

MAY 12, 2009
ANDOVER TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE

The regular meeting of the Andover Township Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Chairman Ed Burgio with the following members present: Helene Reczka, Mike Morel, Jodi Halteman, Patti Clark, Brian Robinson and Janet Bardello. Dick Lagg was absent.

OPENING STATEMENT: The Chairman noted compliance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 as being met.

MINUTES: Approval of minutes from March 10th and March 31st will be tabled until next meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No one was present at this time. The meeting was closed to the public.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/ SENT:

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Rizzo Reptiles | Copy of program for summer rec (fee covered by Clean Communities Grant) |
| 2. | Desarae DelSantro, Emily Mendes and Joseph Haas | Letters re attending 2009 contests |
| 3. | NJ Herald, Township Journal & SECTV | Notices for advertising annual contests |
| 3. | Township Merchants | Letter sent to the following re contributions for Ms. Andover Twp. contestants: Andover Family Chiropractic Center; Newton Country Club; Morel Builders; Farmstead Golf & Country Club; Lakeland Bank; Perona Farms; Bella Italia; Ultima Hair; Sheridan's Lodge; Max's Station House; Case Bellissima; Nancy Jones; Bagel Bistro; Country Crossings; Dominoes; Country Car Wash; Lake Lenape Lodge; A&B Bagels; Newton-Sparta Country Deli |

At this time we reviewed Correspondence. At this time we have not received applications for any of our upcoming contests. We know we will receive them soon so we will continue to plan for the contests.

At this time, Helene Reczka made a motion to file all correspondence. Brian Robinson seconded the motion, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Report on Recreation Budget – We are aware the 2009 budget process has been difficult and there were recommendations by some Township Committee members to actually not fund the Recreation budget for 2009. There were many discussions on many levels and the bottom line is that due to the fact that the township newsletter has already gone out advertising our annual contests and the summer recreation program we really need to run at least these activities. When the Director called Ms. Stafford with the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show to tell her that it didn't look good for Andover Township participating with the Queen of the Fair or the little ones either she was appalled. She commented that she was aware that all the municipalities were having difficult times but that being a part of the fair is such a tradition that it would be such a shame. We both could not recall a year that Andover Township did not participate. So after more discussion, the Director was told by representatives of the Township Committee that we should go ahead with these plans and that they would find the necessary funding. The contests are June 7th and the summer program begins on June 22nd.

The Director also reported that there was discussion with representatives from the Fire Department regarding the possibility of holding a scaled town celebration together with the Recreation and Fire Departments. They would be holding their wet down and we could add to it. After more discussion, it turned out that the date they have planned for the wet down is on July 11th and we don't have any availability at the park on that date. So those plans died a quick death.

Next we talked again about the Friday night, on August 28th, picnic and movie plans. We then discussed doing it on Saturday, September 12th which has now opened up at the park. After much discussion, it was decided that we might get a better turn out on a Saturday in September instead of a Friday in August. We will plan for September 12th. We talked about renting a huge inflatable screen with projector in order for it to be more professional. The Director will get prices on this.

2. Update on Skating Rink/Basketball Courts Repairs: Ed Burgio reported that members from the Recreation Committee and Road Department met 2 weeks ago with officials from Superior Surfacing to check the damage. They claimed that they have never seen anything like this and are blaming poor adhesion and that the surface wasn't prepared properly. They never worked on a pre-painted surface. They needed to order product which should be in by now and then they will get over there and do the repairs. We will need it striped again when the damage is repaired. This would be the perfect time to have the upper and lower parking lot and areas striped at Hillside Park. We do have funds in the "Gail Ordinance" and we definitely need to get this done to help us make the best use of the parking areas located in the park. We had a proposal for the striping a year ago and it was a good price. The Director will check into how we can have this paid for and get the project going.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Report on use of Goodale Field for Field Hockey: The Newton High School Field Hockey Clinic has been approved for the practice field at Goodale during the summer months. They will give us a copy of insurance and have agreed to use just the practice field and not the game field. A discussion took place re any use of the Abby fields either by Newton HS or Andover Township Recreation. The personnel from the Abby do not want to give any concessions on keeping off the fields for parking for the Christmas Tree Sales. They plow the field areas of snow and drive trucks and tractors over the fields causing ruts and damage on athletic fields that have been groomed and have had money spent on making them safe surfaces for the youth athletic programs. So with all of this in mind, Newton HS is not looking to go back to the Abby nor is Andover Township looking to get involved with any lease which includes that the Abby personnel will not agree to keep off any part of the fields and will only agree to a short term use which does not benefit the township.

