



Spotswood Recreation Department

Reaching Every Citizen



Meeting Minutes - February 10th, 2021

In Attendance - Diane Spiegelhoff, Rich O'Brien, Stephen Zmijewski, Jim Curnal, John Lavelle, Angela Andre, Andrew Zaborney, Sal Masucci. Donna Faulkenberry attended via telephone.

Call to Order (Rich O'Brien) (Called to order at 7:03)

- Marylin Israel- Liaison
 - Introduction
- Masks distributed by Steve Z.
- Review prior month's minutes (January).
 - Motion made by Andrew, Steve seconded approved last month's minutes

Completed Programs and Events

- Valentine's Day Card Exchange (Donna)
 - Received over 500 cards/notes from the community
 - Received from multiple sources (NHS, Girls Scouts, etc.)
 - Very proud of the work put in by the community

Status of Active Programs

- Running/Athletic Club (Bob)
 - No report
- REC Newsletter (Melissa)
 - March Newsletter theme is Spring Awakening
 - Embrace change and prepare for spring
 - February 22nd to send in the article (will be sent out March 1st)
 - Article about unplugging and away from the phone
 - Article about Spring fruits/vegetables
 - Melissa will write about the Giving Basket Program
- Valentines Pet Photo Contest (Donna)
 - Different categories including small dogs, large dogs, cats, etc.
 - Prizes were given out to winners (Pet Co. gift cards)
- Giving Basket Program (Melissa)
 - Community giving baskets
 - Collecting baskets on Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. to noon
 - Dates: February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20

Upcoming Programs and Events

- Easter Egg Scramble (Group)
 - Andrew
 - Drive throughs could work
 - Not sure when yet
 - Definitely keep event
 - Drive through most plausible
 - Idea: Invite Easter Bunny for people to take pictures
 - Have clear barrier for people to stand behind
 - The issue would be crowding b/c people would have to get out of the car and then take the picture
 - Bunny could stand by the car and the photographer takes pictures
 - Safer since people won't have to get out of the car
 - The weather may be a concern
 - Andrew less inclined to invite more people than there needs to be
 - Question of whether Easter Bunny is enough for event
 - What would other people do?
 - Rich suggests having different egg stations
 - Doesn't want people coming out of a car
 - The flow of traffic also concern
 - What decorations to use for Easter
 - Would be very plain
 - Consensus to do drive-through event
 - Consensus to keep people in cars
 - Not planning on hiding Easter eggs
 - Normally would be held on 3/27/21
 - Need a permit for the front of the High School/Senior lot
 - 12:00 - 2:00 P.M accepted as a good time
 - Reach out to PTA to confirm the date/time
 - Change of Date: 3/20/21 and Rain Date: 3/27/21
 - Andrew will talk to Melissa about the dates to get PTA
 - Other organizations joining in:
 - Could just be different stations where each organization hands out different candies or items they choose
 - Have formal invite to different groups
 - Uniform Services, Mayor/Council, Spotswood Library
 - Residents of Helmetta and Milltown fine to attend
- Communications
 - Posted Valentine cards
 - February 1 Community Connections newsletter posted
 - Pet photo contest posted February 15
 - Andrew spoke to Donna about new YouTube videos

Unfinished Business

- Soccer Committee Report
 - By-Laws - Angela / Sal
 - Send over By-Laws
 - Outlined what would/wouldn't go towards a REC program
 - Examined By-Laws of Spotswood Soccer Club
 - Already have By-Laws for Spotswood REC
 - Could make a document (operating manual) from the bi-laws instead
 - Inventory - John
 - Equipment
 - Younger kids use size 3 ball (25)
 - Size 4 balls (20)
 - Flags (20)
 - Pop-up tents (6)
 - Nets for bigger fields available
 - Need paint
 - Have old jerseys
 - More for the older kids
 - Shed
 - Leaks
 - Ice problems
 - Would rather have shed completely replaced
 - Would Soccer Club pay for removal/replacement?
 - Finance - Sal
 - Using money from soccer for travel, buy equipment, and donate rest to REC
 - Unclear what final balance is currently
 - If startup money needed, REC doesn't have any for it
 - Borough would not take up any of the liabilities of the club
 - Fees for refs need to be considered
 - Perhaps move this to next year to have time to plan this
 - Discussed how to pay referees (voucher payment approach)
 - Soccer refs sometimes expect money right after the game
 - Hard to get referees from high school students
 - Survey – Glen
 - Has form with information about the age of kids, interest,
 - Put the survey out after things have been certified (concerning actually absorbing Soccer Club)
 - Property - Andrew

- How would International Paper Soccer work with REC regarding land?
 - Most likely would still work because the current lease is under the borough
 - Spotswood Club doesn't have enough money to remove the shed
 - Potentially offer free Rutgers certification to incentivize people to sign up as coaches
 - Spotswood REC would have to budget \$720 to certify 20 new coaches. What about other programs for free certification?
 - Spotswood REC does not want to take on the responsibility of travel soccer
- Virtual REC refresh (Rich)
 - Send an email to Rich regarding the Virtual REC Center
 - Send new links, videos, etc.
- Spring Sports (Group)
 - Jim still not comfortable with running a program
 - Wait another month to make a decision
 - Rich feels the same way about Tee Ball
 - How do you engage/instruct 4-year-olds in an environment like this?
 - Would be too risky to do this
 - Table for another month

New Business

- Steve will be leaving Spotswood by April and so he will be stepping down from REC
 - April will be his last meeting
- Fishing Derby 2021
 - Would have to do it at Helmetta Lake
 - June 26/27th or October 23rd
 - Covid would have to improve
 - Approval from Helmetta needed
 - Perhaps have a virtual fishing contest
 - People submit their pictures
- Let Rich know if people are uncomfortable with an in-person meeting as he would like to conduct the March meeting in person again

Adjourn

- Jim motioned to adjourn
- Angela seconded it
- Meeting done at 8:22 P.M.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2021

Location to be announced.