

Forest Hills Recreation Board Minutes

October 5, 2015

Attendees: Florence Biscaras, Barry Layton, Tom Brook, Ed Galloway, Roseann Litzinger

Absent: Matt Rodrigues, Nick Ricci, Cheryl Finlay

Guests: Jim Kiley, Cindy Simm

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Layton welcomed everyone.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2015

Moved by Biscaras; seconded by Galloway. Minutes approved.

III. President's Report (Layton)

Attended the open meeting on Saturday, September 26 on the new one-story Borough Building to be constructed off of Greensburg Pike near the Westinghouse Recreation Center. Will contain office space, meeting rooms, senior center and the library; police will move there too. Architectural firm hired and had conceptual drawings to share. Will attempt to pursue LEED Gold certification.

Shared the Borough Council committee agenda items for October.

IV. Recreation Director's Report (Simm)

Distributed financial reports on recreational programs in last 3-5 years comparing revenue and total number of participants for the all summer programs, including the pool and tennis program. A pool report from 2013-2015 included the number of members admitted versus daily admissions along with the weather which often played a visible role in the number of people who visited the pool on any given day. Another report broke down the rates charged for the various pool and tennis offerings as far back as 2010. The Board was asked to consider and make recommendations for rates to charge for the 2016 year for pool and tennis memberships. Those recommendations, which will be presented to council, are: decreasing the number of daily admission tickets on all plus packages from 10 to 5 tickets, and to discontinue the Daily Admission Half-off for non-residents. There were no increases/decreases to the tennis program passes.

With regards to the complaints some board members had heard regarding the short hours at the pool in August - mainly on the weekends; the adjusted weekday pool hours for mid-August through Labor Day were approved by council years ago because of all the lifeguards being college/high school-age; but this season was especially difficult to get staff to work during the weekends in August due to the additional

school activities which actually began at the end of July. So unfortunately Simm stated that we may have no choice of this happening again as long as the school dictates the activities during that period of time (weekdays and weekends). Simm asked the board for any suggestions as to how to avoid closing the pool over and above the shortened hours already in place.

V. Tennis Report (Biscaras)

Nets will stay up all year only because weather dictates players using the courts all year round. According to Public Works Foreman, Jim Theilacker, the nets are sturdy enough to stay up and will possibly last up to eight years – as did the other set of nets.

Only tennis members can access the courts in the off-season using their passes. Starting on December 1, the lights will be turned off; but players will still be able to play during the daytime.

VI. Parks Report (Layton)

All field permits are in through November. If the necessary funds can be privately raised, a dog park has been approved by Council to be created in the woods above the Forest Hills Park between the park itself and the pool parking lot.

VII. Basketball Report (Layton)

No report.

VIII. Pool/Swim Team Report (Galloway)

Forest Hills will likely host the Championship meet for ESA Division I on Saturday, July 30, 2016; will be officially determined in January 2016.

IX. Old Business

Members of the board will attend the hayride (Sat., Oct. 17) and distribute information on recreational opportunities in the Borough via flyers prepared by Simm.

The Board is unable to report on anything else it can do to prevent the annual Christmas tree burning from coming to an end due to tightened EPA regulations. That announcement of discontinuing the Tree Burning Ceremony will appear in the winter 2015-16 issue of the Tree City Times.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Adjournment

Moved by Brook; seconded by Litzinger. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2 at 7:00 pm at the Borough Building.