

MARCH 11, 2008  
ANDOVER TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION COMMITTEE

The regular meeting of the Andover Township Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Chairperson Helene Reczka, with the following members present: Mike Morel, Barbara Niedzinski, Patti Clark, Dick Lagg, Jodi Halteman and Ed Burgio. Lisa Greebel, volunteer applicant to the Recreation Committee was also in attendance.

OPENING STATEMENT: The Chairwoman noted compliance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 as being met.

MINUTES: Barbara Niedzinski made a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008. Mike Morel seconded the motion, all in favor.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

The meeting was open to the public. As there was no one present, the meeting was closed to the public.

At this time Lisa Greebel, applicant for the vacant position of Alternate #3 membership was introduced to the members. Lisa was invited to join in with the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT:

1. NJHerald, Township Journal, Notices re Easter Egg Hunt  
Andover Regional Schools

Mike Morel made a motion to file correspondence. Barbara Niedzinski seconded the motion, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on renovations of Old Police Headquarters/Review of Proposed New 2008 Activities - YMCA Programs; Yoga; Adult Recreation: All of these programs will depend upon the completion of the renovation. At this time it was reported that the work is not completed and then we need inspections, CO, etc. We could possibly move some of these programs into the barn but then we are restricted as to when the barn is available and how much storage is needed for these programs. There is no storage available in the barn. Another issue is how we get the word out to advertise these new programs. The ideal time is to use the township newsletters which are sent out in the Spring and Fall. That way we know that each and every household receives it. The other ways we advertise is by school notices, newspapers, and our town sign. But unless you get the paper or have kids in the school or travel past town hall and look at the sign, people will complain that they were not aware.

We thought about putting info in the spring newsletter explaining our plans for programs that will have to take place in the fall due to the building not being ready. We really need to give ourselves as well as the road department ample time to finish the work and get the new programs advertised to as broad of a cross section of the population as possible. Looking at the programs we are talking about, we should not have a problem getting the word out to the seniors through the Greater Andover Senior Citizen Organization for the program geared for that age group. Also, we could spread the word and advertise the programs geared for the children through our summer recreation program. Then we add the info we will put in the spring newsletter and put the info for registration for the programs on the sign as well as in the NJ Herald and Township Journal, combine that with the YMCA's advertising through their organization and we think with all of this we should be making a sufficient effort in getting these programs off the ground.

2. Easter Egg Hunt: We will have the assistance of Ashley Frazell, a Newton HS student who needs several hours of community service for her National Honor Society requirement by filling the eggs for the March 15th Easter Egg Hunt. The goodie bags are being filled also and we look forward to setting up the hunt in the park this year with the new playground equipment to work around! We will use Sunday, March 16th as our first rain date at 2:00pm if needed and if the weekend is a total wash out we will go to the next Saturday, March 22nd at 12 noon. Everyone will meet at the park at 11:00 am to begin dispersing the eggs and getting the areas defined. Ed Burgio will have his daughter, Victoria, come in his stead as he will be with his son at an athletic event. We have a new Easter Bunny Costume so Barbara will be a very fashionable Easter Bunny this year. We will have extra candy for the Easter Bunny to carry around in her basket for the children.

3. Adult Dance: We originally scheduled the dance on Friday, April 4th but we needed to change it to the 11th due to the PTA Variety Show being held on that date. Now we have an opportunity to go to Saturday evening April 12th due to a cancellation of a prior rental on that date. Everyone agreed that if the DJ is available on the 12th we should go with Saturday instead of Friday. We discussed the cost of the tickets and agreed upon \$15 per person or \$25 per couple or \$10 per person for those 55 years of age or older. It is a BYOB event and the proceeds are going to be donated to either our late police Sgt. Harry Kinney's children or the Bodhi Monastery's Food Pantry. The Director will check with Harry's family to make sure the trust is still valid. The Director will be printing the tickets tomorrow after the recipient of the proceeds is confirmed. We will give 10 tickets to the members at the Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday to sell as well as giving some to the Police Dpt. to be dispersed. We will have a meeting the Tuesday before the dance so we can fine tune the food and set up plans at that time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion re open position on Recreation Committee - At this time it was brought to the members attention that we needed to have a quick election for Vice Chair which had been postponed from an earlier meeting due to Ed Burgio first not being a regular member and then absent.

