

**TOWN OF NEWTON
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 18, 2012
6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:30 PM on January 18, 2012.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT was read by Chairman Don Meng.

Present Members: Don Meng, Hank Smith, Jim Schmitt, Ludmilla Mecaj, Frank Sebastiano, Kerry Deckert

Also present: Albert Kaiser, President, Newton Youth Football and Nancy Estevez, Newton Swim Club and Mike Cross from Newton Swim Club.

Approval of November 16, 2011 minutes. Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to nominate Don Meng as Chairman for the year 2012. Mrs. Mecaj seconded the motion.

Mr. Meng made a motion to nominate Mr. Sebastiano as Vice-Chairman for the year 2012. Mr. Schmitt seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Meng thanked all for their help and hard work with the Senior Luncheon that was held on December 4, 2011. It was well attended and enjoyed by the seniors.

Discussion ensued on changing the menu. Ludmilla is going to check with Dominick's and Kathy Citterbart is going to ask her husband to provide a quote on Turkey or Ham. Kerry is going to check with the Sussex County Vo-Tech to see if they are willing to donate a cake.

Mr. Meng thanked everyone for their help with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The kids had a great time. For next year we will increase the cups to 150, we will continue to add a tray of cookies for the seniors for their bus ride and we need to find a way to get Santa off of the street faster to keep the kids safe. We will try to get someone from the fire department to stand in the street or we can barricade area for Santa.

Ludmilla brought up the idea of having more choices of winners for example, most elegant in addition to the best decorated. To be discussed further. She advised the commission of her experience on the bus with the seniors for the house decorating contest procedure.

Hank Smith suggested we have the Dr. Greene, Superintendent or Jim Tasker, Principal of Newton High School make an announcement that the Recreation Commission is looking for high school members to represent the student body.

**TOWN OF NEWTON
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 18, 2012
6:30 PM**

Kerry Deckert is going to reach out to Guy Schultz who represents the student council, the National Honor Society Advisor and Kurt Weaver, Athletic Director.

Frank spoke about the Battle of the Bands. He and Kerry Deckert will meet to discuss the details and logistics. Partnering with Sparta and opening it up to other high schools was discussed. Frank wants to start advertising in March with the Herald, local radio, schools and the music store in Town.

Newton Day will be Saturday, June 9, 2012. Don Meng brought up the talent show. It has been in existence for two years. It has been a struggle. Volunteers are needed. Don is going to bring a list of the categories for the talent show to the next meeting. The Chamber of Commerce will be having a meeting on February 6, 2012 at 5 PM to discuss Newton Day. All are invited.

Suzie Givone will follow up with Kenny to make sure we have port-a-johns for Newton Day.

Miss Newton Contest will be held at the Newton Theatre. The exact day needs to be confirmed. We are trying for June 7, 2012 which is a Thursday. The Spring Street businesses are open on Thursday night. This could be a good thing for the local businesses.

Don Meng discussed the poster contest. In the past there have been over 100 applicants. The winners get their picture framed and they are invited to the council meeting. Sponsors will take care of the prizes.

The ceremony will be on March 23, 2012 at 6 PM. Kerry will ask Tom Russo if we would like to be the Master of Ceremony.

Don Meng stated that the Christmas caroling on Spring Street was very successful. They had almost 100 people. He mentioned that some businesses on Spring Street did not stay open. He is hoping that next year as word gets out they will remain open. The Herald and the Chamber both helped with this event.

NEWS BUSINESS

Albert Kaiser gave an overview of his role as president with Newton Football and their major expenses. He has replaced Scott Schlereth. Mr. Schlereth will remain the NJAL President. Al stated he has no complaints on field use. They do numerous fundraisers to offset registration fees and equipment costs. Their biggest expense is referees. They donated \$250.00 to the house fire victims. He stated that all coaches are background checked and a file is kept. Coaches pay for their background checks. Kerry mentioned that a grant is available to help pay for the background fees.

Nancy Estevez gave an overview of the Newton Swim Club. They are very happy with the pool facilities. They did request we install an additional light at the corner near the DPW building. The invitational which is held in July is their biggest fundraiser along with their snack stand. They

TOWN OF NEWTON
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 18, 2012
6:30 PM

have a swim-a-thon during the season and this past year they made a donation for cystic fibrosis.

Mr. Schlereth will be invited to the next Recreation Meeting.

The Easter egg hunt this year will be held on March 31, 2012 at Memory Park with a rain date April 7, 2012. The contest starts at 10 AM.

Discussion ensued on the type of eggs we could use. In past years, we have ordered from National Entertain. They have children with disabilities stuff the eggs. We have ordered 1,000 stuffed eggs with toys and 1,000 stuffed eggs with candy. The cost is \$240.00

OPEN FORUM

Discussion ensued on changing the menu for the Senior Dinner.

Suzie Givone will talk to Thea and get a feel for how the seniors feel.

The commission will solicit new commission members via the website and the Facebook page. It was suggested to put an ad in the New Jersey Herald for a new Recreation Commission member.

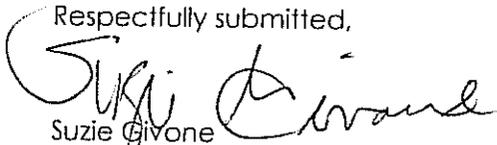
The Commission request that Brock attend a meeting as well as Mr. Schlereth from the NJAL.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a unanimous "aye" vote.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on February 15, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Town's conference center.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzie Givone

Secretary

Recreation Commission