

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
READINGTON RECREATION COMMITTEE
January 31, 2018 7:30pm**

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Sharon Bobnar-Becker **CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER** at 7:30 pm.

B. ATTENDANCE

- a. Committee Members: Sharon Bobnar-Becker, John Hunt, Matthew Miller, Bill Quinn, Mark Toman
- b. Township Officials: Director Gabrielle Bolarakis, Assistant Director Brian VanDongen
- c. Township Committee: Committeeman John Albanese

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Chairperson Sharon Bobnar-Becker **TABLED** the approval of the minutes for the November 29, 2017 meeting of the Readington Recreation Committee due to lack of members present. It will be voted upon at the next meeting.

D. PRESENTATION FROM THE OPEN SPACE BOARD

- a. Robert Becker from the Open Space Board presented about the history and current state of disrepair of the Forest Hill Preserve in the Three Bridges section of the Township. Director Bolarakis indicated that the funds for maintenance of parks and open space is allocated in the Public Works budget. Committeeman Albanese recommended that the township committee liaison to the Open Space Board look further into this.

E. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PRESENTATION

- a. Robert Becker and a Scout from Troop 1969 (Readington, NJ) presented a proposal for tree inventory Eagle Scout project. Director Bolarakis recommended that a tree inventory take place in the "active" parks. The Committee identified Hillcrest Park and Pickell Park as the higher priority parks to inventory because of their high use. The Scout will work on identifying a schedule and will present it at a future Recreation Committee meeting.

F. ANNUAL REPORT

- a. Director Bolarakis presented to the Committee the 2017 Annual Report reviewing the financial information, registration numbers, and accomplishments.

G. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Five-Year Plan and 2018 Capital Request:** Director Bolarakis presented the Five-Year Plan for Capital Improvement. Mr. Hunt discussed the background and rationale for the Five-Year Plan. The Committee reviewed the plan for 2018 and discussed the higher priority items. The Committee made the recommendation to request for Capital funds for improvements to the basketball courts at Summer Road Park and a walking path for accessibility to the soccer fields at Summer Road Park.
- b. **Holiday Tournament:** Director Bolarakis indicated that the tournament was a great success. There were two Readington teams in the finals, with the 8th grade boys team winning their bracket. Overall, there were 90 teams with 147 games over four days in a total of eight gyms in four sites. Assistant Director VanDongen thanked Ms. Adams and Mr. Miller for their work in helping run the tournament.
- c. **Rec Basketball Rules Update:** Assistant Director VanDongen noted that there were some rule changes that had to be made to the Recreation Basketball Leagues due to the restructuring of the age groups. Director Bolarakis thanked Mr. Quinn for his work in revising the rules. Mr. Toman made a **MOTION TO APPROVE** the Recreation Basketball Rules as amended.
SECONDED by Mr. Quinn. **VOTE: IN FAVOR:** All present.

H. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **NRPA Grant:** Director Bolarakis mentioned that the Recreation Department received a grant from the National Recreation and Park Association for instructor training for the NRPA's Walk With Ease program. The grant includes instructor training and participant materials and is in-kind.
- b. **Team Management Documents for Coaches:** Director Bolarakis presented new documents to help potential volunteer coaches understand the scope of their role and to help manage their season.
- c. **Memorial Day Parade:** Director Bolarakis mentioned that the Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 28. Committeeman Albanese said that he reached out to the parade committee to start the planning process.
- d. **Memorial Tree and Bench Program:** Director Bolarakis distributed materials for a proposed Memorial Tree and Bench Program. The Committee will review this proposal.
- e. **Scholarship Policy:** Committeeman Albanese made a proposal to include a provision in the Recreation Scholarship Policy to include volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members in Readington and their families to receive a 50% discount on certain recreation programs. Chairperson Bobnar-Becker recommended that a subcommittee be formed to further research this idea.

I. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Mr. Miller made a **MOTION TO ADJOURN** the meeting of the Recreation Committee. **SECONDED** by Mr. Toman. **VOTE: IN FAVOR:** All present
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm

Next meeting of the Recreation Committee: February 28, 2018 at 6:00pm

Prepared and respectfully submitted by: Brian VanDongen, CPRP – Assistant Director of Recreation