

Somerville Recreation Commission

Somerville New Jersey

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The Re-scheduled Regular Session of the Somerville Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in the Recreation Office, 25 West End Avenue, Somerville, New Jersey. The meeting came to order at 8:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman Tammy Stouchko, Commissioners Jon Roethke, Jay Scott, Sean Decker, Bob Axmann and Council Liaison Jane Kobuta.

Absent: Ken Cornell, Ron Thornburg, Carlos Sanchez and Vice Chairman Mike Zolandz

Chairman Tammy Stouchko opened the meeting and stated that "The meeting will please come to order. Adequate notice of this meeting as required by the Open Meeting Act has been provided in that on January 1, 2009 a copy of a notice specifying the time, location and date was (1) posted upon the bulletin board outside of Borough Hall, (2) mailed to the Courier News, and (3) given to the Clerk Administrator. If any member of this body believes this meeting is being held in violations of the Open Meeting Act, please state your views at this time." Hearing none we moved to the next item on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Tammy Stouchko offered a motion for approval of the January 13, 2010 minutes as written. This was seconded by Jon Roethke and approved 5 – 0.

COMMUNICATION:

1. Jon Roethke, Co-Chair Somerville Elks Jack Gardner Tournament, Re: Request for field use July 10-11. Tammy Stouchko motioned to approve, seconded by Bob Axmann approved 5-0 subject to insurance / fee schedule 2010.
2. 2010 Spring Flyer was circulated for review and comment.
3. Todd Starner, Ex-Chief Hook & Ladder # 1, requested use of VanDerveer field for County Fireman's League starting March 22 at 6:30 pm. John Scott offered motion for approval, seconded by Jon Roethke, approved 5-0
4. Timothy O'Halloran, Principal SHS to Recreation, re: 2010 Scholarship program (tabled).
5. Sister John Magdalen, Principle ICS to Recreation 1/22/10, re: Practice site for girls softball at Carol Pager Park. Insurance certificate attached. John Scott offerd motion for approval, seconded by Bob Axmann, approved 5-0 subject to 5:30 pm ending \$ 175.00 user fee.
6. Nancy L. Lepionka Children's Librarian to Recreation, re: Summer time at pool / playground sites (tabled).

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7. Rajni Chopra, Dir. ML King to Mayor Gallagher, re: 1/8/10 request for funding support. Recreation was emailed for our information by Clerk Administrator on 2/4/10. Letter was for information only no action necessary.
8. Leigh McLachlan to Recreation, 2/12/10, re: request of commission to provide time capsule material. Commission response by March 18, 2010, on next agenda.
9. Lisa Yates, Dir. First baptist Church Pre-School, re: 2/18/10 request to use Carol Pager Park Wednesday may 12, 2010 from 9:00 to 12:00 for youth picnic. John Scott offered a motion for approval, seconded by Jon Roethke, approved subject to 2010 fee schedule and insurance.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

1. David Dzwonczyk and his father Doug , 432 Catherine Street, Somerville were present to review and seek approval for Eagle Scout project. A project workbook was supplied and reviewed at previous meeting. Site location for sand volleyball court location was on parkland located on Mastogen Drive, Block 100 Lot 9. Mr. David Dzwonczyk reported on finances for project as well as volunteer support. Signature approval was provided by Director with Commission consent. This approval was necessary to proceed to council / district committee approval by scouting organization. Public present to comment on project. Filipa Puertas, 4 Mastogen Drive, against project will disturb neighborhood, increase garbage and glass problem. Bernard Armin, 2 Mastogen Drive, against project, believes SHS should be closed down. Students always cause problems with noise and litter. Tom Shalits, 7 Mastogen Drive, against project for same reason above and sand will cause drainage, health problems and clogg heating and air conditioning units. Spoke about petition but need not provide. Mr. Shalits requested a copy of the Eagle Scout plans. After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of the project Chairman Tammy Stouchko called for a vote of approval, seconded by Sean Decker and approved 5-0. Director will call for dig requirements and mark out area for utility review.
2. Mr. Tulsi R. Maharjan was present to discuss use of Carol Pager Park on May 2, 2010 by Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalization. Mr. Maharjan discussed past festivals in Franklin and Bound Brook which attracted between one and three thousand participants. Commission was very much in favor of project but letter provided was more of an announcement with pre-approval by Borough of Somerville. Mr. Maharjan had permission from mayor but Director has no word of approval from Mayor, police or administration. Director had spent a great deal of time discussing better site options with Mr. Maharjan two weeks earlier. These included Main Street with road closure Bridge and Grove as well as county sites including North branch park on Milltown Road and Duke island park on Old

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Yorke Road. Director will assist and coordinate efforts with Human Relations Personnel including Art Adair, YMCA and Church groups. Mr. Maharjan will seek co-endorsement by Mayor and Council as well as police in establishing budget requirements. Recreation will hold date for May 2, 2010 at Pager Park for event subject to police, Mayor and Council approval, insurance, site requests and fees.

