

Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee
Minutes of January 10, 2023 Re-Organization Meeting
Approved

The meeting of the Warren Township Recreation Advisory Committee convened at 7:03 pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at the Springdale Conference Room, Warren Town Hall, 46 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey.

Open Public Meeting Statement - Adequate notice of this meeting was given by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board and sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Courier News, and Echoes Sentinel as required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

In attendance were: Zachary Drozd, Daniel Croson, Heather Silver, Franco Caruso, Vance Gillenwater (arrived 7:06pm), Kevin Brotspies, Aparna Virmani, Recreation Director Joe Passaro and Township Committee Person Gary DiNardo.

NOMINATION and ELECTION of CHAIRPERSON

Heather Silver nominated Zachary Drozd as Chairperson with all members in favor.

LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

- Facilities- Franco Caruso, Kevin Brotspies
- Trails- Daniel Croson, Zachary Drozd
- Playgrounds- Kevin Brotspies, Heather Silver
- Culture and Diversity- Aparna Virmani
- Events- Heather Silver, Aparna Virmani
- Sports- Vance Gillenwater

Zach motioned to approve the liaison appointments and Aparna 2nd with all in favor.

Zachary Drozd motioned to approve the meeting minutes from December 7, 2022 and Heather Silver 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS

- 501(c)(3) update
 - Zach stated that he spoke with Mark Krane who got him in touch with the attorney who helped start the 501c3. The attorney stated that after the initial set up paperwork he was not asked to help with the yearly tax work as someone else did that. In December 2020 there was emails from Mark and Gina Rosenfarb (who was in charge of the 501c3) stating that she was moving out of town and wanted to close it. Zach is waiting to hear from the CPA who handled the 501c3 but currently the attorney said the 990 to the IRS was going to be filed. At this time it is not known if the 501c3 was re-started how much back taxes could be owed. It will have to be evaluated once more answers are received whether to re-start the 501c3 or start a new one. Aparna stated that it costs \$250 for an EIN.
- Warren Environmental Commission's proposal to assist with trail improvements
 - Heather spoke to the Elks who own the land where the grotto is located to see if they had interest in helping to clean it up. Joe confirmed that the Elks own the land of the grotto and it has been one of the reasons this project was stalled after many tried over the years. Gary DiNardo explained that if we wanted to have volunteers clean up the area of the grotto we would need a contract or lease plus insurance. Zach stated that instead of focusing on the grotto that we should develop the trails surrounding the grotto and include trail markers, signage and a bridge. He also stated that he can bring back what we discussed to the Environmental Commission. Franco knows that chair of the Environmental

Commission as well so he can also speak with him. In discussion a spring trail clean up event was discussed and Heather will set up a meeting with Joe along with her son who is involved in a hiking club at the high school to plan a trail clean-up day. Gary stated that he spoke with John Linder about restoring the Hofheimer Mausoleum about volunteering equipment to help clean it up and that then a trail can be created to lead to the mausoleum.

- Farmer's Market Update
 - The Farmer's Market event has turned into investigating a Food and Craft Festival. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- Update Walking Path near Middle School
 - Dan stated that the walking path is fixed.
- Non-Verbal Communication Boards at Playgrounds
 - Joe stated that he had a conversation with Vic Sordillo as he was copied on the emails regarding the non-verbal communication boards. He suggested doing more research on it with the needs in Warren and the costs. Joe stated that he will be reaching out to the superintendent of the Warren Schools for information.

NEW BUSINESS

Heather brought up the holiday boutique that is typically held through elementary and middle schools. She stated that it did not happen in the middle school this year and did not know if it would interfere with the Holiday Festival if the Elks or similar group took it on. Joe stated as long as it is not the same weekend it would be fine to be held.

Aparna stated that she would like to do a series of different cultural events such as a Chinese New Year. She stated that Basking Ridge started off with a small event in their Town Hall and have grown to hold larger events. Aparna has volunteers who would be interested in helping with our own event. It was suggested that Aparna look into the library for hosting a small event as you can use your own library card to book a room. In discussion too it was stated to try partnering with the local schools such as Murray Hill Chinese School. On the next agenda a cultural event would be discussed.

DISCUSSION

Zach stated that he Joe sent him the Annual Report and he reviewed it. He stated small suggestions such as adding the list of sponsor names for events recreation received sponsorships. Zach stated that he will forward the report to members and will collect comments. He would then send those comments to Joe and he can add if he would like.

ADJOURNMENT 8:14 PM. Zachary Drozd motioned to adjourn and Heather Silver 2nd with all others in favor.

Next meeting, on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7:00 pm - Warren Town Hall Springdale Conference Room

Submitted by: Amanda Frech, Recreation Advisory Committee Secretary