

The March 10, 2021 Zoom Board of Recreation meeting was called to order by Vice President Oliver Dittamo at 7:35pm.

Present

Vice President O. Dittamo

D. Alvino

G. DiPasquale

N. Ricca

T. Mele

M. Monteyne

D. Palazzo

D. Andriani

Absent

M. Pascucci

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Donna Alvino made the motion to accept the previous minutes and Nancy Ricca second the motion.

Council Liaison

Debbie Andriani stated that the Van Houten House, now Board of Recreation Headquarters, has been slated as a historical site. It is the first in Totowa and will now be eligible to apply for grant money. The Mayor and Council announced there will be no Memorial Day parade this year as the same in the neighboring towns. No bands can perform and there will be no picnic. All due to the pandemic. For the same reason, we will be unable to hold Totowa Day this year, possibly revisit the idea for the fall. The recent blood drive filled all 42 slots and the next one will be held on Good Friday at St. James from 6:30am -12:00pm.

Citizens to be Heard

Jennifer Britting asked if anything could be done to spruce up Minnisink Field since PAL for football and baseball had all the renovations, it would be nice for the soccer program as well up at Minnisink, possibly lights, new grass? It was explained that the state owns all that property and we rent it for \$1.00, therefore if we did renovations, the state could take it back at any moment. Jennifer Britting was told possibly call PSE&G to continue and possibly add lights to what is presently there. It was decided that Mark Monteyne would contact Joe Wassel to speak to the PSE&G rep himself.

Correspondence

Mark Monteyne has received calls regarding porta-johns at the parks and when will the turf field open.

Financial

Balance of \$52,610.03 with no open invoices.

Personnel

No report

Pool

DPW has been working on it and making progress. No decision has been made yet to open or not, waiting for guidelines from the governor.

Field and Grounds

The PAL turf field is still closed. There are still some items to complete and get approval from the engineer to open and use.

Permits

Mickey Pascucci reported to Debbie Barone in his absence that he has received requests for permits from: PV Jr. Hornets baseball; PAL baseball; PAL softball; PAL soccer; VITAL Men's softball; and Women's softball.

Old Business

Bunny Breakfast-so far only 4 have signed up. Flyers for the breakfast will be put in the 400 dinners for St. Patrick's Day that will be given out at the library on March 15th. The breakfast will be held on March 27th for 9am-11am- Grab and Go! Cut off to sign up is March 19th. Michael McGovern-8th grader will be the bunny this year.

Monday-March 15th is the St. Patrick's Day dinners-grab and go. Mark asked for volunteers to help hand out the dinners between 4pm and 6pm.

The blood drive was held at the PAL building-full registrations, the PAL was thanked for hosting again. The PBA along with Senator Corrado and the Mayor and Council donated.

New Business

Camp-Nancy Ricca asked Mark Monteyne if he was doing any preliminary planning for camp as far as bringing in programs? Mark responded that he has been looking into shows to come in and he has been planning different sports to be played outside on the turf field. Oliver Dittamo questioned will we be increasing the fees this year if we hold camp? Debbie Andriani stated it has not been discussed yet at the Mayor and Council meetings.

Geese Police-we have a contract until the end of March. Mark Monteyne wants to recommend to the Mayor and Council to cancel the contract and he will himself chase the geese off the fields. This would save the town the \$5000 fee.

Car Show-will be held on April 25th with a rain date of May 2nd. It will be held in the Wells Fargo parking lot from 9am – 2pm. This year there will be porta-johns, more food, and bigger trophies. Tom Mele asked do we want the Doo Wop radio station there instead of a DJ and possibly have Uncle Floyd come to be on the air? Mark Monteyne has reached out to the radio station and is waiting to hear back. The DJ is available.

Food Trucks-Mark Monteyne and Mickey Pascucci visited the Pequannock Food Truck Fest that is held from 2pm-6pm during a weekday. Mark asked do we want to have one as well as a community event either at the municipal parking lot or the PAL one day per week possibly from 4pm-8pm? He will talk to Julie Alessandrelli and ask will the food shack be open during games and would PAL like the food truck to be there also?

Farmer's Market-meetings have been going on-will be held on Fridays from 9am-1pm in the library parking lot.

Summer Concerts-all set from June 23rd to August 25th-contracts have been coming in.

Family Fishing Contest-being held at Zaccaria Park-Woodland Park on June 5th. All three towns could participate, hot dogs, trophies, no charge to do the fishing

in the pond.

PAL

The last meeting was in person-Tom Mele attended. Elections were held. Opening day is slated for April 17th with April 24th as the rain date. Currently 124 signed up for baseball and 90 signed up for softball.

They questioned who will be responsible for cleaning the turf field, will gum chewing be allowed? Can we put up signs no food allowed on field? Mark Monteyne stated we have those signs already and the coaches must be responsible for cleaning up and removing all used water bottles that might be left behind. Mark Monteyne stated that there is a special machine for cleaning over the turf and we will be buying our own to use a few times during the year. We are looking into updating the station equipment on the walking path. Debbie Andriani stated we are applying for an AARP grant that will provide multi-generation equipment for the stations on the path.

George DiPasquale stated that there are notes on the desk at police headquarters that children are not allowed on the turf field at this time.

Report from the Directors

Mark Monteyne ended the meeting with a motivational quote: - "New ideas can flow from a fresh perspective. Flexibility lets us create opportunity in any situation."

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by George DiPasquale and seconded by Dan Palazzo at 8:45pm.

The next Board of Recreation's meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:30pm **at the library**.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Barone
Secretary, Board of Recreation