

Meeting of Mendham Township Recreation Advisory Board
Nov. 13, 2019, 7:30 pm

Attendees:

Amalia Duarte (MTC liaison)	David Guida (Recreation Director)
Adam Dubeck	Trish O'Brien
Eric Mauriello	John Mallon
Kimberly Gavagan	Cieran Plancer-Murphy
Kristin Osika	Jamie Carfagna

Motion to approve meetings from Sept mtg – moved and approved

Introduced three new HS liaisons:

- Cieran Plancer-Murphy
- Kristin Osika
- Jamie Carfagna

Website improvements:

- Discussed Township Recreation website and all agreed it makes sense to leave old event information on the site even after the event has passed (it shows the breadth of programming offered by the Township)
- David requested that Advisory Board members review the site and provide feedback to him (what should be added, changed, removed, etc.) at next meeting
- Discussed adding photos and video to the site and decided to enlist the help of the three HS liaisons. Each to make a short video or photo slide show of a park in town to showcase it online:
 - Cieran – Mosely
 - Kristin – Brookside (wait until summer)
 - Jamie – Ralston
- David will also reach out to Mendham TV to inquire about footage of the Patriot's Race, Beach opening, playground re-opening, etc.
- If Advisory Board members have any photos from events, please send them to David

Fitness program update:

- Program going well overall: 18 people attended yoga on 11/13 and 10 people the week before.
- 11/12 was the first day of Barre class and 9 people attended
- 11/7 was the first day of Zoomba and two attended, though it was noted that it was during Parent-Teacher conferences. David will see if Zoomba classes pick up in the next few weeks.
- The break-even number for any class is five (\$10 each and instructors are paid \$50) and the overall goal of the program is to provide a service, not make money
- The main meeting room at Town Hall works well for the classes, though chairs need to be moved then replaced after class

Ralston Playground Next Phase:

- Holiday fundraiser: Rec Adv Board members agreed to commit to selling 15 “units” for the fundraiser: \$20 Christmas ornaments or \$10 chocolate coins for Hanukkah
- The West Morris Junior Women’s Club will co-sponsor a Polar Bear Plunge at Brookside Beach on New Year’s Day. Lifeguards and EMTs will be present. Will take place around noon. Hot chocolate/marshmallow roasting, etc. will be offered. Admission charged for both participants and spectators.
- David is exploring “Text to Donate” and promoting it at the Playground. Ideally, have it in place by “Giving Tuesday” (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving).

Senior Programming:

- Exploring Holiday event (breakfast? lunch?) for seniors at Brookside Community Club. Pictures with Santa, etc. Looking at 12/18 or 12/20. Volunteers needed – please help if you can.
- Discussed speaker series for seniors kicking off in 2020: A series of monthly “lunch and learns” on a variety of topics (safety/police, gardening, banks/retirement budgeting, etc.) Adam noted that he is an Elder Attorney and would be glad to provide guidance.
- Also discussed having a senior representative on the Advisory Board to assist with future senior programming ideas.

General Programming:

- Discussed possible adult programs including soccer and volleyball. Locations would need to be determined. Tabled for future discussion.

Dog park:

- Discussed the possibility of creating space for a dog park in Mendham
- Trish noted that a dog park was discussed by the Advisory Board in 2018 – possibly located at the new playground, but liability issues were challenging.
- Noted that the Long Valley dog park features a coded entry and you need to pay an annual member fee to use it. Discussed if Mendham dog owners would be willing to pay.
- The Wysong area was discussed but several raised concerns about safety issues between kids at the playground and dogs entering/existing the dog park.
- Tabled for future discussion.

Field usage:

- David noted there was an uptick in realtors calling to find out about the field schedules and programming; potential buyers wanted to know more about how the fields are used.
- Eric said the fields are used 3x/week during soccer season.
- David to reach out to other team liaisons to learn more

2020 day trips:

- Discussed possible interest in day trips. What type of trips may people be interested in (Holiday/NYC? Seniors? Sporting events, i.e., Devils’ game?)
- Tabled for future discussion.

December meeting cancelled; the group will reconvene in January 2020. All agreed that the second Wed. of the month at 7:30 p.m. remains a good time to meet.

Motion to adjourn – carried.