At this time Dick Lagg made a motion to appoint Ed Burgio as Vice Chair for 2008. Mike Morel seconded the motion, all in favor. At this time Ed Burgio, Jodi Halteman and Patti Clark took their oaths and signed them for the Director to submit to the Township Clerk for filing.

The members asked Lisa if she had any special areas of recreation or activities that she would like to see addressed by the Recreation Committee and she informed the members that adult softball would be something she would like to see be promoted. A discussion followed as to the past experiences with adult leagues that we could call to mind to help us decide how we could support this once again. In the past, teams from local leagues would request field time for the adult leagues. There were several times when the use of the fields by the adult leagues caused the Little League teams to have to regroom the fields for their games because the pitchers mound and/or base paths were reconfigured for the adults. This did cause some concern with the road department also because they maintain the fields. Also there were times when the adult league did get a little rowdy at the park and left garbage around including beer bottles, etc. Of course that behavior is not acceptable. Then there is always the problem with having enough field space for the Little League and Girls Softball programs available for their games and practices and adding another user could be a problem. We can look into this if there is a real legitimate team or league comprised of Andover Township residents who need a home field.

2. Begin Plans for Family Fun Day, May 31st and Summer Rec Program and Summer Sports Camps - Multi and Tennis. **Family Fun Day, May 31st** - Patti Clark will check with her friends - The Jones Alley Band - who performed at Andover Twp. Day last year to see if they will provide the music on May 31st. We will have to hold our annual contests that day with the following tentative schedule: 1:00 pm to 2 or 2:30 Talent Search; 2 or 2:30 Little Miss and Mr. and then close with the Miss Andover Twp. Contest at approximately 3:00 or 3:30. This would all take place in the building. Outside we will have some children's entertainment set up to begin at 3 pm - Bounce House, Petting Zoo, Magician, etc. and then the live music to begin at 4 pm by which time the Miss Andover Twp. contest should be finished. We don't want the music to be an interference with the contest. So the music can run from 4 - 7 pm along with the food - hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. We can ask the youth groups - athletics and scouts if they are interested in participating with food like last year - pop corn, ice cream, cotton candy. The Director will follow up on that.

At this time we discussed the level of talent that has been displayed in past contests. We would hope that the children that come forward would be a little more accomplished than in the past. We have to remember that the 1st place winners do go to the SC Farm and Horse Show as representatives so they do go on and they should be worthy of such an honor. The Director reminded everyone that this is the year that the PTA holds it's Variety Show and that we could make up flyers advertising our contest in May to be dispersed to the contestants for the school's contest. Hopefully this would add to the number and hopefully the quality of contestants that we will draw. The Director will make up this flyer and give it to the PTA for disbursement.

Also Jodi Halteman brought up that we need to make sure that when we offer the Bounce House and activities similar to that, we need to be certain that we have the activity suitably chaperoned with age appropriate people. We can fine tune the activities to be offered at the next meeting.

**Summer Recreation Program and Summer Sports Camps - Multi and Tennis:** The Director has met with Wendy Ehehalt and Janet Bardello, Directors of the Fun and Games and Arts and Crafts portions of the summer program and they have given their support to the new format for the program. We will run the program for 2 weeks instead of the 5 weeks as in the past. We will run the program Monday-Thursday, 9-11:30 am beginning June 23rd and ending on July 3rd. It is our aim to offer the program to children 5 years and older but for the first year, we will offer inclusion in this year's program it to those children who were 3 years old last year and 4 years old this year. There were only 9 children from last summer. That way those children who participated last year will be able to continue with the program uninterrupted. Then next year it will be strictly offered to 5 and up.

