

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
READINGTON RECREATION COMMITTEE
July 24, 2024 7:30pm**

A) Chairperson Emmanuel Bola called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

B) ATTENDANCE:

Emmanuel Bola – present
Stephanie Panico – present
Bill Quinn - present
Alison Quintard - present
Lisa Routel – present

TC Liaison Vincent Panico - present

Recreation Director, Gabrielle Bolarakis - present

C) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the meeting minutes of June 26, 2024. Ms. Routel seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

D) COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE – The Recreation Department received correspondence from residents who won a pickleball tournament and would like to hang their banner at the Summer Road and will be requesting permission from the Township Committee.

E) OLD BUSINESS

i) Cornhuskers Master Plan Updates – Director Bolarakis reported she reached out to the Bernards Township Parks and Recreation Director to get information about the four-season pavilion in Dunham Park. The pavilion is 900 square feet and seats 60 people max. It has heat and air conditioning allowing year-round use. The pavilion was enclosed after construction and heat and air were added later. Director Bolarakis indicated that the Cornhuskers pavilion could be built and prepared for enclosure and the addition of heat and air to spread out construction costs. Most of the Dunham Park rentals are on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Rentals are for half day, morning and afternoon. The fee is \$125 for residents and \$250 for nonresidents. The township does not clean between rentals, residents are responsible for picking up after themselves. The Recreation Committee discussed size options for Cornhuskers agreeing that a phased construction for a four season pavilion that seats 80 to 100 residents would be ideal. The Recreation Committee discussed adding other unique amenities to the park plan once the size and scope of the pavilion is determined.

ii) Park Facilities Update – The Resolution for the Hunterdon County Municipal Park Improvement Grant was submitted for approval at the September 2nd meeting. The grant submission is due September 20th. The intent is for municipalities to be notified about awards this fall. Director Bolarakis informed the Recreation Committee that the county has \$1,000,000 to award for qualifying projects.

iii) Fall Brochure – The brochure went out digitally, but the mailing was delayed waiting for the approval of postage. The check was just approved, and the mailing is ready to go out to Readington residents.

iv) Summer Camp Update – Director Bolarakis informed the Recreation Committee that Summer Recreation is running smoothly with only one week left. Flute & Fiddle camp is running this week, and the campers have two performances scheduled. Specialty Camps will run weekly in August. Director Bolarakis brought to the Recreation Committee's attention that salary expenses for summer camps will not be deducted from the Recreation Trust until September.

F) NEW BUSINESS

i) BioBitz – The BioBlitz is sponsored by the National Recreation and Parks Association annually in September. The Recreation Department is excited to participate this year. Director Bolarakis reached out to the Hunterdon County Parks Department to see if they could lead an INaturalist program and a guided walk. Stephanie Panico was excited about the program. The Recreation Committee discussed the best options for program dates and options for participation. It was agreed that the best option was a combination of individuals being to participate on their own and scheduled programs. The Recreation Committee agreed that September 22 was a good date to schedule a guided walk with a park naturalist. The Recreation Department will reach out to the county for a date for an INaturalist program early in September. Bill Quinn offered to attend the walk as a Recreation Committee representative. The Recreation Department will distribute information about the programs to the scouts and the schools.

ii) Whitehouse Wind Symphony – The Whitehouse Wind Symphony is scheduled to give a free performance at the Readington Middle School on October 4th at 7pm.

G) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – None

H) COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD –

i) Chairman Bola inquired about getting a sponsorship link on the web site. Allison Quintard responded that the sponsorship update is in process, and she will try to have something for the committee to look at in September.

ii) Township Committee liaison Vincent Panico shared drone footage of the trail in the Dobosynski Farm Park.

iii) Melissa Adams inquired about the status of the Memorial Bench program. Director Bolarakis reported that the program was approved by the Township Committee and the Recreation Department had received their first inquiry about a Memorial Bench.

iv) Township Committee liaison Vincent Panico shared that the Readington Township Committee received a donation of a camera that will capture 3D images. The unit will be available for use if the Recreation Department needs to create 3D renderings of public spaces.

I) ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Panico motioned to adjourn at 8:55pm. Mr. Quinn seconded. All in favor.

Next meeting is September 25, 2024 at 7:30pm.