

## Forest Hills Recreation Board Minutes

August 3, 2015

- Attendees:** Florence Biscaras, Barry Layton, Matt Rodrigues, Nick Ricci, Tom Brook, Ed Galloway, Cheryl Finlay
- Absent:** Roseann Litzinger
- Guests:** Lynn Cassidy, Walter Goss, Jim Kiley

### I. Welcome and Call to Order

Layton welcomed everyone, especially Walt Goss, who is thinking of joining the board.

### II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2015

Moved by Biscaras; seconded by Rodrigues. Minutes approved.

### III. President's Report (Layton)

No report.

### IV. Recreation Director's Report (Simm via Lynn Cassidy and Jim Kiley)

With Cassidy input, Simm drafted an update to the pool's rules and shared with the Board, who provided comments and feedback. The Board would like to revisit the item of allowing guests to visit the pool with a resident, in particular the idea that non-residents also pay a reduced rate (half) after 5 pm like non-member residents receive; the Board thinks non-residents should always pay the full amount regardless of the time of day.

The Board was also asked to reevaluate the "pool plus" packages offered when joining the pool since it reduces potential daily revenue.

The Board was asked to consider a request by a resident to place a brick in the pool grounds in memory of Ed Bunyan. The Board unanimously opposed this idea and instead recommended utilizing the program already available at the pool by buying a brick near the pool entrance. The Board, however, will consider methods of raising potential revenue by allowing residents to purchase plaques for the benches as a way of remembering Forest Hills residents.

The Board was asked to consider a request by a resident to rent space to others in Ryan Glenn Park to operate a garage sale at the park. The revenue raised by the rental fee would be given to the Borough towards the purchase of new playground equipment. Presumably the people participating would keep the money from goods they sell. The Board opposed this request unanimously.

The Borough is most likely going to be asked by the Woodland Hills High School to use the Forest Hills tennis courts in some capacity in the fall as they consider what to do about their deplorable courts which are unfit to play on. The Board recommends we consider their request and try to work something out as long as the team limits their practice or games to about 5 pm in the evening to accommodate residents who play in the evening. The use of the courts by Trinity Christian School should also be considered so that they too have access. Use fees should be considered by both institutions for playing on the courts.

#### **V. Tennis Report (Biscaras)**

Tennis participation by youth is considerably down. It was reported that little to no parent involvement occurred this season which makes the team difficult to sustain. Apparently the tennis team dropped from about 25 players last year to about 13 this year. The Board would like to invite JoAnn Seman to attend the next Recreation Board meeting and report on the season so that we can determine what to do about this situation. Tennis play by adults, however, is at an all-time high.

#### **VI. Parks Report (Layton)**

The Westinghouse softball team has started play. The Borough was asked by the Woodland Hills Midget Football Association (based in White Oak) to play on the Recreation Center field. Due to use of spikes on the fields by football players, the Borough declined this request as did the Recreation Board.

#### **VII. Basketball Report (Layton)**

A clinic was held in July with 8-10 kids attending. It was conducted by Bill Nicklow.

#### **VIII. Pool/Swim Team Report (Galloway)**

The swim team completed the season with a record of 2-5 in ESA Division I and finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Championship meet hosted on Saturday, July 25 at the Forest Hills pool. The team had 96 swimmers from 54 families, making us the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest swim team operating in the ESA (15 teams). The Synchronized Swim Team performed at their annual show on Sunday, August 2 to a packed and appreciative audience. The Synchro team had 46 girls on the team. Both teams would like to thank Lynn Cassidy and the pool staff for their hard work to help support these events in the Borough.

#### **IX. Old Business**

This will be the first year the Board assumes responsibility for planning and carrying out the hayride event with the assistance of the Borough Police and Public Works departments. The Board would prefer to move the date to Saturday, Oct. 24. We will start the planning process at the September meeting, but Galloway will contact out Chuck Williams and Jim Theilacker ahead of this meeting.

Rodrigues has since been in touch with Senator Jay Costa's office to help appeal this county ordinance for preventing the Borough from conducting its annual tree burning in January.

## **X. New Business**

The pool was apparently rented by a Borough resident for the purpose of a party which was advertised on Facebook and Instagram that was designed to attract over 2,000 participants. A cover fee was to be charged as well. Once this was discovered, the party was cancelled by the Borough and a complete review of the rental contract by the Borough solicitor commenced. The Board feels strongly that the rental of Borough facilities is not to be used for commercial purposes. In the review of the rental process, the Board recommends that the renter provide a complete description of the purpose of the rental and how many guests are planning to attend. There is an occupancy limit that must be considered and adhered to. The Board also would like to reconsider to whom Borough facilities are rented, especially to non-residents.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Moved by Rodrigues; seconded by Ricci. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14 at 7:00 pm at the Borough Building.