



# Spotswood Recreation Department

*Reaching Every Citizen*

## Meeting Minutes - March 10th, 2021

**In Attendance** - Diane Spiegelhoff, Rich O'Brien, Stephen Zmijewski, Donna Faulkenberry, Cindy Alongi, Bob Hulse, Marilyn Israel, Sal Masucci, Dan Hurley, Jim Curnal, Melissa Hallerman, Andrew Zaborney, John Lavelle, Glen Betler.

### Call to Order (Rich O'Brien) (Called to order at 7:04)

- Reintroduced Marylin, introduced Vada Leaver to the group.
- Discussed the loss of Frank Yusko who had just passed away. Moment of Silence.
- Review prior month's minutes (February).
  - Motion made by Andrew, John seconded approval of last months minutes

### Completed Programs and Events

- Valentine's Day Pet Photo Contest
  - Received over 50 entries
  - Able to show off cute pets throughout town
  - Melissa delivered 8, \$10 Petco gift cards to the pet winners, families were excited
  - It was fun, especially while there was not much going on, a lot of positive feedback
  - Andrew made a nice video of the pets
  - Beth (Donna's co-worker) created nice pictures/collages of the pets
  - Overall successful event

### Status of Active Programs

- Running/Athletic Club (Bob)
  - There are short term, motivational challenges posted on Facebook
  - 5K website will be up by the end of the month
  - The 5K is usually the second Saturday in September, but this year that lands on 9/11. Group decides it is best to push it back a week.
  - 5K is now scheduled for September 18, 2021
  - All is going well
- REC Newsletter (Melissa)
  - The April Newsletter theme is Learning to Grow.
    - It will help the community to reflect how we have grown over the past year
      - Individually and as a community
    - April 22 is Earth Day
      - Want community to learn how to celebrate
    - *Articles for Community Connections* due March 22
    - Hiatus from articles in July/August



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- Next year the newsletter may occur quarterly
- Giving Basket Program (Melissa)
  - Community giving baskets
  - Collecting toys for easter baskets
  - Collecting baskets on Saturday 3/13 and 3/20 from 10:00 A.M. to noon
    - Final collection will be held during the Easter drive through
  - Overall doing great
- Communications Update (Donna)
  - The school changed its email blast policy
    - Now all programs/departments are grouped together on the same email
    - Not as visible as before- people might not know about events due to new format
    - Work on other ways of communication
      - Facebook, Nixle etc.
    - March 20 will be the next email blast

## Upcoming Programs and Events

- Easter Egg Parade (Donna)
  - The REC, EMS, Police, Fire, Library, Office on Aging will be participating
  - Senior lot of the High School, out through Mott Place
  - 1-3pm
  - March 20
  - Diane requests 12 tables and 20 chairs
  - The Easter Bunny will be Nick Andre
  - Rich says Denise Spicuzzo requested help with stuffing eggs for the PTA
    - Group agrees to it
    - Need a time and a place to help stuff
      - Either Knights of Columbus or Office of Aging
    - No objections, everyone is on board
  - Diana got 24 big decorative eggs to decorate drive through
  - Rec bags will contain a rabbit, and jelly beans
  - Planned on 300 goodie bags, and have some extra goodie bags.
  - Photos will be taken
  - Diane bought rabbit ears for us to wear

## Unfinished Business

- Spring Sports
  - Rich says no T-Ball this year even though SYBSL is beginning in April.



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- Because of the ages of the kids being so young it is best to go 1 more season without
    - Could be offered in the fall
  - Jim Curnal says no flag football yet this season
    - Too unpredictable
    - Too many unknowns still
- Spring Sports Discussion
  - Progress, but summer might be better timing
  - Push the date past the start date to make sure we can safely restart (maybe fall)
  - No REC department nearby is doing traditional spring events
  - Discuss doing alternative events like drive-in movies.
  - Diane will know the budget by March/April for June/July
  - Looking into buying our own movie equipment versus renting it
  - Don't know if there will be any school facilities open for camps in the summer
- Soccer Program (Andrew)
  - The first discussion with the Soccer Club went well
  - Discussed that the REC committee and Soccer Club should sit down together
    - Need both groups to be on the same page before moving forward
  - Rec can't take over until they dissolve
  - Not taking over travel soccer, just rec to start
  - It's not going to be an easy lift off until 2022
  - Andrew will arrange a meeting with Angela before the next meeting to discuss when the Soccer club is shutting down
  - Who are the new coordinators was discussed
  - Its too much for one or two people, need a whole team
  - John says that there is a lot to it and needs to be more than one person because there are a lot of factors needed to be handled
    - Fields need to be lined, goals put up/down, flags, etc.
  - Donna asks if it will be comparable to flag football
  - Registration cost is a lot in surrounding towns, considering lower it
  - Need a group together
    - Rich, Melissa, Dan, Glen (registration) Angela (maybe) are willing to help
  - Goal: start basic and build
  - Need to be promoted
    - We can get around 70/80 kids to start
    - will get kids between school/friends hearing about it and wanting to play
  - It is a loss to the community without the Soccer club
  - Marvinny and Reid may be willing to help run camps and such
- Fishing Derby



