

**Recreation Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2017**

Call to order
Flag Salute

Roll Call:

Clare Button
Amalia Duarte, Vice Chair
Warren Gisser (liaison)
Megan Sager
Diane Tolley, Chair
Peter Wright, Recreation Director

Patriots Race update (Amalia):

Reviewed and discussed the Race sponsor list from last year. The Commission needs to continue soliciting sponsors. To date, the following have committed: Verizon Fios, Salerno-Duane, Cheshire Soccer, Pastime Club and the Mendham PBA. Peter spoke to Chase Bank about volunteering on race day. Registration for the race is open, and all the vendors (race timing, T-shirts, DJ) are lined up. Peter will order a port-a-john. Clare suggested that Amalia should try to announce the Race at the Mendies on Friday night, if possible. Otherwise, the Race is moving along. A second Race meeting is planned for April 17 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Ralston Playground:

The mailing to all Township residents has gone out. So far, about \$5,000 in bricks and donations has been received. Warren suggested sending thank-you letters to donors.

The Brookside Fire Company is sponsoring a 50/50 raffle to benefit the Playground. It was approved by the Township Committee on March 28. We are just waiting for the state to approve. We will pull the raffle winner at the Race. Tickets will be distributed to all Commissioners to sell at \$5 per ticket.

A group of five high school juniors are organizing a Field Day on Saturday, June 3, at Wysong Park to raise money. They're looking into using the games from the school's Strawberry Festival. They need to complete this event as a project for a class, so the teens are highly motivated. They will handle publicity and getting volunteers from the high school Service Club.

Jennifer Dubcek is organizing a brunch from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m., at Piatinno's on Sunday, June 4. Tickets will be \$125 per person and \$200 per couple. The Commission's cost is \$55 per person. The minimum number is 30 people and maximum is 50. This will be a private event with the restaurant offering an open bar, four-course meal and option for a tricky tray and sale of 50/50 tickets.

Amalia has reserved a table at Kings for Saturday, June 3. We will need to staff it to sell 50/50 tickets, promote the Race and Brookside Beach.

Diane said that a playground design meeting will take place later in April with representatives from the Junior Women's Club. Warren emphasized that the design phase should be in consultation with Township Administrator and Committee. Diane assured him it would be an open, inclusive process.

Brookside Beach:

Peter presented a schedule of fees for the 2017 season. Fees are lower than last year because the season is shorter, and it is hoped will encourage more residents to join. Amalia made a motion and Clare seconded it to accept the fees as presented. It was approved unanimously.

Diane brought up the idea of hiring Janet Wood to manage the Beach to give it dedicated focus, as had always happened in the past until the hiring of Lori Dent. Janet has excellent connections and background for this position. She is a local resident who lives walking distance to the Beach. She works in food service and after-care at the elementary school and is an EMT. Her family often pitches in to help. A motion was made by Clare and seconded by Amalia to hire Janet as the Beach Manager for the season. The motion was approved unanimously.

Diane discussed that she will work on a budget for the Beach position and circulate a proposal by e-mail. Megan suggested creating incentives for the Beach Manager to run the concession profitably and to bring in new members. Diane said she will come up with a proposal. The next step is for the Township Committee to approve the position at the April 18 meeting. Warren said Diane needs to provide the Township Administrator with a resume for Janet and a salary for the job.

Peter said there would be a middle-school Beach kickoff party on Saturday, June 23.

There was discussion about making sure the Beach was open for the traditional end-of-school year 4th grade party. Warren suggested reaching out to the grade parents now to convince them to bring the party back to the Beach. Last year, the Beach wasn't ready and so the party was moved to the Health & Racquet Club pool.

Peter mentioned that a partnership with Schiff Nature Preserve is underway. Schiff's environmental educator will run a session at the Beach. And, Recreation is co-sponsoring a full-moon hike at the Schiff Nature Preserve on Saturday, July 8.

Finally, Warren informed the Commission that the Ralston Playground was going to be torn down, except for the gazebo, sandbox, pavers and commemorative plaque. The Commissioners expressed deep disappointment that there wasn't a way to salvage the equipment or take advantage of volunteers who had offered to make repairs. Warren said there really wasn't an option because it was recommended by the Insurance Assessor during a meeting at the playground in April, with the Township Administrator, Mayor, Recreation Chair and DPW Head.

There was no public present.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM