

## **Forest Hills Recreation Board Minutes**

**February 1, 2016**

**Borough Building, 7 PM**

**Attendees:** Florence Biscaras, Barry Layton, Tom Brook, Ed Galloway, Cheryl Finlay

**Absent:** Roseann Litzinger; Matt Rodrigues, Nick Ricci

**Guests:** Cindy Simm, Lynn Cassidy, Jim Kiley

### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Layton welcomed everyone to a new year.

### **II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2015**

Moved by Finlay; seconded by Brook. Minutes approved.

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

A reminder there remains one vacancy on the board. Distributed committee agendas to members via email.

### **IV. Recreation Director's Report (Simm)**

Simm distributed a Forest Hills pool fact sheet to be available on the Borough website. It includes statistics on pool attendance, revenue and expenses. Major repairs to the pool to address a significant water leakage problem will commence this spring so the pool will most probably not open on Memorial Day as usual. It is difficult to project exactly when the pool would be open for swimming in the summer. The completion of construction is highly dependent on the weather. It is hopeful that it could be open by July 15<sup>th</sup> but that is a guess.

Kiley reported that Council approved the installation of a new stainless steel gutter and flow meter at the pool to address the water leakage problem. That work is expected to cost between \$110,000 to \$150,000. The funds to pay for the construction will come from Borough budget reserve; there will be no reduction in other services or an increase in taxes to fund this project. Minor leaks will be addressed by Public Works staff to caulk the pool walls and floor. Borough engineer, David Gilliland, is preparing an RFP for bid. The timetable for the RFP process is unknown.

As he stated at the January Council meeting during open comments, Galloway asked again if the purchase and installation of permanent starting blocks for the swim team are being considered. Kiley was unsure but because of the estimated \$1500-\$2000 per block it is unlikely. Board members thought that blocks that cannot be removed easily and conveniently throughout the day will be a hindrance to pool staff and safety of the swimmers.

As a result of the pool being closed for a period of time in the summer, Simm said there will not be memberships sold this summer. Once the pool opens, staff will charge a daily rate for admission with strict requirements on proof of residency – photo ID, or utility bill showing resident’s name/address. If anyone attempting to gain access does not have the required ID will not be admitted without a resident having proper ID. It will then revert to the standing rule of residents bringing guests must accompany those guests at all times. Residents cannot drop off their guests and then leave the facility. Residents are also responsible for their guests and their guest’s activities while at the pool.

Throughout construction the lodge will remain open for rental.

Although Council initially approved a new policy to allow non-residents access to the pool under a resident sponsorship program, that program has been set aside for further discussion and action until 2017.

**V. Tennis Report (Biscaras)**

Galloway reported that a Boy Scout in Troop 90 will be building several benches for tennis players to sit on inside the courts and repairing the bleachers for his Eagle Scout project.

**VI. Parks Report (Layton)**

No report.

**VII. Basketball Report (Layton)**

No report.

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

Galloway reported that he did accept the invitation by the ESA to host the Championship meet for Division I on July 30, 2016. However, in lieu of the pool situation, he will discuss options with the FHST parent booster board as well as with the ESA president. He is working with Jim Kiley on seeking a venue for the swim team to conduct its practices and meets until the pool opens. Kiley reported that the Woodland Hills High School has been approached and is very amenable to helping.

**IX. Old Business**

None.

**X. New Business**

None.

**XI. Adjournment**

Moved by Biscaras; seconded by Layton. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7 at 7:00 pm at the Borough Building.