

**Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey**  
**Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**June 12, 2013 - 7:00 PM**

The Meeting of the Recreation Commission of the Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m.

**Opening 7:01 p.m.**

**Flag Salute**

**Statement of Adequate Notice**

- Victor Cioni read the following Statement into the Record: “The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, 1975, Chapter 231’ have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

**Roll Call**

- Present: Victor Cioni, Jeff Haines, Joe Pinto, Tim Shanahan
- Also present: Melissa Hommes (7:08), Richard Thompson, Council Liaison, and Susan Turner.

**Minutes of Prior Meetings**

- Jeff Haines moved to approve the minutes from the 6/12/13 meeting with no changes. Seconded by Tim Shanahan. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 2. Minutes approved, motion carried.

**Audience Participation**

- Jeff Haines moved to open the audience participation portion of the meeting. Seconded by Tim Shanahan. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion carried. Audience participation portion opened.
- Ms. Robin Jacoby, 19 Prosper Way, Washington, NJ addressed the commission. She was appearing on behalf of her daughter, Jennifer Feldman, and she read a statement that had been prepared and read by her daughter at the June 5, 2013 council meeting. The statement described Jennifer’s years of working at the Borough Pool in different capacities, including Manager. It included information regarding an incident that occurred in 2012 when Jennifer was a Pool Manager, but not on duty, in which she contacted the local police department regarding the odor of marijuana in the lifeguard room and the behavior of the people present. This was referred to as a “whistleblower” incident in the statement. The prepared statement continued with information regarding Jennifer’s submission of an application for the position of Manager at the Borough Pool for 2013, subsequent phone messages she left for the Recreation Director to return her call, being advised the position was filled, and her appearance before the Borough Council on June 5, 2013 to read said statement. At the council meeting Jennifer stated she had not received a return phone call from the Recreation Director and requested that council intervene. Ms. Jacoby stated that Borough Manager Kristine Blanchard had advised the Recreation Director to call Ms. Feldman. Ms. Jacoby read from a second statement prepared by Jennifer Feldman which described portions of the phone call between herself and the Recreation Director. This statement was presented mostly in the form of dialogue alleged to have taken place during the phone call and covered information regarding when the Manager’s position was advertised, when and how other applicants were interviewed, when the Managers were hired and that all the positions were filled and there was not a Manager’s position available for Jennifer. Ms. Jacoby then spoke of when Jennifer managed at the Pool and how other employees with whom the Recreation Director had spoken may not have liked her management style because she pointed out errors and followed the rules closely. She wondered if the “whistleblower” incident prevented Jennifer from being hired.

- Chairperson Victor Cioni advised Ms. Jacoby that all hiring is handled solely by the Recreation Director. He stated that there was some information regarding the “whistleblower” incident which would preclude it being used against Jennifer and her application; First, the current Recreation Director was not employed by the Borough or the Recreation Commission when the incident occurred. Second, Jennifer’s actions do not constitute a “whistleblower” act because it was not something that was “covered up”. The police were contacted by Jennifer, the police investigated and the police did not press any charges.
- Mr. Robert Torres, Borough Councilman, addressed the commission and asked when and where the pool positions were posted, specifically the Supervisor (Manager) position. The Recreation Director stated that the manager positions were advertised on Craig’s list, the borough website and Recreation’s Facebook page beginning in February and that hiring for that position was completed by April.
- Mr. Torres said the Recreation by-laws state the Recreation Commission must have more than one meeting per month to which Mr. Cioni responded that the minimum requirement is one meeting per month.
- Jeff Haines moved to close the audience participation portion. Tim Shanahan seconded. Ayes : 4 Nays: 0. Motion carried, audience participation closed.

### **Communications**

- None

### **Recreation Director’s Report**

- Melissa will have the Report emailed to all commissioners by Monday

### **Report from Council Liaison**

- Mr. Thompson requested a report on revenue and expenditures related to the concessions stand at the pool. He was advised that the information is available in the monthly Recreation Expenditures Report submitted to the Borough Manager. Richard raised more questions relating to the Borough pool and was advised of the following: 75% of painting at the Grandstand has been completed with the rest to be done shortly; Melissa and Dave Dickson have done all the scraping, sealing, caulking, tiling and painting at the pool to get it ready for the season; All pumps are functional and all inspections have passed; a new freezer and ice cream were donated by Good Humor; the AED unit will be installed in the Manager’s Office at the pool before June 15 and a Certified Rescue Squad member will instruct the lifeguards how to use it properly.

