



Spotswood Recreation Department

Reaching Every Citizen

Meeting Minutes - April 14th, 2021

In Attendance - Diane Spiegelhoff, Rich O'Brien, Stephen Zmijewski, Donna Faulkenberry, Cindy Alongi, Bob Hulse, Marilyn Israel, Sal Masucci, Jim Curnal, Melissa Hallerman, John Lavelle, Glen Betler, Angela Andre

Call to Order (Rich O'Brien) (Called to order at 7:01)

- Rich reviews prior month's minutes (March).
 - Motion made by Jim, John seconded approval of last month's minutes
- Introduces Coach Vizzi and Mr. Del Aversano re: Summer Basketball Camp
 - Summer basketball camp - the risk manager and Boro Hall both gave the ok
 - They asked for support and Rec has agreed
 - Vizzi says that this will be year 4 or 5 for this camp at the High School
 - They will follow high school athletics COVID protocol (temp. checks and Covid Forms daily)
 - It will be July 6th-9th from 9am-12pm
 - 10-14 year olds (3rd-8th grade), co-ed program.
 - Del Aversano says that the numbers have increased over the past few years
 - The limiting due to covid may end up splitting the time into 2 hour sessions by age, or maybe even using the middle school, depending on sign-ups
 - They ask us for help advertising this activity through our website
 - We will do set up and deduct \$4.95 per enrollee to cover credit card charges
 - The rest goes to the coaches who help out, and to the basketball programs for things like their Hudl accounts
 - We partner with SHS
 - Glen motioned, Steve seconds, all were in favor of partnering on this event.
 - Mr. Vizzi and Mr. DelAversano suggest additional summer camps, starting with football camp through the month of July.
 - We want kids and families to stay in Spotswood versus out of town programs.
 - 5 week program, 5 prices, need the coaches on board
 - Similar pricing, but depends on the length of the activity
 - Not going to run different sports simultaneously
 - The Rec Dept asked for time to discuss it, seek Boro approval and get back to the coaches.
 - Melissa says it is a fabulous idea to get the students out of the house, and keep their mental health strong.
 - John suggests maybe even putting out some of the easier sports to younger kids to try and get more people to participate.
 - Soccer, Softball, Baseball



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- Del says yes, but the times would just have to be shorter
- Melissa brings up “Buddy Ball” idea for kids with autism
 - Del says maybe, but in the fall

Completed Programs and Events

- Easter Egg Parade (Donna)
 - Successful event, it was a beautiful day
 - There was a good number of people who showed up, but we wish there were more
 - Nick Andre did a very good job with the Easter Bunny role
 - Sal suggested that maybe we could cut the time down to an hour for next year.
- Diane reads a very nice thank you note from St. Peter’s hospital thanking us for the toy donation
- No PTA update

Status of Active Programs

- Running/Athletic Club (Bob)
 - Nothing new
 - 2 people have signed up for the 5K so far
 - We will decide the live versus virtual situation in June
 - It needs to be planned between June and August if we go with a live race
- REC Newsletter (Melissa)
 - “April showers bring May flowers”
 - This month's Newsletter theme is *Time to Bloom*
 - Just like flowers, people too need time to bloom
 - We are finally allowed to go outside, and now especially with the vaccine
 - We are moving on!
 - Submissions are due April 26
 - Jennifer Asprocolas works with the Art Department and district arts for music and poetry
 - May is Mental Health Awareness Month
 - Ms. Buchanan has many different free apps to help with mental health
- Community Giving Program (Melissa)
 - Successful, and heartwarming
 - We got over 100 baskets for the less fortunate kids for Easter.
 - We even had extra and were able to donate them to St. Peter’s
 - Doing a virtual collection for Domestic Violence
- Communications Update (Donna)
 - March 20 was the community giving basket reminder
 - Easter Pictures were posted
 - Spring 5K announced
 - Melissa and Tami sent great pictures



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- The next Newsletter will go out on the 1st of May.
- The 7th will be collections for Mother's and Father's Day
- Bob asks if in May the reminder for the 5K will go out
 - We will decide in June as to whether virtual or a live race

Upcoming Programs and Events

- We are looking for new events
 - Last year we did Zeppoles drive through, Drive in Movie, Italian Ice drive through
 - Melissa says the drive in movie was a successful event, there was a lot of excitement
 - Rich puts out the idea of a possible Car Show/ Concert
 - Donna says we should look into it
 - We need to decide a carshow with or without a band
 - Reach out to Kroozin Productions and see if they will partner
 - Maybe towards the end of the summer
 - Joe's Zeppoles
 - People liked them
 - Italian Ice event not to be redone.