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- Dan mentioned the Helmetta Lake
  - Helmetta does not have many fish
  - Spotswood is being dredged
  - Need a lake- maybe Thompson?
    - Might need a permit for Thompson
    - Explore and research it

## **New Business**

- Rich and Steve talk about the Google Drive folders
  - Rich will create a new folder for Steve to put all the indoor soccer information in
  - Need to refresh the folders, add new uploads
  - Donna and Rich look into sharing access for the drive
  - Rich will send out instructions and look into how to share
- Tricky Tray
  - PTA asked the REC for a prize of a free registration, valid for 2 years
  - Jim motions
  - Steve Seconds All in favor.
  - Bob motions to offer a free 5k registration, Allows winner to use it within 2 years,
    - Cindy seconds, all in favor.
- Sal suggests Project Senior Week will offer a Tricky Tray
  - State said no to virtual bingos so the project will do a Handbag Raffle and Tricky Tray for the Seniors. Bob motions, Steve seconds to offer a REC and 5k registration to Project Senior week as prizes. All in Favor.
- Diane got a letter from the 8th grade advisor
  - Asking for the 8th grade scholarship
    - Sent by Cara Nascimento on March 2, 2021
  - 2- \$50 scholarships for 1 male / 1 female
  - Steve motioned, Donna seconded it, all in favor.
- Rich states he was approached by Vizzi and Delversano about basketball summer camp
  - We don't know what facilities
  - Possibly use a park for a week
  - It would happen the later half of June
  - The money goes to the coaches and district
  - Need to check with Borough Risk Manager
    - Steve says why not
    - Cindy asks about the covid protocol with it
      - Discuss that we need the parents to sign off/ waivers, so to cover the Rec Dept



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- Glen suggests we discuss with the risk manager
        - Maybe invite them to the next meeting, might email them in the meantime
        - Other summer camps may reach out
- Donna suggests partnering with the Office on Aging to do something special with the seniors in May for Older Americans Month
  - Community of strength
  - Bridge community members- next meeting
  - Cindy asks about an alternative possibly with the budget
    - We will do something
    - However budget is unknown
- Andrew makes the decision to step down after the Easter events
  - Needs to be able to spend more time with his family, explore new things, and take a break
  - He is pleased with all the REC has done
  - He will also be stepping away from the PTA
  - He is looking forward to the drive-in movie nights
  - Will be there to play music on 3/20
  - Stepping aside from the soccer program, need new people to step up
    - Sal will take it on with Angela
  - The REC Department will be losing Steve and Andrew by April
    - New nomination for the vice chair needed.
- Marylin brings a new Multicultural Celebration project and asks the Rec Department for support
  - Rich asks her to email the board
    - She will email the board and offers to help stuff eggs
  - She asks Melissa to add in the Rec Newsletter something about Diversity
  - She wants her project to include the Rec Department
  - She has Borough Hall, and 10 leading participants
    - The 10 participants bring their own 2 dishes from their cultures  
Sample sizes
  - Community will come together and learn
  - Projected date is Saturday, July 17, 2021 at the Knights of Columbus from 3-6pm  
Celebration to take place annually
  - Maybe use RSVP
  - Rec will partner with her by helping with management, advertising, flyers, and will attend
  - 10 cultures represented will set up their own station
    - You will walk around the room and learn about new cultures
  - Donna mentioned that East Brunswick does this event



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- There will be 100 people allowed as of now, but as the government increases to 50% there will be 145 people allowed in the Knights Hall
  - Maybe even higher, but we should stick to the RSVP method

## **Adjourn**

- Melissa motioned to adjourn
- Glen Betler seconded it
- Meeting done at 8:26 P.M.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2021

Location to be announced.

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