### **Report from Secretary**

- None

### **Old Business**

- None

### **New Business**

- Recreation will set up a table at the Mike Schmidt Memorial Car Show on June 15. Set up will be at 9:00 am. There will be registration and information forms for pool memberships, swimming lessons, swim team, the lacrosse, tennis and baseball clinics and USA Sports Camps. Recreation has donated 5 one day pool passes to the BID for the event. Susan will bring the Recreation Banner and forms Saturday morning.

### **Sports Programs**

- Swim Team – (Joe Pinto) – We have about 30 participants. Practices have started.
- 5k – (Adam Robinson) – Victor spoke with the police chief regarding security at the 5K. Officers are not allowed to volunteer their time. Recreation will consider paying 2 officers for 2 hours that day. Rich Thompson asked that flyers/ information be sent to all residents along the racing route.

- Youth Soccer – (Victor) – No report
- Field Hockey – (Mike Nachbaur) – We received only 2 registrations. They have been referred to Washington Township who is also struggling to form a team this year.
- Street Hockey – (Mike Nachbaur) – No report
- Youth Basketball – (Mike Nachbaur) – No report
- Youth Baseball – (Adam Robinson) – No report
- Girls Softball – (Jeff Haines) – The season is now over. The only problems that occurred were weather related. Jeff has received a lot of positive feedback on our facilities from other teams in the league. The All Star Game did not have as many teams as last year.
- Karate – (TBD) – No report.
- Adult Softball – (TBD) –No report.
- Adult Baseball – (Adam Robinson) –No report.
- Men’s Basketball –(Victor) -No report
- Pool – (Victor) – No report
- Tennis Clinic – (Victor) – The paperwork reserving the courts at the high school is completed. We may order some smaller racquets based on the number and ages of registrants.
- Lacrosse Clinic – (Tim Shanahan) –No report.

## Proposals

- Victor proposed providing the Recreation director with a \$40.00 per month stipend for cell phone usage, retroactive to April 1, 2013, until she receives a Borough issued phone. Jeff Haines moved to provide the stipend. Joe Pinto seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion carried, phone stipend will be provided.
- Victor proposed a Recreation By-Laws policy change as follows:  
 Re: Recreation Director and Recreation Secretary  
 The proposed recreation policy change effects the above stated positions and requires a majority vote of the Recreation Commissioners in attendance to take effect. The proposed change is as follows:  
 As an added incentive to maintain and attract new candidates in the future the Washington Borough Recreation Commission agrees that the sitting Recreation Director and Recreation Secretary are entitle to a free family pool season pass as well as enroll up to two (2) children under the age of 18, into any Borough Recreation sponsored program at no cost (limit of 2 programs per calendar year). This does not apply to any 3<sup>rd</sup> party sponsored or run program, activity or clinic.  
 If adopted this amendment will be added to the Recreation By-Laws as an addendum.  
 Tim Shanahan moved to accept the proposal. Victor Cioni seconded. Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1  
 Motion carried, proposal accepted.

## Commission Comments

- Richard Thompson- Rich would like a copy of the lifeguard, cashier, and manager employee handbooks.
- Joe Pinto – Joe asked about the policy of not allowing volunteers to work as cashiers at the Grandstand snack bar during a Softball game. He was told of the Borough’s policy to not allow any volunteers, only Borough employees, to handle money during a Borough sponsored event. Commissioners are not considered Borough employees. Volunteers can hand out food. Recreation pays for the initial food purchase and all net proceeds go into the Softball fund. Plans for next season include contacting in early 2014 cashiers who work this summer in order to set up tentative dates on which they could work Softball concessions.
- Adam Zimmer – absent
- Jeff Haines – Jeff is trying to set up an off season softball clinic.

- Adam Robinson – absent
- Michael Nachbaur – absent
- Tim Shanahan – Tim is meeting with Warren Hills Lacrosse regarding borrowing Lacrosse equipment for the clinic.
- Victor – no comments

## Recap

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## Adjournment

- Jeff Haines moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. Tim Shanahan seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0.  
Motion carried

Adjourn **8:21 PM**