

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ON JULY 28, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

2020 Board President, Christy Tuper, called the meeting to order.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT COMPLIANCE

Christy Tuper stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Public laws of 1975 Chapter 231. It has been properly advertised and certified."

ROLL CALL

Present: Gary Margiotta, Christy Tuper, Susan Weiss, Warren Wisse, Darryl Wuhrl

Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee discussed applications for field use approval. Discussion was held regarding what the position was of the township as to spectators attending practices/games/scrimmages at our local parks. Nicole Dunn, secretary for the Recreation Department, advised that as per the State's directives, if spectators at the parks are able to keep a social distance between each other, masks are not required. If the field that spectators are at is too crowded that they cannot maintain social distance then a mask is required to be worn. Ms. Tuper asks who is going to monitor and enforce this at the parks? Susan Weiss suggests that rather than have to monitor it, she feels it should be a general township guideline that all spectators be required to wear masks while at the parks. Gary Margiotta agrees stating that if you are not on the field of play, you should have a mask on to keep everybody conforming without having to "police" the fields. Ms. Dunn advises the recreation committee that the New Jersey Department of Health Guidance for Sports Activities has been forwarded to all the local recreational sports organization which outlines the rules all organizations must follow to return to play. Ms. Tuper asks that Mrs. Dunn forward that document to the committee for review. Mrs. Dunn also advises that as part of that guidance from the State, all sports organizations returning to play on township fields must submit to the township administrator a "program preparation plan" of how they intend to return to the field of play following the State's rules and regulations. Darryl Wuhrl states that as long as the residents are following the State's guidelines that are in place, he feels there is not much more they as recreation members can do to change it.

The following field use applications were heard and approved by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee:

- On motion by Darryl Wuhrl and seconded by Gary Margiotta, the field use application for the **N.J. Stags Football** team was approved as follows:
Dates: Saturdays: July 18th, August 1st, August 15th ~ 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location: Woodbourne Park, Field 7
- On motion by Gary Margiotta and seconded by Darryl Wuhrl, the field use application for **Sussex Beaver Baseball** was approved as follows:
Dates: June 24 - August 23 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.(weekdays);
10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.(weekends)
Location: Woodbourne Park, Field 4
- On motion by Gary Margiotta and seconded by Darryl Wuhrl, the field use application for the **Sussex Christian School** was approved as follows:
Dates: 10/13, 10/14, 10/15, 10/22, 10/26 from 3:45 p.m. thru 6:00 p.m.
Location: Woodbourne Park, Field 3
- On motion by Darryl Wuhrl and seconded by Susan Weiss, the field use application for the **Girls on the Run** club was approved as follows:
Dates: September 1st thru October 22nd, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. thru 5:30 p.m.
Location: Woodbourne Park, Field 3
- On motion by Darryl Wuhrl and seconded by Susan Weiss, the field use application for **High Point United Soccer Club** was approved as follows:
Dates: July 8th thru November, 2020
Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. thru 9:00 p.m. – Summer Night Games
Beginning September 2020 - 4:00 thru 8:00 p.m.
Location: Woodbourne Park, Fields 5 and 6
- On motion by Darryl Wuhrl and seconded by Gary Margiotta, the field use application for **High Point Midget Football League** was approved as follows:
Dates: July 1 thru December 1, 2020 9:00 am thru 9:00 p.m.
Location: Woodbourne Park, Fields 7 and 8
*will not be using Field 7 on Saturday evenings

The pavilion rental application submitted by the **Sussex Wantage Preschool Learning Center** was reviewed by township administrator, Michael Restel, and approved by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee for use on August 5, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. Motion for approval was made by Gary Margiotta and seconded by Darryl Wuhrl. Ayes: Margiotta, Tuper, Weiss, Wisse, Wuhrl. Nays: None. Absent: None

The recreation committee discussed whether an “activation fee” should be charged to residents requesting the use of electricity at the pavilion while renting it. Darryl Wurhl asked if a non-profit should request to rent the pavilion would they be charged the activation fee should they need electricity as they do not pay the rental fee falling under a 501(c)(3) organization. The recreation committee agrees that should a resident renting the pavilion at Woodbourne Park

request using the electricity at the pavilion, there shall be a \$25 activation fee for turning on the electricity at the pavilion for their 4-hour time of rental. It is also agreed that should a 501(c)(3), non-profit, organization request rental of the pavilion with electricity, they shall be required to pay the \$25 activation fee as well.

On motion by Darryl Wuhrl and seconded by Susan Weiss, the fee is approved to be sent to the governing body for consideration at their next Township Committee Meeting.

Ayes: Margiotta, Tuper, Weiss, Wisse, Wuhrl. Nays: None. Absent: None

The recreation committee discusses a new event suggested by Susan Weiss: a plant exchange to be held seasonally each spring and fall. Resident gardeners who have a need to separate their perennials in their yards or are looking for new plants to add to their gardens, can gather at Woodbourne Park to exchange with other residents. The recreation committee agrees to try and have one organized for this fall.

OLD BUSINESS

- Wantage Township Fishing Contest. Warren Wisse states the fishing contest was a success and everyone had fun. Approximately 25 to 30 people attended. Mr. Wisse suggests a dry erase board be purchased for the event. Ms. Tuper states that she did have residents reach out to her about lack of social distancing and wearing of masks so felt she needed to bring that to the committee's attention to discuss for future events. The recreation committee would like to thank Kevin Runo, resident and senior at High Point Regional High School, for volunteering his time to organize and run our fishing contest again this year.
- Woodbourne Park 5K. The recreation committee discusses whether the township 5K can be held due to the COVID-19 virus. Mrs. Dunn states that she has been advised the company used for the timer of the race has cancelled all upcoming rentals for races and suggests the race be cancelled. It is agreed that the township 5K race will be cancelled for this year.
- Wantage Day Fall Festival. The recreation committee discusses whether the Wantage Day Fall Festival can be held this year due to the COVID-19 virus. Christy Tuper states that she feels we should still explore past recreation member Kathy Gorman's idea of having a township picnic in place of the fall festival. The committee agrees that we could explore that idea as well as other options where we could offer a few smaller events for residents to attend this fall. Mrs. Dunn states she has emailed a few companies for information such as an outdoor movie, hosting a band at the pavilion in Woodbourne, line dancing, Zumba classes, fireworks. The committee discusses the pros and cons of hosting these events. It is agreed we will attempt to bring a few smaller events that can abide by the social distancing guidelines to residents this fall in place of the township 5k and fall festival.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Hunter Baker, from Boy Scout Pack 137, states that he is joining the recreation meeting tonight working towards his Citizen in the Community merit badge.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Susan Weiss asks if we could promote the little free library that she donated in Woodbourne Park.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Warren Wisse to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Darryl Wuhrl.
Ayes: Margiotta, Tuper, Weiss, Wisse, Wuhrl. Nays: None. Absent: None

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Dunn, Board Secretary