Unfinished Business

- Summer Basketball Camp (with Vizzi and Del)
 - We want to get involved, and support
 - Glen says it is the same registration format as the Arts & Crafts
 - We remain flat, there is no liability with the paperwork
 - Diane will check to make sure with the BA
 - So far at the minimum, basketball is approved to have our name on it
 - Glen asks if we would need to then make any updates to our website
 - Diane will look into it with the Boro Attorney
 - Do we need to add disclaimers/warnings?
- Arts & Crafts (Diane)
 - Not comfortable to do it this year because it is a partial inside event with many young children for an extensive amount of time
 - Managing tennis would be easier because it is a completely outside activity with a shorter time
 - We shouldn't have to limit the amount of kids who want to participate
 - It would be hard to socially distance that many little kids
- Soccer (Sal)
 - Met on April 8th to discuss the closure of travel, and the pick up of Rec
 - We might need to find a storage space
 - Angela says the closing travel day will happen around June/July
 - There are no outstanding liabilities or costs to close out



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- Insurance is good to claim Inland Field
- if/when we decide to move forward with Rec soccer it should be in the spring of 2022
- Sal agrees to run it, he just needs support from us, the coaches, and parents
- There is no conflict with Inland
- The trailer there will be disposed for free
 - If we need a storage space, it should definitely be smaller
- Funds can purchase us a new trailer
- The soccer club's trailer is technically at the high school
 - If there is need for immediate storage we can use that one
- Flag Football (Jim)
 - Still in favor of holding off for this year
 - Rich asks the group if it's necessary to send out something saying we are postponing t-ball and flag football
 - Group says yes
- Fishing Derby (Dan - Absent)
 - Followed up with Middlesex county parks
 - June 6th isn't booked at Thompson Park.
 - Additional insurance is needed
 - Limited to 200 people
 - Must put out covid protocol
 - Masks, Socially Distant
 - We can pull it off, but will people go?
 - People might be bored
 - Drive might be too far
 - Middlesex may pick it up
 - Due to it being a county park, there is going to need to be a sign in registration table
 - Free event
 - Steve brings up how it is good advertisement for Spotswood Rec Department
 - Motion to approve June 6th, Time TBD, At Thompson Park
 - Angela Motions, Sal Seconds
 - It is not a free fishing day so adults need a fishing license
 - We need to look further into it to see if they require us to put 6 ft. markings down
 - Vote so that Dan can get further with it, everyone says yes, and is on board
 - Need to assist Dan with this
 - Cindy, Diane, Bob, Jim, Rich all agree to help

New Business

- Vice Chairman Vacancy
 - Bob volunteers



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- Bob is voted in as new vice chair
- Donna - Frank Yusko was a supporter of the Veterans Memorial at Dora Avenue Park and was responsible for the 911 Memorial at the High School.
 - Thinking about doing a nice Flag event
 - Reached out to EB Rec for advice on their Field of Flags event. They supplied the name of the company that makes flags
 - It is \$17 per flag, selling for \$50, it can be customized, flags to be flown from Memorial Day until Flag Day
 - Money gets donated to a veterans group
 - We would put the flags by the 9/11 Memorial (that Frank made)
 - We can use the veteran's walkway by the tennis court if we need more room
 - People purchasing flags can write messages for any veteran
 - Marilyn doesn't think Boro Hall or the Board of Ed will have a problem with it
 - They buy a flag, we plant it, after Flag Day, they come and take their flag
 - Motion to approve Melissa, Second Cindy - everyone agrees
- Bob Asks about doing the Rutgers training virtual/ or live
 - It is on Rich's radar to do it, he has the curriculum
- Steve then asks about being CPR Certified, AED Certified, and First Aid Certified
 - Have to check for expiration
- Angela asks if the Rec will allow the 8th grade class Semi-formal committee can borrow the hay bales from the Halloween Spooktacular
 - The group answer was yes!
- Diane presents Steve his commemorative gift for leaving the board.
 - Steve was on the board for 16 years, from 2005-2021. Rich thanks Steve for his years of faithful service. Steve receives a standing ovation.
- Diane and Marylin have a new idea
 - They had a meeting for a grant for the Michael Road Park
 - We put it in capital improvement; for basketball courts
 - We can get a committee to meet Saturday Morning for recommendations, for example; more sitting area or courts
 - Rich asks if Shannon is coming up with Grants for free, or if she is planning on billing boro
 - Marlyin will look into it
 - She is targeting a \$200,000 grant
 - Does she know what we want though?
 - Vacant asphalt, playground, courts in between, and seating area where the playground is now
 - Offering to find new grants



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- Sal asks if there will be an influx of people in a residential area, and if we will have to keep it clean
 - The influx of people will not matter too much, because there is a park there already, we aren't knocking stuff down to create one
- Diane asks for a park committee
 - Diane will be the chair, with Sal, Melissa, Angela, and Glen on the committee
 - Angela asks about adding a dog park
 - Dora Park is a possible location to have a dog park
- Park group will meet on the 24th, at 10am
- Next report Marylin will ask Shannon her cost on the estimate, if any

Adjourn

- Bob seconded it
- Meeting done at 8:30 P.M.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2021

Location to be announced.