

Forest Hills Recreation Board Minutes

August 4, 2014

Location: Forest Hills Pool

Attendees: Barry Layton, Ed Galloway, Florence Biscaras, Nick Ricci, Roseann Litzinger, Matt Rodrigues

Absent: Cheryl Finlay

Guests: Police Chief Chuck Williams, Jim Kiley, Tom Brook

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Layton welcomed everyone. Reminder that two vacancies remain on the Board; please recommend friends and neighbors. Galloway invited Tom Brook to visit us as a potential new member. Layton cancelled the June meeting due to not enough members in attendance.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2014

Moved by Biscaras; seconded by Ricci. Minutes approved.

III. President's Report (Layton)

Layton reminded members to please copy all when replying to emails from the Secretary indicating attendance at an upcoming board meeting.

Gave the floor to Forest Hills Police Chief Chuck Williams to discuss the annual Hayride and any interest from the Recreation Board to help. Williams discussed the responsibilities of coordinating the hayride, emphasizing that Emergency Services and Public Works will still be in charge of the ride itself; what he is looking to expand and seek ideas for the inside portion of the event where food is made available at no cost. He shared a list of expenses and past donors, and generally explained how the event works. The Borough now owns the wagons and has them specially insured for the event. There is great potential to expand the event to include a haunted trail (or some such new idea). The Rec Board expressed interest in participating and will discuss details at its September meeting.

IV. Marketing and Events Director's Report (Simm)

No submitted report.

V. Tennis Report (Biscaras)

New tennis courts are now open for play! The Borough held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 4th as part of the Community Day celebration. Attended by about 30 residents, including State Senator Jay Costa, State Representative Mike Doyle, Forest Hills Mayor Marty O'Malley, and Borough President Markus Erbelinger. We recommend that the courts be open for free play to residents every Fourth of July holiday.

Not sure if the Borough has received USTA funds towards the construction of the courts.

The swipe system to enter the courts is not yet installed and wondering about the timetable for doing so.

VI. Parks Report (Layton)

None.

VII. Basketball Report (Layton)

The summer basketball clinic was cancelled for this summer due to not enough participants signed up to play. Neither Layton nor DeGregorio will be involved next summer so will need to find a willing volunteer if program is to continue.

VIII. Pool/Swim Team Report (Galloway)

The swim team had an undefeated season (7-0) and won the ESA Division II Championship meet hosted at Forest Hills pool on Saturday, July 26. All the swimmers and coaches are to be congratulated for this outstanding achievement! Many thanks to Lynn Cassidy and the entire pool staff for their support throughout the season. The Borough Council will recognize the accomplishments of the swim team at its August 20th meeting.

Ricci is still investigating the replacement of the record boards at the pool and made contact with a sign company in Murrysville who created the signs for other pools. He plans on sending them pictures and dimensions of our current signs for a cost estimate.

Galloway took the Gabella Award trophy to silversmith in Squirrel Hill where it was restored; a private Forest Hills resident paid for the work.

The annual Synchronized Swimming show was held on Sunday, Aug. 3; the girls and Coaches Annemarie Rodrigues and Laina Cross are to be commended for their dedication to performing one of the few such shows in Western Pennsylvania.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

Recreation Board was asked to consider requests by Trinity Christian School and Woodland Hills High School on the use of the new tennis courts. While the Board certainly wants the Borough to be good neighbors, the tennis courts are brand new and have only seen a few months of play since they opened. Season pass holders should always have the first right to play on the courts, and since no announcement was made to pass holders that the courts would be closed for play during the school year as requested by Trinity, the Board agreed that it should not allow play this fall from any outside groups. The Board is

not recommending the courts never be opened to outside groups, such as local schools, but it is too early to offer this without first having announced it to Borough residents. We recommend discussing this again in the spring before season passes are advertised and purchased.

The Borough was made aware of an indoor waterslide being sold by the old Conley Inn in Irwin, which was investigated by Borough staff. While the cost of the slide itself was affordable, the costs for its removal, transportation, and assembly at the Forest Hills pool was cost prohibitive so the issue was not discussed on whether or not this is a good idea for the pool. Nonetheless, the Board does recommend the Borough continue to look into the purchase of a small slide as a new amenity for the pool.

XI. Adjournment

Moved by Ricci; seconded by Galloway. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm at the Borough Building.