

Borough of West Reading Recreation Commission

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

Members present: Colleen English, Lori Hoffman, Heather Jagielski, Kristin Hawley, Jennifer Sundermier

Members not present: Kris Singleton, Roger Hinsey

Staff members present: Chris Boud, Recreation Director

Borough Council Members present: Denise Drobnick (chairperson)

Public Comment

No comment.

Present: Patrick Kaag, Nathalie Kulesa, Ryan Lineaweaver, Helen Moyer, Dean Murray, Rafael Torres, Paige West (Muhlenberg)

Motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting made by Heather Jagielski. Seconded by Lori Hoffman. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Motion to amend the agenda to discuss the make-up of the committee made by Colleen English, second made by Kristin Hawley. Motion passed (6-0)

Motion to accept Nikki Frymoyer's resignation from the committee made by Kristin Hawley. Seconded by Heather Jagielski. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Motion to send Rafael Torres' letter of interest to Council to request approval for his membership to the Recreation Committee made by Jennifer Sundermier. Seconded by Kristin Hawley. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Pickleball Updates:

- Spring League: May 2-27
- Tournament: June 17-19 (will request beer truck)
- July dates TBA
- Fall League: Sept 5-30
- Tournament: Sept 24/25 (will request beer truck)
- They will present their paperwork to council for approval.

Reading City Church (700 block of Penn Ave):

- Requesting a fee waiver for a one-day event for the use of the pavilion and field. Will revisit next month.

Easter Egg Hunt:

- Donations from Tom Sturgis, Unique Pretzels, Pepperidge Farm, & Palmer's

- Palmer's: 12 unicorns, 4 bunnies for prize eggs
- Patrick Kaag will dress Easter Bunny
- 47 children currently signed up
- Will reach out to photographer
- Have candy and toys to fill eggs; members will take some home

Pool and Playground Updates

- Working on different fee rate for playground
 - Half day (resident rate): from \$175 to \$200 (\$5 per day)
 - Full day (resident rate): increase from \$350 to \$400 (\$8.75 per day)
 - Non-resident rate increased from \$400 to \$500 (approved by Borough Council previously)
 - Brown bag lunch; Will keep Lunchables on hand in case kids forget to bring lunch
 - Field trips: looking into field trips but not sure about bussing; Reading Science Center willing to come to the Pavilion for program
- Pool rates
 - Increase family from \$325 to \$375
 - Additional child from \$25 to \$50
 - Babysitter from \$100 to \$150
 - Day pass from \$8 to \$10 (residents), from \$15 to \$18 (nonresidents)
 - 6-day pass from 45 to 50 (residents)
 - Pool parties: from \$7 to \$9 for residents, from \$10 to \$12 for non-residents
 - Non-resident rate for family: suggested \$600
- Hiring letters: all mailed out with previous \$1 increase
 - 13 lifeguards (15-20 lifeguards is preferred)

Skate Park

- Putting in a mini ramp, concrete, single-use halfpipe, 35' x 35', also serve as a memorial to Gianni Molinari (West Reading resident), fully funded.
- Looking at different areas, both on the Reading side of the creek, will not interfere with disc golf course.
- Skate parks often bring good, positive things to community
- Working with Reading Skate Park Association and JD Turner of Holistic Skate (in West Reading)
- Maintenance: basic, general maintenance of concrete; exploring set up a fund for maintenance and agreement to remove graffiti.
- Will also be insurance costs
- Intended to serve as a memorial, including a mural
- Next step: designer draw up plans

Discussed the plans and the committee expressed support for current plans as they move forward.

Ordinance to change attendance expectation/removal from commission

- Certain rules in the ordinance that must followed by the state, likely need to maintain rules as is (would not be cost effective to pay the solicitor to find that rules cannot be changed)
- Cannot use other borough committee rules as a model

Ideas for volunteer recruitment:

- Active on social media
- Piggyback on other community events
- Ideas:
 - "unofficial" Facebook group to find volunteers for all the committees and events
 - Students
 - Keep a mindset of trying to get more volunteers
 - National Volunteer week April 17-23
 - Signup sheet at Easter Egg Hunt & events
 - List of things that we need volunteers for
 - New, fresh projects
 - Need specifics for volunteers, can't be vague

Motion to adjourn made by Jennifer Sundermier. Seconded by Kristin Hawley. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Next meeting: April 5, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen English
Recreation Commission Secretary