

# *Somerville Recreation Commission*

Somerville New Jersey

March 10, 2010

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The scheduled Regular Session of the Somerville Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 10, 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, Carlos Sanchez and Council Liaison Jane Kobuta.

**Absent:** Ken Cornell, Vice Chairman Mike Zolandz and Ron Thornburg (came later).

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:***

Jay Scott offered a motion for approval of the amended February 24, 2010 minutes. This was seconded by Jon Roethke and approved 5 – 0.

Jay Scott offered a motion for approval of the amended February 24, 2010 Executive Session minutes. This was seconded by Bob Axmann and approved 5 – 0.

## ***COMMUNICATION:***

1. Recreation to Brian Smith, President SBI 3/8/10
2. Recreation to Scott Hade, SHS Athletic Director 3/8/10
3. Recreation to Pierce Frauenheim, HIS Athletic Director 3/38/10
4. Recreation to Tulsi Maharjan 3/5/10
5. Joe Rodriguez, Engine Co. # 1 to Recreation, re: Use of Chambres field.
6. Recreation to Lisa Yates, First Baptist Church 3/5/10
7. Recreation to Sister John Magdalen, ICS principle 3/5/10
8. Recreation to Todd Starner, Hooks & Ladder Company 3/5/10
9. Recreation to Jon Roethke, Jacks Kids Tournament 3/5/10
10. Revised 2010 Fees with Mission Statement and explanation of fees.
11. Leroy Gunzelman III, Parade Chairman 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, re: Use of Firehouse Field Saturday June 19, 2010.
12. Notice – Pre construction meeting Phase 2 Southern Extension, High Street to Raritan River Friday march 12, 2010 at 10:00 am in the County Administration Engineering office.
13. Nancy Lepionka, Children's Librarian to Recreation (tabled 2/24), Summer Reading Program.
14. Tim O'Halloran, Principal SHS to Recreation (Tabled 2/24), Scholarships – Yohn / Bray.

15. Paul Kieltyka, CEO YMCA, 3/4/10, re: use of Pager Park summer programs.

16. Jack Ciattarelli, Freeholder Director re: 2010 County / Municipal Open Space Partnership Grants.

Items 1-4, 6-10 were letters sent with new fees.

Items 5, 11 and 15 were approved for Frank Quinn to make sure they fit within our schedules.

Item 12 was for the Public.

Item 13 was approved with the hours of the pools.

Item 14 was tabled

Sean Decker moved to accept. Bob Axmann seconded. Motion carried 5 – 0.

## ***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:***

1. Helen Shaulis, 7 Mastogen Dr.

-her neighbors were there about the volleyball court on Green Acres lot. She spoke to “representatives “ about broken glass and problems for the quality of life for elderly people sitting in their yards.

-sand from courts would get into AC units at High School.

-she had spoken to reporters and kids play volleyball in bare feet.

-once a year the high school uses this lot for a band practice.

-there are other sites like Brookside and she had a concern for people in wheelchairs.

-2 years ago there was a meeting with the Mayor about benches. He said this lot would be “left as it is”.

2. Joe Palitchka and his wife Debbie, 190 Mercer St.

-never knew about the project. Notices were never delivered. They are totally opposed to it.

-it has been there for 20 years and no ne hangs around now. Attractions will bring people in.

-they are worried about their peace of mind and people coming at night.

Debbie added:

-They were worried about the drainage and water on their property. They had been flooded three times.

-They were worried about who would take care of the volleyball court. It could be an attraction.

-trees had been planted there once and they were ripped down by the kids.

Tammy Stouchko said that the notices were just a courtesy.

Bob Axmann said that the Eagle Scouts would help care for the property, Recreation would take over, we would groom the field. It would be adopted by the Scouts. There are other places in town where kids can do things and the residents of Branchburg have a volleyball court and they like the court.

Tammy Stouchko said that the court would be dug down 2 feet with 12” of rock and 12” of sand and it woud not affect drainage in the area. The court would be 30’ by 60’.

3. Brnod Amin, 2 Mastogen Dr.

-there is access from the fields.

-sand will be brought into his house, because he is nearest to the road.

-students use the lot as a way from 7-11 and put glass in the street.

-he is a taxpayer and is opposed to the plan. Volleyball will bring more problems and there will be kids hanging around.

