

**Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes of August 4, 2021 Meeting**

The meeting of the Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee convened at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, August 4, 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, Daniel Croson, Zachary Drozd, Heather Silver, David Cole, Recreation Director Joe Passaro and Township Committee Person Jolanta Maziarz; Absent: Joe Filo.

Aparna Virmani motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 16, 2021 and Heather Silver 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Jolanta Maziarz updated the committee about the result of the meeting with the Warren Schools and the Township regarding the Middle School paying more for field usage. The schools came back to the Township and said that they would contribute more to field maintenance than what they have in the past based on their current usage.

Jolanta explained that she met with Aparna to discuss re-opening the 501c3. Mark Krane informed her that the person in charge of the original 501c3 closed it due to losing the whole board. Jolanta explained that we would have to start over from scratch with a new board and submit paperwork to re-start the 501c3. Linda asked if the committee would be planning any programs to bring money in through the 501c3. Jolanta explained that the 501c3 does not necessarily have to run programs and that it is easier for towns to accept donations through a 501c3 since it does not have to go through a longer process of accepting donations. Sometimes people name your organization as a recipient from their will and it is easier to collection donations through that. Members from the committee asked if there was any money left in the 501c3 that could be recovered and Jolanta stated that she would ask Mark Krane if he is aware of any money left when the 501c3 closed.

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

- Pavilion Project: We are waiting for construction documents from the Architect to move forward with the bidding process. In this time period we are hoping material prices do come down. I was hoping to have the final word on the grant that I applied for through the County at this time but it may come in the next week or so. The grant process is not easy, but I think we will be successful in securing a grant.
- Summer concert series was well attended, I did secure this year 3 sponsorships for 3 of the concerts, which cut our exposure. We did have one concert cut short due to technical difficulties but overall another successful summer.
- We have also made progress with the expansion of the Municipal Recreation Area. I have been working with the Engineers on placement and drainage for the 2 new basketball courts and additional playground. Please be aware that WYBA will also be a parent in this project and share the cost of the new courts and possible an expansion of the lights for the new courts.
- The joint project of WBSI and the Township also has made some progress in that we are working with their engineer on a few details and hope to get that started late this year.

The project will include better drainage of the fields and improvements to dugouts, scoreboards, etc.

- The Fishing Derby, rescheduled for Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> may be in jeopardy due to work not being fully completed, as new permits may be need to be acquired by the dredging company to finish the work.
- Last, but not least... The Warren Day/Fall Festival is scheduled for Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. Plans are coming together also at a brisk pace... Mayor Lazo has been involved in the plans from the start. We will have food trucks, the civic groups will provide beverages and desserts, we will have a band and multiple types of entertainment for kids and many groups have requested a table at the event.

## **NEW BUSINESS & DISCUSSION**

As new business, Zach Drozd brought up bringing bocce ball courts back to Warren. He explained that there are no courts in town and how in the past, Warren had one but it was removed. Zach went on to explain that residents are interested in bocce ball and the courts could be used for setting up tournaments or just recreational play. Joe Passaro explained that he was involved with putting in the bocce ball court when he was a member of the Recreation Commission and he believes that there is still a demand for the courts in town. Dave Cole explained that he was on the commission when the decision was made to remove the courts. He explained that DPW believed that there was not enough usage, did not want to maintain it and that animals were using the court as their bathroom. Aparna asked Joe how much a project like this would cost and Joe said that he would get pricing for bocce ball courts and report to the committee at the next meeting.

Joe and Aparna explained that they had a meeting to discuss a cultural event that she wants to hold in the fall and went over the logistical issues that may arise in planning an event that size. Aparna said that her main concern is the rising COVID numbers due to the delta variant and how it could affect the event such as restrictions being put back into place for gatherings. Zach asked for more details about the cultural event. Aparna explained that this specific cultural event takes place in the fall and it involves the community coming together and dancing. Participants come in colorful dresses and there will be music, food vendors and businesses with tables. She explained that to help breakeven with costs and to keep control of the number of attendees that there would be online ticketing and she would charge per person. Dan offered to Aparna to help with any logistics and Zach offered his help as well. It was mentioned that it is a tight time frame to plan the event and Heather asked how much money would we need to put up front in case the event had to be cancelled. Aparna suggested that instead of running the event on the municipal field that we could start with running a smaller event indoors. Aparna will work on securing a venue and other logistics and Recreation will support logistics and security for the event.

Amanda mentioned that the Rutgers Safety Youth Sports Council announced that by summer of 2022 they will be moving to an online course so there will be no more clinics or clinicians needed. Joe thanked Dave for all his service in teaching the classes over the years.

**ADJOURNMENT 8:05 PM** Next meeting, Wednesday, October 13, 7 pm – via Zoom

Submitted by: Amanda Altavilla, Recreation Advisory Committee Secretary