

BOROUGH OF ROCKAWAY RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING FEBRUARY 28, 2012

Recreation Chairman D. Doty called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Flag Salute. The locations of the emergency exits were announced.

Present: Commission Members: S. Connington, T. Dennehy, D. Doty,
R. Grow, T. Haynes, R. Lenahan, S. Patamia
Recreation Secretary: D. Tanzola
Recreation Director: C. Johnson

Public: Councilman, T. Mulligan
Tim Swanick, Greg Webber, Tom Patton

Approval of Minutes from the January 24, 2012 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2012 meeting was made by S. Patamia and seconded by T. Dennehy. All in favor.

Correspondence:

- Minutes from the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment were available.
- Mayor and Council adoption of Ordinance. 02-12 amending Chapter 71.

A motion to accept the correspondence was made by S. Connington and seconded by S. Patamia. All in favor.

Public

T. Swanick inquired about the plans to dredge Park Lake and to restock the fish. Councilman Mulligan responded that it is definitely in the plans but not this year. We are waiting for state permits. (Fish and Wildlife and DEP). Discussion ensued. To improve fishing, T. Swanick suggested placing rock piles in the lake for the fish to congregate around. He also suggested restoring an access point with gravel to launch rowboats from. He said that per Borough Code, rowboats and canoes are allowed. He believes electric/battery boat motors should be allowed. T. Mulligan said the town needs to look into Police/Fire Dept. rescue operations.

T. Patton and G. Webber were present to follow-up on the batting cage. T. Mulligan responded that the batting cage for Smith Field was approved. Other options for the concrete pad need to be explored. Discussion followed. S. Connington suggested checking out batting cages in Rockaway Twp. and Morris Plains. T. Mulligan said he would go with them this weekend to visit the Rockaway Twp. batting cage.

T. Patton said the fields looks good and asked to open the fields sooner. Discussion ensued. T. Haynes said they would like to get on the fields the weekend of the 10th. C. Johnson said they need concussion training before they go on school property. She said they are looking at two ways of doing it. One is at the computer room at the school and the second option is doing it online at home.

T. Mulligan reported that the town is in litigation over Donatoni Field and this may drag on for two years. The fields can be used in the meantime.

R. Grow discussed drainage issues behind Donatoni Field. Dead and fallen trees need to be removed. Discussion followed. T. Mulligan reported that the town had complaints from the DEP that we were encroaching on the wetlands. The Environmental Commission needs to look at it.

T. Mulligan said emails are going around regarding uses of recreational facilities and unsponsored programs looking for funding and field time. The Recreation Commission has final say as to how the recreation facilities will be used.

T. Mulligan reported that the budget (\$49,244) is the same as last year. There is no money to give to any additional programs (Lacrosse).

T. Mulligan said the Recreation Trust Fund practices should be discussed with J. Doherty, CFO.

Chairperson/Director's Reports:

C. Johnson reported that her position has been advertised, and she has not decided what she is going to do yet. The summer program positions were also advertised. T. Mulligan said the Personnel Committee will decide who gets hired. They will get recommendations from C. Johnson.

Old Business:

S. Connington said we should do field inspections before anyone is allowed on the fields. The commissioners chose fields to inspect:
Smith Field and Thomas Jefferson Field: (R. Lenahan, S. Connington and T. Haynes)
Heady Field: (T. Dennehy)
Friendship and Firemen's Fields: (D. Doty)
Donatoni Field and Park Lake: (S. Patamia, C. Johnson, R. Grow)
Centennial Park: (D. Doty)

New Business:

C. Johnson reported that Aquatic Technology will do the weed treatment at Park Lake at a cost of \$2,200.

C. Johnson reported that the Girl Scout Troops from Rockaway Borough and Rockaway Township will celebrate their 100th anniversary by holding a walk around Park Lake and a candlelight ceremony on April 21st.

S. Patamia will set up concussion training at the school and C. Johnson will set up the online training.

Field use for Lacrosse was discussed.

C. Johnson reported that a plumber inspected the toilets at Park Lake. They cannot be changed. The building is solid concrete.

T. Mulligan discussed police overtime (3-4 hours, approximately \$1,500) for parades. Self-funding is suggested. He said the sports are invited to march in the Memorial Day Parade. C. Johnson suggested using money from the Recreation Trust Fund to pay for the police overtime. Discussion ensued.

S. Patamia made a motion to take \$3,000 from the Recreation Trust Fund to pay for Baseball and Soccer parades for 2012, contingent on the legalities. R. Grow seconded the motion. All in favor.

Little League insurance was discussed. C. Johnson suggested getting the Charter in at the beginning of the year so the insurance is in place.

C. Johnson reported that she and J. Rossi (DPW) think a good location for the bocce ball court is at Donatoni Field where the basketball court was to be built.

T. Mulligan asked the Recreation Commissioners to limit conversations on emails. C. Johnson told them that emails are subject to OPRA requests.

C. Johnson will put things together and set up a special budget meeting.

Commissioner's Reports:

T. Dennehy reported that Track and Field would start on April 1st. One hundred children signed up. A car wash is scheduled for April 14.

Vouchers: None

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by R. Lenahan and seconded by T. Haynes. All in favor. The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debbie Tanzola
Recreation Secretary*