

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for September 26, 2023 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on September 26, 2023 on Zoom teleconference. It began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson David Keyt, with Derek Jackson as secretary.

2. Attendees

Voting Members in attendance: James Aitken, Phyllis Deering, Heather Hornyak, Derek Jackson, David Keyt, Shaun Lehrer, Mark Odenwelder, Tish Scarola

Non-voting Members in attendance: Karen Brennfleck (Recreation Director),

Guests in attendance: None

Members not in attendance: Ina Rose, Meghan Leininger (Board of Education Liaison), Melissa Muilenburg (Council Liaison)

3. Approval of Minutes

The May 17, 2023 minutes will be recirculated and potentially approved outside of the meeting.

4. Report of the Recreation Director

Report was presented by Karen Brennfleck.

Summer of 2023 Recap

- Camps were full except for sailing
- Sailing was down significantly year over year
- Danielle Cabana was in her first year as recreation camp director
 - She did a great job and is actively seeking feedback to enhance the program in the future.
 - Assuming the schools continue to be agreeable to hosting recreation, the program will continue next year

5. Old Business

Review action items from prior meetings (kept separately from meeting minutes)

- Dog Park
 - Steve Hercek from the Woodlands Committee walked an area behind Taft Field.
 - Assuming there are no structures the area behind Taft Field would likely be agreeable.
 - Reed Burke is considering helping with this as an Eagle Scout Project. In the absence of that, the project needs to be added to a future budget
- Tennis Court Opening
 - The courts completed and the girl's tennis team is playing on them.
 - There are a few items that need to be completed. The schools and borough are discussing who should pay.

- Some of the lights are not working
 - Additional benches and seating are required
 - Wind screens still need to be purchased and installed
- Karen Brennfleck is proposing an “Open Tennis Tournament” during the Homecoming weekend on October 7. It would be a mixed doubles round robin format.

6. New Business

- Karen was at a meeting of county recreation directors
 - Guards are required to be 16 on lakes. The requirement is 15 at the pools.
 - Guards pay \$250 for a new and \$150 renewal of their certifications
 - At the end of the summer, there were minimal life guards
 - Some guards only worked 12 hours for the entire summer
 - Many towns had a bonus structure for guards, for example
 - Work X hours a week, you get additional \$Y/hour
 - Work Z hours your certifications are reimbursed
 - Performance review based on metrics halfway through the summer. If performance objectives are achieved, a bonus could be paid.
 - Refer a friend
 - There was discussion of whether we should do the same, different or some combination of the options. There was acknowledgement of the need and support for the concept. Any change will need to be approved by the Council and Mitchell.
- Swim Coach Lessons
 - There is an ordinance that requires the town to give summer swim lessons
 - Our guards do not want to give lessons
 - There is not demand. There were only 8 people who took lessons
 - Lessons may be given through the swim team and/or coaches
- Dates for Christmas Tree/Menorah
 - The tree was proposed for Sunday, December 3. Unfortunately, the high school bell choir is unavailable that weekend. As an alternative we will look at December 1
 - The Menorah is scheduled for Sunday, December 10
 - Potential Gingerbread display event separately
- Fireworks 2024
 - July 4th is a Thursday
 - We will propose July 6 with July 7 as a rain date
- Policies & Procedures for rec programs
 - Karen will circulate some proposals based on information from the county recreation directors meeting.
- Mountain Lakes Day
 - This will not happen in 2023 but will hopefully happen in 2024
 - We will likely need to find new volunteers

- Ideas for new events
 - Spooky Run around Birchwood
 - SUP Witch Paddle (“Witches on the Water”)
 - Pumpkin Carving display at “Spooky Run”
 - Scavenger Hunt
 - Door Decorating
- Community Service Hours
 - There was an ask for student community service
 - Suggestion was the baseball fields near the YMCA

7. Announcements

Next meeting October 17, 2023

8. Adjournment

David Keyt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Derek Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:25 PM.