

**TOWN OF NEWTON
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2013
6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:30 PM on February 20, 2013.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT was read by Recreation Supervisor Kerry Deckert.

Present Members: Hank Smith, Ludmilla Mecaj, Frank Sebastiano, Jim Schmitt, Michael Bell, Kerry Deckert, Kenny Teets, Jonathan Couce and Suzie Givone

Absent: Don Meng (excused for health reasons)

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the November 14, 2012 minutes. Ms. Mecaj seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous "aye" vote.

REORGANIZATION

Hank Smith nominated Frank Sebastiano as Chairman for the year 2013. Jim Schmidt seconded the motion. The floor was open for discussion and then closed. Mr. Sebastiano was approved by a unanimous "aye" vote.

Frank Sebastiano nominated Hank Smith as Vice-Chairman for the year 2013.

AYE: Mr. Teets, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Bell, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sebastiano

NAY: Ms. Mecaj

MISSION STATEMENT PRIORITATION/REFINING

Discussion ensued on defining the Commission's mission statement. The following categories were most important to the Commission: Doing something for the community, enjoyable activities, giving back to the kids, giving back to the seniors, community involvement, and improving assets of town- Fields, Utilities.

2013 GOAL SETTING

Some of the goals that came up for the 2013 year were doing more for parents, serving teens more, and trying something new every year.

Mr. Teets suggested doing more advertising. He mentioned we need to do more advertising that would highlight the positives of the Town such as safety in the parks with police presence and video cameras. It was suggested to have more police presence at the pool and parks.

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Mr. Bell mentioned that Newton High School will be having a Mr. Newton contest. The Commission will see how it goes and maybe they can incorporate with the Miss Newton Contest at a later time.

The Commission reopened the idea of have a Battle of the Bands. Discussion ensued on the logistics. A tentative date of middle of May or beginning of June was discussed. Suzie will contact Mr. O'Toole, the music teacher at Newton High School, Ludmilla will contact Sussex County Community College to find out what scheduled events they have and the possibility of have the event at the college. Frank will oversee the event.

Senior Outings- At the last senior dinner, the seniors answered a questionnaire and based on their answers they wanted us to provide some more activities for them. Suzie did some research and came up with a few ideas. Suzie and Kerry attended the Prime Time Seniors' monthly meeting and presented the ideas to them. The seniors will get back to us with.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion ensued on the Spring Senior Dinner. The date has been set for Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 12:00 PM at the Newton High School. This time we are going to try Dominic's as the caterer. Ms. Mecaj will finalize the details with Dominic's.

Tree Lighting Review- The Tree lighting was successful despite the weather and few other minor details. Things will be worked out for a smoother event for next year.

Poster Contest- Mr. Meng asked Suzie to reach out to the art teachers at Halsted Middle School and Merriam Avenue Middle school to find out why we were getting a low response from the students for the contest. The art teachers were very honest and stated the children did not like doing the contest and could we come up with another idea. The Commission will consider this.

Calendar of events for 2013- Upcoming events for 2013 is the Spring Senior Dinner set for Sunday, March 24, 2013 and the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2013 with a rain date of Saturday, March 30, 2013.

Kerry spoke about some of the upcoming Action Alliance programs.

NEW BUSINESS

The Miss Newton Subcommittee was appointed. The members for 2013 will be Suzie Givone, Kerry Deckert, Ludmilla Mecaj and Frank Sebastiano. This committee will meet on various dates prior to the Miss Newton Contest and report back to the Commission on the progress of the contest.

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Dedication of Trudgeon Field is set for Monday, April, 22, 2013 at 6 PM. The Town Council has been invited and the New Jersey Herald has been contacted to cover the story. Discussion ensued on which field will be dedicated to Mr. Trudgeon.

OPEN FORUM

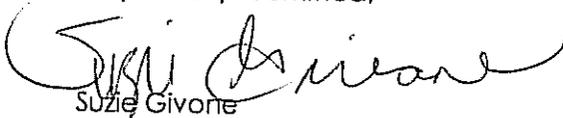
None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mecaj made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Schmitt seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a unanimous "aye" vote.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on March 20, 2013 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzie Givone

Secretary Recreation Commission