

Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee
Minutes of June 16, 2021 Meeting

The meeting of the Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee convened at 7:03 pm on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, virtually via Zoom due to the pandemic and keeping consistent with the social distance order.

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: Linda Bosco-Devine, Aparna Virmani (left at 7:21pm), Daniel Croson, Zachary Drozd, Heather Silver, Recreation Director Joe Passaro and Township Committee Person Jolanta Maziarz; Absent: Joe Filo and David Cole.

Zachary Drozd motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 21, 2021 and Daniel Croson 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS

Jolanta Maziarz told the committee that she met with the members of the school administration, Board of Education President, Mayor Lazo and Township Administrator Mark Krane. The discussion was held about the Middle School paying towards field usage and the school took the request back to the board. The school administration had more questions after the meeting but now that those questions have been answered, we should have an answer within a week or so. Jolanta will follow up with the committee with the result of the field use.

Zachary Drozd asked about the status of reviving the Recreation 501c3. Aparna will work with Jolanta on getting the 501c3 back from the person who does not want to be in charge of it anymore. If we need to revive the 501c3 due to lack of paperwork then a discussion will be held with the committee to see if it is appropriate to revive the 501c3.

DIRECTORS REPORT- Joe Passaro reviewed key points from the Directors Report.

- Fall Festival to celebrate the Warren Community is scheduled for Sunday, October 17 from 12-3pm. Local organizations committed to being involved with the event with either providing an activity or give out food.
- Pavilion project is still moving forward. Construction documents and materials are being finalized so that it can go out to bid. The project should take a least one year to be completed.
- Summer Concert Series is set and is more expensive this year due to the Somerset County Showmobile being unavailable.
- Summer Playground Program is moving forward with the modified program.
- Fishing Derby is scheduled for September 18 but dredging is going to start again in August so hopefully it will be done in time for the derby.

NEW BUSINESS & DISCUSSION

Linda asked about the status of camp registration, which Amanda Altavilla responded that 30 people have registered and the camp is capped at 50 campers.

Aparna asked Joe if the cultural event in the fall would be able to happen this year. Joe asked Aparna to stop by the Recreation Office to discuss and work out all the details of the event. Joe explained he knows that this will be a large and popular event to the community.

Heather Silver asked about when the pavilion is under construction will the entire area be off limits. Joe stated that he is hoping that the area can be contained so the playground and other areas could still have general use but for our future programming, we will run into issues about needing another site for examples the summer camps if the project is not complete. Zach asked if the pavilion and playground/basketball court project are the same project or separate which Joe explained that they are separate. Joe is gathering quotes now for equipment for the playground and basketball court as well as meeting with an engineer for the court design so that it is built properly. Zach told the committee that residents he has spoken with are excited for the expansion of the basketball court area.

Zach asked about what the COVID-19 protocols are in place for the camps and if we can have in person meetings soon. Joe stated that we have protocols for camp in place since the Governor came out with the camp standards however; the Governor just updated the camp standards on June 9 about masks. Joe went on to say that, the new guidance regarding masks is not clear and that there are grey areas. He gave a recommendation to the Township Committee and Mark Krane that since the camp is outdoors to not have masks. The Health Official, Kevin Sumner agreed and Joe is still waiting on an official decision regarding masks and camps. Joe also stated that staff members will still wear masks and he will give parents the option if they want their campers to wear a mask or not. Regarding moving to in person meetings Amanda will reach out to the Advisory Committee to see who is interested in having an in person meeting vs Zoom for the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT 7:59 PM Next meeting, Wednesday, August 4, 7 pm – via Zoom

Submitted by: Amanda Altavilla, Recreation Advisory Committee Secretary