconnected and John Mancinelli explained there were issues and they were working on solving the problem.

Correspondence

Emails were received about joining soccer. Kevin forwarded them to Julie Alessandrelli, president of the PAL.

Financial

The balance in the account is \$24,595.00-some outstanding invoices.

Citizens to be Heard

Reminder for citizens to be heard, there is a three minute limit to speak. Many citizens attended the meeting to express their concerns regarding the rumor that the Pool is closing permanently. They stated they know that fixing it up is a great expense. Kevin stated that those were rumors and that they were untrue. They asked if fundraisers were needed to cover the cost of what needs to be done to fix it up. Mary Ann Santaniello stated that this year was the worst for leadership, the guards did no cleaning, and the bathrooms were filthy. Another citizen stated that the management was nonexistent, the pool was never vacuumed, you could not identify who the guards were, guards were on their phones, and you never knew who to go to as the pool manager. Complaints were stated that the bees were a problem, could we fog the bushes, and the

trash was often not cleaned up. Brianna Orefice stated that the staff has changed, the interests are not there, and the guards do not have to have their phones with them at all times. Carla Grant stated that the guards were not very nice to her children. Sherri Carnazza stated that badges are not checked and that she witnessed members going out to the parking lot and giving non members their badges to use. Jennifer Britting asked if the summer camp fees could be increased since they are so low and have that extra money be put toward the pool. She also asked if we could have a Totowa Day? Could the pool's hours be increased? Rebecca Dalito suggested we look at the operations of other pools. Joe Siecieska asked if the snackstand can be fixed up but many codes need to be followed. Barbara Cioletti stated that the picnic tables need to be repaired and redone. The question was asked if the pool could open for the season in May instead of waiting until Father's Day weekend. The citizens complimented that the July 4th along with Labor Day festivities were great. Debbie Andriani addressed the citizens and stated that she appreciated everyone coming out with such enthusiasm. The Mayor and Council were aware of all the issues concerning the pool. Jim Niland, Supervisor of the DPW has people coming in to give a price for sandblasting the pool to rectify the peeling issue and a pool company was coming in to assess the entire pool. Debbie stated that in the future if they have any questions, complaints regarding garbage, questions, if they can't find someone at the pool to speak to, they could always call Boro Hall. The boro has no social media pages, no Instagram, no Facebook so Debbie asked the citizens not to believe what others might be posting as it is nothing official from the town.

Personnel

John Mancinelli stated that all pool employees will be reviewed.

Fields and Grounds

Tom Mele submitted his reports-fields look good, the open gate has been removed from Kennedy Field.

Mickey Pascucci reported that the batting cages are still messy and need to be cleaned out, the leaves are jammed in the cages and need to be cleaned. The football field looks great. The broken slide is still at the PAL park. New equipment will be installed because of a grant that will be used for the new equipment at PAL and also at Kennedy. Minnisink looks great and compliments have been heard from visiting teams.

Dan Palazzo stated that Veterans looks good. The tennis courts at PAL are having issues with residents walking their dogs inside the courts and children are riding their bikes inside. Nancy Ricca stated that the DPW needs to blow out the leaves inside the court. John Mancinelli recommends that the courts be closed from November 1st to March 1st, gates need to be locked, and the nets need to be taken down.

Permits

Mickey stated no new permits have been issued. No new permits until spring.

Pool

Pam stated the following on the pool this past season: the snack bar made

\$4600; the fee categories have to be simplified; Pam asked if the DPW could do some of the inside jobs in the fall instead of waiting until right before the pool opens-that has held up deliveries in the past.

John stated the lifeguards need to be required to work holiday weekends, they need to plan out their schedules better than in the past.

Mike McGovern who was in attendance at the meeting offered to paint the picnic tables and fix them up.

A suggestion was made to ask Home Depot for donations for umbrellas for the tables.

Pam asked when the parks' equipment is replaced, would it be possible to have the old equipment moved and used at the pool.

Old Business

The concerts went well. The concerts are already booked for next summer. We still need a rock and roll band and possibly a band to interact with the younger age. Debbie Andriani stated that the library enjoyed working along with us at the concerts.

Jaclyn Janesk donated the nets and fish for Labor Day at the pool. We need to send a thank you.

New Business

Tom Mele suggested bringing back the Haunted Hayride event again. We could go to Conklin Farms in Montville for a hayride, corn maze, pumpkin picking. It closes at 6pm, is inexpensive. We could go on a bus ride either Saturday or Sunday.

We will look into another Paint Night

Programs

See above

PAL

Anthony Sabatino reported that opening day for soccer and the football bonfire went well. Anthony Sabatino stated that the PAL wanted to say thank you for the fields being ready and looking great. PAL is holding another Handbag Bingo. We have a new website-www.totowa.pal.com which is being hosted by Dick's Sporting Store. The fall sports are moving along- registration fee for Kindergarten level is \$100 and for grades 1 and up, the registration fee is \$135 along with a fundraiser. The floors will be redone after Hockey finishes. The bathrooms are renovated and look great. We need to redo the bleachers and will be looking for donations through local businesses.

Report from the Director

John stated he was very pleased with the people that showed up tonight regarding issues and concerns about the town pool. There are a lot of young families with a lot of interests. Camp and the concerts went well. We are working on a Mother/Son activity-bowling will be too expensive, Mini-Golf is an idea-\$10 and we can bring in food for after or we can golf and end at the PAL building for refreshments. Still thinking about a Wild and Wacky. Day-possibly a winter activity for adults-Board of Recreation vs the PAL.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Barnes and Nancy Ricca seconded the

motion at 9:15pm.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on October 12, 2017 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Barone
Secretary, Board of Recreation