

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

The regular meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:30 PM on April 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 and Suzie Givone

Also present: Jim McKeown, Newton Little League Baseball President

Approval of March 21 2012 minutes. Mrs. Mecaj made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Schmitt seconded the motion.

Baseball president Jim McKeown gave an update on his program. We discussed the condition of the fields and Brock's request to minimize the use of the Little League Field. Mr. McKeown has not received money from the Town from last year as the NJAL has not submitted their paperwork. Kerry will discuss this with Dawn and see if we can break down the contribution by sport to assist the spring sports.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior Luncheon, March 25th. Commission thanked Frank Sebastiano for a job well done. Ludmilla surveyed some of the seniors about a menu change. She said about 2/3 of the seniors would like to try a new menu. It was decided that we will keep the turkey dinner in the fall and try Dominick's in the spring.

Still looking for high school members for the Recreation Commission. One possibility and looking for another.

Mr. Meng spoke about Newton Day. All is set. Not sure how many vendors will be in attendance.

Miss Newton Contest. The subcommittee met prior to this meeting and things are progressing with the contest. Ludmilla will reach out to Kohl's for volunteers and other businesses for donations. Don Meng will approach the local banks for donations. Ludmilla has the applications and she will deliver to the schools in the area. The flyers are completed. Advertising will begin May 1st.

Poster Contest: Don Meng stated the event went well. Most of the applicants were from St. Joseph's School. He will reach out to Merriam Avenue School to see when it will be good for them.

Easter Egg Contest: Was held on the rain date Saturday, April 7, 2012. It went well. Next year will take pictures of winners and send to the NJ Herald.

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Background checks: Kerry stated it is going well. Scheduling is limited. The feedback Kerry is getting is once you get there it goes quick.

Recruiting new members: Kenny Teets, Newton Police and Sergio Borga, Soccer President have expressed an interest. We discussed have a representative from Thorlabs as part of the Commission.

NEWS BUSINESS

The Harvest Dinner was tabled until next year.

We discussed a preliminary schedule for 2013 for budgeting purposes. We agreed to try to implement Movies in the Park and Battle of the Bands for 2013. We tentatively picked September 13, 2013 for Battle of the Bands. A Sub-Committee will be set. We talked about the possibility of partnering with SCCC.

We reviewed the scholarship application. It is in draft form. Mr. Meng has concerns about privacy issues and suggested that we seek legal guidance. The Commission agreed that privacy of the families is of the utmost importance. The Commission stated the following guidelines for allocating scholarship funds: family size relative to income, single parent families, references, working vs. unemployed, ages of children, willingness to volunteer in the program, ability/willingness to contribute a portion of their fees.

OPEN FORUM

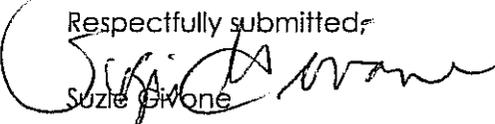
We had a discussion about parking issues i.e. people parking in no parking zones, driving over the grass to get around the gates. Kerry let them know that she has discussed it with the league presidents and hopes to see a change. Kerry asked the Commission not to confront people over the issues but to call the police if they see them driving around the gates. Kerry also reminded the Commission that they do not have special privileges to park in no parking areas.

ADJOURNMENT

Hank Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jim 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 May 16, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Town's conference center.

Respectfully submitted,


Suzie Cione

Secretary, Recreation Commission