Now the Athletic Director from the high school has contacted the township to see about availability for our soccer field for the high school program. Discussion followed re parking for school buses, spectators, etc. Also, the existing parking at Goodale is limited and parking on the road is not an option. The school offered to hire a parking attendant. Also, they offered to improve and expand our parking area at Goodale at the expense of the Newton Board of Ed. Darren Dickerson is making a plan for expanding the parking lot and that would have to be reviewed and accepted by the Newton B of E. The play area is limited when figuring the number of players involved. There is Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity both male and female. We all felt that it is not an ideal location. Then we have our in town soccer program and travel on Sundays and before you know it the field that has been babied will be a mess.

After further discussion the recommendation was that the Athletic Director needs to have a backup plan with another field whether it is in Green or whatever. We would like to be helpful and come to the rescue here but it is definitely not an ideal situation all the way around. They would have to expand the parking lot, no Saturday or Sunday games, practice only on the practice field and main field use just for games and have additional portable toilets available and a parking attendant available during games. If they can deliver on these issues, then with the blessing of our Road Supervisor, Darren Dickerson, we could give our support.

2. Discussion re finalizing plans for upcoming contests: So far we have not received applications but they normally come in at the last minute. We are concerned that residents are thinking that there will be no Recreation programs this year, including the contests and that is the main reason we haven't had a response as yet. We are putting the message re the contests on the township message board tomorrow. Since there was some controversy re even holding these contests due to budget concerns, we will do our very best to keep expenses down but still have a nice event.

3. Discussion re finalizing plans for Summer Recreation Program: The Director reported that everyone but one former worker is coming back and we have a list of kids who want to work with us so we will fill that position. The Arts and Crafts Director and member of our committee, Janet Bardello, has been planning projects that do not require expensive supplies so we are trying to keep the cost of the program down. Our planned entertainment will include a program by Rizzo's Reptiles that has a theme of recycling which can be billed to the Clean Community line item thereby saving some money for the Recreation budget. We will also offer a program by Mad Science and Zak the Magician. Closing Day party will include a bounce house, face painting, hot dogs and make your own Sundaes. The dates this year are June 22nd through July 2nd, Monday-Thursday, 9-11:30 am.

4. Any discussions brought before the committee by members: The Director brought to everyone's attention some nice items – The Highland's Soccer Club has donated \$350.00 to the township to be used toward field maintenance. Pat Geffken, a township resident, has donated a new microwave oven for the Hillside House. Township resident, Greg George donated 17 yards of sand for the sand box at Hillside Park to the tune of \$500.00. Everyone was happy to hear some good news!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th.

APPLICATIONS:

1. May 30th - Sparta Unico - Beefsteak Fund Raiser - fee - \$350.00
2. June 6th - Jones - Birthday Party - Fee - \$300.00
3. July 31st - Sussex County Women's Forum - Tricky Tray Fund Raiser - Fee - \$100.00
4. Aug. 15th - Malnak - Wedding Reception - Fee - \$300.00
5. Aug. 29th - Soroka - Bridal Shower - Fee - \$300.00
6. Oct. 10th - Partnership for Social Services - Fundraiser Dinner-Dance - Fee - \$350.00
7. Oct. 17th - Danielson - Anniversary Party - Fee - \$100.00 plus \$50.00 for prior day set up (employee)

ADJOURNMENT:

At this time, there being no further business to discuss, Brian Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. It was seconded by Helene Reczka. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Burgio, Chairperson

Jackie Huelbig, Secretary

