

Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee
Minutes of March 16, 2022 Meeting

The meeting of the Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee convened at 7:07 pm on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at the Springdale Conference Room, Warren Town Hall, 46 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey.

Open Public Meeting Statement - Adequate notice of this meeting was given by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board and sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Courier News, and Echoes Sentinel as required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

In attendance were: David Cole, Zachary Drozd, Aparna Virmani (arrived at 7:46pm), Daniel Croson (left at 8:02pm), Heather Silver, Recreation Director Joe Passaro, Township Committee Person Jolanta Maziarz and Township Committee Person Gary DiNardo (left at 7:56pm).
Absent: Joe Filo and Franco Caruso.

Zachary Drozd motioned to approve the re-organization meeting minutes from January 12, 2022 and Heather Silver 2nd.

LIAISON POSITIONS

Zach spoke to the committee members about creating liaison positions in order to help make the committee more active. He explained that this was a practice that was used with the Recreation Commission and he believes that this will be a good practice to bring back to this Advisory Committee. At each meeting, liaisons can give an overview as to what they have observed. Both Township Committee Persons Jolanta Maziarz and Gary DiNardo agreed that it is a good idea to have these roles within the Advisory Committee. Members discussed the liaison appointments they would like to be assigned too and for those who were absent will be assigned a different meeting. Dave Cole stated that in the past he was a liaison to the sport groups but it was agreed by the committee that this is not a necessary liaison position anymore since the Recreation Director has an open line of communication with the sport organizations. Jolanta stated that having a liaison position for diversity/culture would be a good addition to the new roles as it is a good way to incorporate other cultures in our community.

Dave talked about the importance of expanding facilities due to the developing in town and looking at the eastern side of town with adding a park. Jolanta stated that some of the new developments where asked to put in recreation facilities and she believes that Chase is one of them. Joe told the Advisory Committee that back in 2018, he sent a recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Boards about having these developers add recreation facilities within their plans to help alleviate the burden on Township facilities.

Daniel Croson motioned to approve the liaison positions and Zachary Drozd 2nd with all others in favor.

Liaison appointments:

- Events- Heather Silver
- Trails- Daniel Croson
- Playgrounds- Zachary Drozd
- Facilities- Dave Cole

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Director, Joe Passaro stated that the pavilion project is currently out to bid so we will see how the numbers come back with everything going on with the supply chain. The bid will close at the end of the month so he should have more information to report back at next meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT- Joe Passaro reviewed key points from the Directors Report. See attached for report.

Joe spoke about the Duderstadt Turf field replacement is being discussed as it is becoming unsafe. He stated that the quotes he received for the replacement project also included removing the blue stone border with turf. Zach asked how much time we have left with use of the field and Joe stated that Sports Care who does the field grooming and risk assessment says we are right on the edge of having to close the field due to it being unsafe. Joe reminded Gary DiNardo about looking into getting water to the front fields at Duderstadt so they can be irrigated and Gary said he would look into that. Joe also reminded that committee that at this time we cannot go to the county for the same grant we received for the pavilion since we have to have the pavilion project started first. The prices range for the field replacement with the border solution from approximately \$430,000-\$653,000.

The Municipal Baseball Field project is currently out to bid and will close towards the end of the month. He explained that the major cost of the project is the proper infield so the specs of the project was changed with the levels of excavation to help control the costs of the project. WBSI is contributing close to \$100,000 towards improvements to the Municipal Field, which include new scoreboards, dugouts and will pitch in towards the drainage project.

The Municipal Tennis Court has a bad crack on court one where it had to be shut down due to it being unsafe. The plan was to tie the resurfacing project with the other work going on at the municipal complex. Dave believes that the courts were resurfaced back in 2015 so we only got about 5-6 years from that project and Dave stated they started to deteriorate after 3 years. Gary suggested fixing the court as soon as we can since summer is approaching and the courts will receive more use. Aparna asked if there is a warranty with these types of projects so that we can approach the companies that did the work to fix the problem. Jolanta believed that it probably would need to be added in the bid specs and that is something to ask the lawyers for the next project.

Joe stated to the committee that he would like to move the Winter Festival to December and call it a Holiday Festival. Members were not opposed and Zach stated that he received positive feedback with having the event in March.

DISCUSSION

Due to time, Zach asked if we should table the discussion items to next meeting. Zach motioned to approve tabling the discussion items to next meeting and Aparna 2nd with all others in favor.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Aparna asked if we can work with other towns such as Watchung and partner with shared services and facilities. Jolanta said she wants to work on having shared services or facilities with certain towns like Watchung. Joe Passaro brought up the conversation of merging WBSI with Watchung Little league since both leagues can be stronger together but this would have to be agreed upon between the two organizations.

ADJOURNMENT 8:15 PM Next meeting, Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 7:00 pm - Warren Town Hall Springdale Conference Room

Submitted by: Amanda Frech, Recreation Advisory Committee Secretary

Directors Report

1. Pavilion project out to bid as well the Improvements to the Municipal baseball complex.
2. The plans for the New Basketball Court and playground are being redesigned and hopefully will be moving along shortly.
3. Duderstadt Turf Field Replacement is being discussed.
4. The Winter Festival finally happened on March 5th. Another great success by Warren Recreation. I'd like to thank those on the committee that helped out with the event. Special thanks to Linda Devine who is always there to help with the Soccer organization.
5. Tennis Instruction to start on April 25th
6. Plans for Summer camp are in the works.
7. Upcoming events:
 - *Sports Recognition Dinner March 23rd, Keynote speaker Chuck Reubling from Delbarton, bio attached. RSVP by March 9th
 - *Fishing Derby May 21th
 - *Tentative date for the Fall Festival TBD, in conjunction with Warren Police dept. for their 50th anniversary.