-no one hangs around now at night, only when school is in session.

-there are now lights in the school lots and that is good.

Tammy Stouchko spoke with a neighbor who has called the poice at night because kids are hanging around.

4. Tom Shaulis, 7 Mastogen Dr.

-he has written 3 letters but they are “prolific and verbose”.

-He has “a lot to discuss”. One person should not be able to affect 100’s of people.

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-He doesn't want to move. He has lived there for 57 years. We have no right or justification.

He has a noise concern.

-The scout's proposal was on 8/12/09 but Mr. Shaulis didn't know about it. He only got notice when the 2/24 meeting was cancelled due to snow. In 1982 tennis courts were "snuck up" on people. Next time he would like advanced notice.

-We are "pushing down" 35 people for the benefit of one. He is selfish.

Tammy Syouchko told Mr. Shaulis that we had looked at the details of the project and examined several other sites. In January Mastogen Dr. was picked and talked about at the february meeting.

## ***DIRECTOR & COMMITTEE REPORTS:***

1. Budget 2010 Review. TS/FQ

Jane Kobuta said that all areas had been cut and Council hoped not to cut further.

2. Committee Reports

Programs: Sean Decker is working on evaluation forms, especially facilities, organization, completion levels and officiating. He is also working with the lawyer about guidelines for Executive Sessions.

Finance: The pools will be a prime concern.

Personnel: Offive coverage may be difficult. We may have to cut back on officials.

Facilities: Bob Axmann had some concerns about fees and the pools, especially usage of the pools.

Tammy asked him and Jon Roethke to try to visit the 4 pools before the next meeting.

Policy: Jay Scott and Tammy Stouchko are working together on our Policy Manual.

## ***OLD BUSINESS:***

1. Time Capsule: Jon Roethke suggested a piece of the artificial turf. Jane Kobuta felt objects were better than paper and lasted longer and better. Tammy Stouchko suggested a jersey or even the wiffleball to be used at the Chick Sternadori game between Rec and Borogh Council. Jane suggested a picture of the Rec Commission. Jay Scott mentioned a baseball signed by the Rec Commission and maybe the Borough Council.
2. Tammy Stouchko inserted mention of the 4/17 11 AM game t the dedication of the Van Der Veer fields.
3. David Dzwonczyk reported that he written an alternate possible project for his eagle scout badge. David talked about building a bocce court at Exchange Field. The court would be 9 inches deep with 3" of pea gravel, 3" of limestone and 3" of hard clay surface. An officila court is 13' X 91'. This court would be 10-12' x 60'. The court would be built at Exchange Field at a suitable location decided upon by Frank Quinn or someone else. Sean Decker made a motion to accept the plan. Bob Axmann seconded the motion and the vote was 6 yeses and 1 abstension.
4. Community Diversity Day, May 2, 2010: We okayed the project but sent it to the Borough Council. They discussed the idea and will bring it up again. A letter from Frank Quinn to Mr. Maharjan was shared.

## ***NEW BUSINESS:***

1. Jay Scott shared a letter to be sent to American Water asking for their help in installing a water source at the Fairview Avenue site of the planned Community Garden.
2. Family Fun Day: Ron Thornburg talked about this event. It was planned for last year but was not held. Sean Decker suggested seeking sponsors like a gym to help with costs. Jay Scott suggested a table staffed by the Environmental Commission to make the event even more educational. Ron said there are volunteers and the cost of tee shirts is an issue. Jon Roethke suggested a September date and 9/11 was proposed with positive pre-advertising program to play up Patriot Day.
3. There was a short discussion of the Chess Club and a problem that developed at the club's session.
- 4.

## ***EXECUTIVE SESSION:***

No Executive Session was needed

## ***APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:***

The four vouchers listed were approved along with a an additional \$40 voucher. We had the paperwork but it was not listed with the others. Tammy Stouchko made a motion to accept them. Jon Roethke seconded the motion and the vote was 7 - 0.

## ***ADJOURNMENT:***

There being no further business, Bob Axmann made a motion to adjourn. Jay Scott seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was 7 yeses. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 8:00 pm in the Recreation office located at 25 West End Avenue in Somerville.

Jay Scott, Commissioner  
Acting as Secretary