We will begin the day at 9 am with having the 6 and under aged children participating with Fun and Games while the children 7 and up will be participating with Arts and Crafts. At 9:45-10:45 the children will then have snack and entertainment. The Director is arranging for different types of interesting things for the kids to enjoy. One of the possibilities is having some of the children from the Township Talent Search come and perform for the children. Everyone thought that would be a fun thing. Then at 10:45 the kids will switch to the opposite program then they had participated in before snack time. The Director is in the process of getting all the details ironed out. We will need to have everything decided by the time the newsletter is mailed by mid April.

We discussed whether it be mandatory for parents to remain at the park during the whole program. We will ask the parents of the 6 and under kids to stay but we do make sure that we have emergency contact info on all of the children's forms in case we would need it. We will also have all of the children dismissed from the barn each day so that we can make sure that they are all accounted for and that they are leaving the park with who they are approved to be with. This will probably cause some displeasure with some parents who just like to have the kids run to their cars to leave, but they will have to abide by our plan and recognize that it is in the children's best interests to cooperate.

We will try this new format and see how it goes. The fee for this year's program was decided to be set at \$25 per child not to exceed \$40 per family. Ms. Bardello feels that there is a very large inventory of supplies from prior years that she will be making use of so that will help with the expense of ordering new supplies.

The multi sports camp will take place the week of July 28th - Aug. 1st. at Hillside Park. The tennis camp will be the week of Aug. 18th - Aug. 22nd from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. The US Sports company will provide us with the flyers to be distributed and we will also include this info in our township newsletter.

At this time, Jodi Halteman asked if there was a way we could have a connection with our residents and our website in order to allow messages through emails to notify everyone of activities. At this time, it is questionable as to what we can get our website to include but the Director will ask if this can be done. In the meantime we need to encourage everyone to watch for messages on the town sign and to also check with the website for new activities that is included on a scroll on the site.

Also, Ed Burgio reminded the members that there is a sum of approximately \$15,000 ear marked for improvements to the rink resulting from the recently settled litigation. Ed had a proposal from the DeMilia Company who did the refurbishing of the tennis courts. Mr. DeMilia would like to meet with a representative of the Road Dept. as well as representatives from the Recreation Committee to go over the rink as is and explain his plans for improvements. Ed and Mike will make themselves available to represent the Recreation Committee. Ed will be getting in touch with Mr. DeMillia and Darren from the Road Department to set up a time to meet that is mutually convenient. Ed will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

We also discussed how it might just be the right time to approach the State once again regarding the use of the field area at the Kittatinny Valley State Park for ball fields for the township programs. It is such a waste that this acreage is just lying dormant and we are desperate for fields for our kids' programs. We would maintain the fields if they would just allow the use. We have been trying to get this done since the inception of the park to no avail. The Director will check with Mayor Phoebus to see if she would be willing to approach the state on behalf of the Recreation Committee. Mayor Phoebus has stated in the past that this is a project that she would give her support to.

#### APPLICATIONS:

1. April 19th - Stanton - Party - Fee - \$300.00
2. May 9th - Foster - Party - Fee - \$100.00 (Lakeland Emergency Squad)
3. May 22nd/23rd (rain dates - 29th/30th) - Tiny Town Pre School - Picnic Only
4. June 1st - Weir - Party - Fee - \$300.00

APPLICATIONS, Cont.:

5. June 28th - Phillip Coleman - Party - \$100.00 (Police Dept.)
6. Aug. 24th - Siplely - Family Party - \$100.00 (Fire Dept.)
7. Sept. 26th/27th - Beshada - Wedding Reception - \$300.00 - Prior Day Set Up - \$150.00

ADJOURNMENT:

At this time, there being no further business to discuss, Barbara Niedzinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. It was seconded by Patti Clark. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Reczka, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Huelbig, Secretary

