

Birdsboro Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes

8/27/2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Birdsboro Recreation Board was called to order at 7pm on 08/27/2020 at Birdsboro Borough Hall by Board President Bruce Godfrey.

Present

Bruce Godfrey, President, Matt Elgonitis, Vice President, Tom Brungard, Secretary and Board Members Bill Quinley, Ryan Acevedo, Kristen Thompson and Nancy Kauffman.

Tom Brungard appeared at the meeting through the Zoom app.

Board Members Ryan Acevedo and Kristen Thompson were welcomed to their first Recreation Board meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was circulated by email prior to the meeting. It was discussed the meeting agenda should be copied to all board members ahead of the following meeting. Vice President Matt Elgonitis will be preparing future agendas with input from all members roughly two weeks in advance and submitting to President Godfrey for approval. Once approved, the agenda will be circulated to all members.

Open Items

The first issue was whether or not any actions would be taken by the Parks board regarding Birdsboro Hometown Christmas. Board Member Nancy Kauffman indicated that the Borough Council had not decided whether or not the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas will even occur this year. There was serious concern about the art bus and bouncy castle being unavailable due to the problems with social distancing. The committee for the event will be meeting sometime after the next Borough Council meeting on September 7th. Once that date is established she will reach out to Parks Secretary Tom Brungard to attend. If Tom Brungard is unavailable to attend, it was decided that Bill Quinley will go in his place. Tom Brungard suggested the possibility of the event not taking place due to Covid-19 issues. Board Member Kristen Thompson indicated there are several organizations interested in participating including St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Board Member Ryan Acevedo asked roughly how many people attend. It was estimated by Board Member Nancy Kauffman that the attendance would be approximately 200 people. It was pointed out by Nancy Kauffman that Pennsylvania has currently a limit of capping gatherings with 250 people.

Board Member Nancy Kauffman informed the Board that the 2020 Birdsboro Halloween parade will probably be cancelled by the Rotary Club. No final decision has been made at the time of the Recreation Board August meeting.

New Items

Second Saturdays

The first item was the presentation of information from the Committee established to discuss Second Saturdays. This committee consists of board members Bill Quinley and Tom Brungard and board president Bruce Godfrey. President Godfrey made a presentation of the committee's discussions. March 13th was suggested for an indoor craft show event at Birdsboro Community Center. Board member Tom Brungard is to contact the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen once the date for the Community Center venue is finalized. April 10th will be reserved for a carnival in MainBird if there is a ride company available for that date. Board President Bruce Godfrey contacted the owner of the amusement park currently being held on Rt.724 and Shed Rd. The owner is amenable to coming to Birdsboro but he is booked quite heavily for next summer as all the events he had for this year have been postponed. The annual Duck Race to benefit the Boone Area Library is scheduled for early May. The Recreation Board will propose having a battle of the bands for teenage children to bring in a wider audience for the Duck Race. Board Vice President Matt Elgonitis suggested also having a BMX display which received favorable support from the board members. It was then motioned that the committee continue to take steps to book the March, April and May 2021 events. The motion was brought to the floor by board member Bill Quinley and seconded by board Vice President Matt Elgonitis. The motion was unanimously approved.

Movie Night in Park

During the discussion for Second Saturdays there was a constructive conversation regarding a movie night to occur in the park. Kristen brought up the idea of a movie night to occur in the park. Ryan Acevedo mentioned that his work with BYS includes doing a movie night at Texas field for which they charge ten dollars. The idea received a good deal of support. Kristen Thompson has a projector and Matt Elgonitis has a sound system. The only piece missing would be a screen. There is none readily available for the projector. Nancy Kauffman mentioned that there might be issues with BYS charging ten dollars while the park was doing it for free. Ryan made it clear that BYS only asks for donations. Bill Quinley suggested the Legion might consider contributing funds to help with rental projection. Nancy Kauffman then asked that we speak to the borough manager as any letter to the American Legion would normally come from her. Nancy asked for a clear date to have the movie night. Bruce suggested by October 15th. Nancy also wanted to discuss the idea of having snacks as this could cause concerns. The council agreed that this issue was secondary as we need to get the major pieces in motion first. Matt Elgonitis suggested having Porta Potties available. Nancy Kauffman brought up that for the two or three hours they could potentially be used that it likely wouldn't be necessary. Nancy reported her research on Porta Potties suppliers. Bullinger had provided Porta Potties previously for borough functions. There was a motion brought to the floor that a committee be formed consisting of Board members Kristen Thompson, Matt Elgonitis and Ryan Acevedo. It was brought to the floor by Bill Quinley and seconded by Matt Elgonitis. The board voted to approve the motion by a 7-0 vote.

Priority of Park Repairs

Bruce brought up the priority of the repairs to the parks. There were four items suggested: new mulch, cleaning up graffiti, repairing the tennis nets next to vest pocket park, and removing dead trees in Rustic Park and along the street in Vest Pocket park. Nancy Kauffman pointed out that an individual was caught and convicted of graffiti vandalism. The individual was sentenced to community service and ordered to remove the graffiti. Nancy also informed the Board that mulch had previously been donated by Martin's Mulch in Ephrata although Monty's Mulch locally has made smaller contributions to the borough in the past. The board then voted on the priority of the repairs and unanimously selected removing dead trees as the first priority. Next the repair of the tennis nets held a majority of five as the second priority. Graffiti clean up finished third and mulch finished fourth. Bruce will approach the borough council to suggest these changes.

Presentation by Emma Elgonitis

Emma Elgonitis asked the board if they would consider having her put in a bench at the entrance of Rustic Park. Her Girl Scout troop already beautifies that area once a year and she would like to put the bench in as a memorial to one of the deceased mothers of her troop. She would require no funding and would handle all the labor. It would be for her Girl Scouts Silver Award. Bill then suggested that if she needed funding she should approach the Legion. Emma asked if she could present to the Borough council. It was then motioned to recommend that Emma speak to the Borough council by Matt and seconded by Nancy. The board voted unanimously to approve.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Nancy would like the minutes altered to say that the \$500 donation to Birdsboro-Union Fire Department was not a firm amount but a suggestion. The amended meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Matt and seconded by Nancy. The board voted unanimously to approve.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Bruce at 8:15 PM. The next general meeting will be at 7PM on September 24th.

Bruce,

I rewrote some of the sentences but believe I have captured the gist of what was discussed. Not being physically at the meeting and only hearing about 60% of the content of each discussion, I may have misinterpreted. Feel free to correct any errors you may find. If any revisions do not ring true, you should roll back to your original writings.

Some questions and suggestions:

I deleted Kelly Yanos from the agenda discussion. I felt that it would serve no constructive purpose. Did anyone suggest that she receive a copy of the finalized minutes for posting on the

board's website? I thought I did. If so, go ahead and add that as the last sentence in that paragraph.

The line about the Legion and the rental is unclear. Would the funds be used for the projection or projector or screen?

You might also need to put the votes of each of the priorities like mulch, tennis nets, graffiti and dead trees. Was there a final vote to present the priorities to council.

You should also refer to the Recreation Board as a Board and Borough Council as a Council. There would be much confusion otherwise.

You did a fine job getting the salient points of the meeting together in the minutes. The English major, ex-reporter and writer of met lab reports just tried to dress it up a bit.