

Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee
Minutes of June 9, 2022 Meeting

The meeting of the Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee convened at 7:06 pm on Thursday, June 9, 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, Daniel Croson, Heather Silver (arrived at 7:08pm), Franco Caruso and Recreation Director Joe Passaro.

Zachary Drozd motioned to approve the meeting minutes from March 16, 2022 and Daniel Croson 2nd.

Zachary Drozd stated to the committee that he wanted to change the order of the agenda. The pavilion project and baseball field improvement to be addressed in the Directors Report and the discussion of the Advisory Committee role in Annual Report development to be moved to the end of the meeting. All members were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ratification of liaison appointments made during March 16, 2022 meeting
 - Zachary Drozd made a motion to ratify the liaison appointments from the March 16, 2022 meeting and Daniel Croson 2nd with all others in favor.
- Discussion of any new/additional liaison positions
 - Zach opened up the floor to Aparna and Franco to find out which liaison position they would be interested in being appointed to. Aparna expressed that she would be interested in Culture and Diversity. Dan asked Aparna if she still wanted to run the cultural event she was planning last October this year and she said that she was interested in running that again. Franco said that he is interested in facilities. Dave Cole stated that he will be moving out of Warren by the end of the month and will then no longer be a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee.
 - Zachary Drozd motioned to approve Franco Caruso as the Facilities liaison and Aparna Virmani as the Culture and Diversity liaison. Daniel Croson 2nd with all others in favor.

LIAISON REPORTS

Dan stated that the next trail he plans to walk is Dealaman Nature Trail and Pond. He also stated that he went to East County Park and noticed washout from the trails that he reported to the Recreation Department to pass along to the county. Joe Passaro explained that the county will have to repair the washout at East County Park and that Dealaman Pond is very muddy even when DPW adds chips to the trails. Joe went on to explain that he has plans to make trailheads more open and accessible similar to what was done at Glenhurst and he is just waiting to get that done as there is a lot being spent on other projects. Zach asked if there is anything actionable that can be done. Joe explained that he will stay on top of it to make sure it gets accomplished.

Zach had nothing new to report about the playgrounds but did inform the committee that he notified the Recreation Department about graffiti and broken equipment at the Municipal Complex Playground.

Dave stated that he went to look at facilities in Basking Ridge to try to compare to what Warren has. Basking Ridge has over 12 different facilities such as Pleasant Valley Pool and even has DPW staff dedicated to just maintain facilities.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

DIRECTORS REPORT- See attached for report.

Zach asked how long the baseball field project would take to complete. Joe responded that the project will start after WBSI's season and will be finished before fall ball. The project will include putting grass into the infield on M3 along with fixing the drainage so that way WBSI will not lose weeks of play to wet field. The future goal is to get M6 turfed so that many different age groups could play on that field

Dan asked about the summer concert series and the issue with the stage. Joe explained that the Recreation Department has been working with Sally DeFelice from the Warren School Board Office to see if we can rent a stage from one of the schools. If that is not an option, we will have to rent a stage from a rental company every week.

Zach asked about the Holiday Festival. Joe explained that the Warren Chamber of Commerce is no longer active so they will no longer host the Holiday Walk. He stated we could take it over and combine the event together with elements of the Winter Festival and Fall Festival. He would aim to have the event either December 3 or December 10.

DISCUSSION of Advisory Committee role in Annual Report development

Zach started the conversation that this has been a contentious topic but he does not want it to be. He passed around a copy of an email he received from Joe Passaro with a response from Recreation Liaison, Jolanta Maziarz regarding the annual report in regards to the ordinance. Zach was not giving any criticism towards Jolanta's feedback on the email about the ordinance. He went on to state that Joe's email prior to Jolanta's was unprofessional and then read the email. Daniel Croson stated that he wanted it stated in the minutes that Mark Krane should be made aware of the email. A discussion took place regarding the annual report and Joe apologized for the email and stated it was an emotional response. Joe stated that he will have a draft of the report at the November meeting so that members can give input. Heather brought up that maybe the committee needed a different structure and questioned if it should be restructured. Aparna stated to give it a few months as she already sees a difference with giving members liaison positions. All members agreed that having the liaison positions will help to give the Advisory Committee accountability and will help to create structure within the committee. Franco spoke that he has been a resident for 12 years in Warren expecting greatness and that the email was not appropriate but the prior director did not give the support to the summer staff as Joe does.

ADJOURNMENT 8:13 PM Next meeting, Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 7:00 pm - Warren Town Hall Springdale Conference Room

Submitted by: Amanda Frech, Recreation Advisory Committee Secretary

Director's Report 6.9.22

1. Fishing Derby was a complete success with close to 300 residents enjoying the day. Thank you to the Blue Ridge Club, without them many events would not happen for Recreation in Warren.
2. Municipal Baseball Field Improvement project will start June/ July with much needed overdue drainage work. WBSI has made a considerable contribution in the project. The organization has made significant improvements such as New scoreboards, sprinklers, grass infields and the dugouts, as well contributed monetarily to the drainage project.
3. Municipal Pavilion project will start early fall and take 8-9 months weather permitting to be completed. So far we have sold close to 100 bricks at \$75 per brick. We continue to sell the personalized bricks to raise funds for the project.
4. Tennis court repaving project is moving along as we are gathering information from our engineer on the court condition. It may need a full re paving and not just a re surfacing. The Greenwood Meadows courts also need resurfacing, as well. We hope to use at least one of those courts for Pickle ball in the near future.
5. The Municipal Recreation area improvements with the new Basketball court and Playground may be starting shortly as we complete the last details on the lighting for the new court and the existing courts. I have a meeting planned with the WYBA as they would like to contribute to the Lighting project.
6. The Township Committee approved the Duderstadt turf Field replacement. That will also start in the early Fall. We were hoping to start in the summer but our approval was late to get on the schedule of the Turf Company.
The project will include replacing the border around the field, which at this point is rocks. WHSA will make a considerable contribution to this project as well do many other improvements to the complex such as netting, stands and possibly a real bathroom.
7. We are starting to gather ideas and support for a Holiday Festival, for early December. The Knights of Columbus have already pledged to help us with the event. The township committee has been very supportive of the idea. This would be in place of the Fall/Winter Festival.
8. Summer Camp is about to start the end of this month, our Playground camp does have generally low numbers...70-75 at this point for grades 1-5. The Teen Camp is well attended. An continuing issue is getting the correct amount of counselors. Warren Twp. has gone over and above to pay in line with the competition and we are still behind. I believe we will meet the criteria for the Counselor to Camper ratio but it will be tight.
9. Summer Concerts are planned for every Wednesday in July. We are trying to secure a stage, as the Somerset Hills Showmobile will not be ready.
10. Gary DiNardo is working on the Irrigation project for the Duderstadt grass fields...either a well or the water company are the options and he is researching those options.
11. For future projects, I would like to get feedback on any ideas for Pickle ball, Bocce ball court, pad behind the wall on the Tennis court and improvements to the Greenwood meadows playground.