

Middlesex Recreation Commission
1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, NJ 08846
Commission Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2015

Chair Sherley Penrose opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Commission members present:

Cassius Kennick
Sherley Penrose
Rich Rutkowski
Lileen Schwarz
Rich Tarbous

Members Absent:

Glenn Dickey
Bob May
Steve Greco, Council Liaison

Also present:

Dina Fornataro-Healey, Recreation Director
Mike Girvan, Assist. Recreation Director

Rich Rutkowski made a motion to accept November 2015 minutes with a second by Cassius Kennick and approved by all members present.

Public Session:

No one present

Directors Report

- Basketball has 184 children registered. The coaches meeting was held on December 8th. Practices have started and games will begin in January. Photo day will be February 17th.
- Basketball Clinic run by Jared Goldstein for 3rd-8th graders had 58 children registered and ended on November 19th. The clinic for 9th-12th grade boys run by Tom Hendricks had 17 boys registered and ended on November 19th.
- Wrestling has 33 children registered. We will once again be hosting a novice tournament on January 24th.
- Soccer season ended on November 21st with 265 children registered.
- Yoga has a new session scheduled to begin on December 14th. There are currently 4 registered.
- Toddler programs fall sessions programs ended in November. The winter sessions started on December 7th. There are 35 children registered.
- Bowling fall session ended on November 14th. There were 2 children registered. We will try a new session starting on January 23rd.

- Cross Country with Rich Thomasey ended November 24th with 12 children registered.
- Travel Basketball teams are in the 2nd week of their season.

Councilmatic report- No representative

Trust Account and Account details report

Motion to accept made by Rich Rutkowski pending the auditors' approval and seconded by Rich Tarbous. Roll call was taken with all Commissioners approving.

Commission Committee reports

1. Basketball Sub Committee met with Mr. Forte and Mr. Kozak regarding the request to reinstate Ralph Forte as 7th-8th grade girls travel team assistant coach. Chris Kozak is the head coach. Recreation Director decided not to have Mr. Forte return as assistant coach. After hearing all sides and further discussion with the Commission, the Commission agreed and supported the decision by the Recreation Director.
2. Policy Review Sub Committee met at 6:30pm before this meeting and will present changes at the January 2016 meeting.

Board of Education Report - No representative

Correspondence - None

Volunteer nomination

The Chair would like to nominate Sera Mann and her mother as outstanding volunteers. Sera Mann and her mother were extremely helpful during the annual Tree Lighting. The request to accept the nomination of Sera Mann and her mother as outstanding volunteers was approved by the Commission. Director will notify them to come to next Recreation meeting to receive their certificates.

New Business

1. Recreation Director asked for approval of employment of Jennifer Shattle as Facilities Manager at Watchung with an hourly rate of \$12.00. Motion to hire Jennifer Shattle at said hourly rate was made by Rich Rutkowski with a second by Cassius Kennick. The role was called and all were in agreement.
2. Recreation Director received word that a 5th and 6th grade basketball game was stopped by the Referee. The Referee gave warning to the spectators and after warning wasn't honored he stopped the game. Emails have been sent to the League and this is under further investigation.

Old Business

1. Consideration has been asked to create soccer and basketball programs for high school students who wish to play while not on the high school teams. The fact is

- if Recreation is to expand and have more programs, such as this one for high school age residents, then additional full time help is required. Councilman Greco will advise the Mayor and Council about the need for more help
2. Recreation Director made a proposal to the HUD Committee for the men's and women's restrooms in the Recreation Center to be renovated with HUD funds. It would be completed in 2 phases. The women's restroom to be completed in 2015 and the men's restroom to be completed in 2016. This proposal will be revisited. Recently, photos of the restrooms have been taken.
 3. Recreation Director would like to have the west side of the road in the back of MVP closed off to traffic on a permanent basis. With more use of the park, it is becoming a safety concern with children using the field on one side and the playground on the other. There is also more residents using the park to walk and ride bikes and traffic has become more of a concern. Commission directed the chair to write to the Mayor and Council explaining our position on this issue and asking for permanent closure of the road. Recreation Director met with Police Chief Geist regarding this issue. He explained there have been no complaints or accidents in that area. He suggested some actions that can be taken are having a counter for traffic, paint a crosswalk and install speed limit and slow children at play signs. The Commission accepted all of these actions as a start.
 4. Trust Account information has been resolved. It was discovered clerical errors have been made and errors have been corrected.

Seeing no other old or new business, Commissioner Penrose read a statement advising residents that the approved minutes will be available on the Borough Website within three working days of the meeting and the agenda for the next meeting will be posted on the Recreation Bulletin Board no later than 48 hours prior to the monthly meeting.

At 8:35 p.m., Commissioner Cassius Kennick made a motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Rich Tarbous.

Next Recreation Commission meeting will be January 11th, 2016, 7:30 pm at the Recreation Center.

Minutes submitted by
Linda Chicarelli, Rec-Commission Secretary