DIRECTOR & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Mr. Quinn informed Commission that position is open for member to serve on Youth Commission which includes Human Relations Committee. Contact person is Penny Gleeson. Meeting's are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at Immaculata HS room 118. John Scott volunteered to serve if he could withdraw from Environmental Committee, approved.
2. Mr. Quinn review resolution 10-0119-033 submitted to recreation. Mayor and Council approval of Carol Pager for Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 21, 2010. This produced the approval before the request to Recreation. A subsequent email from Kim Radi Wortman has requested permission. Director has informed that certificate of insurance and fee to be determine will be necessary. Sean Decker offered motion for approval seconede by John Scott and approved 5-0 subject to insurance and fees.
3. Director informed commission that coach John McLachlan, 7/8 boys basketball, will not participate in the Branchburg Tournament but rather the Dunellen Recreation Tournament. Fees were raised by Mr. McLachlan.
4. Mr. Quinn is working in conjunction with Linda Ripacki of RideWise on a grant for bicycle safety video produced in spanish. Goal is to circulate to downtown restaurants to be viewed by their workers in an attempt to provide better night time safety while riding bicycles. This pilot project will then be used throughout the county.
5. Mr. Quinn reported that Borough attorney Jeremy Solomon provided legal opinion that commission may continue to support ad books and offer scholarship donations.
6. Mr. Quinn reported on department heads meeting with Kevin Sluka Clerk / Administrator of March 3, 201. Budget cuts are not finalized. Actual budgets remain policy decision as how to spend. Bottom line has not been reached by council with more cuts anticipated. Introduction of budget pending but more budget cuts anticipated prior to adoption. Also, reevaluation has begun and will be in full swing in April with door to door appraisals.
7. Mr. Quinn reported on meeting he attended January 25, 2010 as part of Community Forum at Shiloh Pentecostal Church. A draft of bylaws for the new Somerville Community Association (SCA) was reviewed. This association seems largely to service as a communication replacement for the Human Relations

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- Committee which has been absorbed into Youth Commission. SCA is not part of town committees but remains private with yearly dues.
8. Mr. Quinn reported that Paul Allena has offered to cover the cost of Director and Program Supervisor to attend Technology Conference on April 21, 2010 in Somerset. Commission approved attendance. Jane Kobuta also plans to attend representing council.
 9. Tammy Stouchko distributed draft of 2010 fees for review and comment. After review the Chairman called for approval, seconded by Sean Decker, approved 5-0. Director will begin to send out to all 2009 users as current fees. All fees were evaluated based on current county park fees.
 10. Mr. Quinn reviewed meeting with Ed Sherius of county engineering department as proposal to repair basketball court at Michael Lepp Park. Fred Haelig of Halecon Inc., 136 Bellian Ct. Bridgewater, provided proposal to repair court for \$ 30,000.00. This quote reflects state contract price approved with county. Work could be done in timely manner by approved supplier. Option to wait to bid with county road project. Unknown final cost but anticipate same or lower, but because of small area and lack of priority, project would be completed in October / November 2010. Motion offered by John Scott to have work performed by Halecon with \$ 3,000.00 yearly payment over ten year period through trust account. This was seconded by Sean Decker and approved 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Quinn reminded commission of new Chick Sternadori field dedication now rescheduled for April 17, 2010 at 11:00 am at VanDerveer. Two inning whiffle ball game will take place between mayor and Council and Recreation Commission followed by Junior Pony game. Flyers circulated to council, Mr. Sternadori and Board of Education
2. Sweat shirt quotes – no further action.
3. Tammy Stouchko produced draft 2/24/10 of Recreation 2010 budget for review. Questions raised by Director about anticipated cuts addressed by Kevin Sluka at department head meeting March 3, 2010. Tammy will speak to Mr. Sluka. Budget will be placed on next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chairman Tammy Stouchko requested committees to report on facilities, finance programs and fund raising ideas for next meeting.
2. Jane Kobuta has been updating and refining Quickbooks program to show a more accurate cost of programs for office, administration and maintenance. She is now serving as administrator of Quickbooks program.

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3. Jay Scott updated commission on Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) meeting he attended with Mr. Quinn. This organization is part of Duke Farms and will offer land for community gardening, educational classes throughout the year. Mr. Scott believed this may provide Somerville with best options for future gardening projects. Fairview project will be placed on hold as NOFA options become available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Tammy Stouchko offered a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters. This was seconded by Bob Axmann and approved 4-0. (10:45pm)

Chairman Tammy Stouchko offered a motion to exit from Executive session. This was seconded by Sean Decker and approved 4-0. (10:55 pm)

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Sean Decker offered a motion for approval of vouchers submitted for payment. This was seconded by John Scott and approved 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairman Tammy Stouchko offered a motion for adjournment. This was seconded by Bob Axmann and approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 pm. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 8:00 pm in the Recreation office located at 25 West End Avenue in Somerville.

Frank J. Quinn
Director / Secretary