

Birdsboro Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes

11/19/2020

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Birdsboro Recreation Board was called to order at 7pm on 11/19/2020 at Birdsboro Borough Hall by Board President Bruce Godfrey. The meeting was held using Zoom. The meeting will use Zoom until further notice.

Roll Call

Present were Bruce Godfrey, President, Matt Elgonitis, Vice President, Tom Brungard, Secretary, Christen Thompson, Ryan Acevedo and Nancy Kauffman. Bill Quinley was absent.

Approval of Minutes

Matt Elgonitis made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting. Ryan Acevedo seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Discussion of Agenda Items

Caitlyn Dillon of Girl Scout Troop 1797 made a presentation to request of the board any recommendations for Silver Award project. It could include painting, removal of graffiti and any other ideas that the board might suggest. Nancy Kauffman listed the following possible projects: Staining the fence and repainting the park equipment at Vest Pocket Park. Matt Elgonitis suggested painting over the Graffiti at Rustic Parks railroad underpass. It was determined by the board that the damage caused by vandals would not be fixed on a timely basis by those who caused it. Paint has been provided by Home Depot in the past. The Borough might also have some paint or stain for the project.

Caitlyn suggested doing the project in the spring of 2021. She asked the board about the amount of time that it would take to do the Rustic Park project. She stated she must put in 50 hours for the project and could ask friends to help her. Bruce Godfrey said that the Rustic Park graffiti project could take up all of Caitlyn's requirements. Nancy Kauffman also suggested that the benches at Vest Pocket Park's tennis courts. Caitlyn would be supervised by her troop leader. The procedures of going through the borough council and the borough manager were discussed.

Tom Brungard gave an update on the Second Saturday March 2021 craft show. The Reading Berks Guild of Craftsmen are enthusiastic about the show and the venue of the community center. Applications for vendor spots are being distributed to their members with a request to return by email or regular mail by February 1, 2021. The board would decide thereafter who would be asked to participate. A decision to go forward would be made by February 20, 2021. Any Covid-19 rules in force at that time would be followed. Stephen Hunter of the guild suggested by email that local craftsmen not in the guild should be considered due to the possibility of a smaller number of guild members responding. There were no objections to allowing local applicants in early January if the guild applications were fewer than expected.

Bruce Godfrey gave a report on the carnival planned for the Second Saturday in April. Ben Pfeffer, the owner of the carnival is enthusiastic about coming to Birdsboro but will not be able to come in April 2021. He suggested that October 2021 would be a better date as he was booked throughout the summer. He will require a supply of potable water and a 24-hour electrical hookup. The carnival would run from Wednesday through Saturday.

It was pointed by Tom Brungard that the Duck Race was cancelled by the Boone Area Library in May 2021. Bruce will reach out to Mr. Pfeffer regarding the May opening. Bruce also stated that the carnival owner would provide a \$500 deposit.

Suggested were then solicited by Bruce Godfrey for future Second Saturdays.

Matt Elgonitis suggested a battle of the bands involving local high school students. Nancy Kauffman suggested that Rustic Park would be the best location for the event due to noise considerations.

Tom Brungard brought up some of the original ideas for Second Saturdays: yard sales, flea markets, food truck vendors and farmer's markets. Farmer's market was thought to be an idea that might not work due to vendors being booked at permanent stands throughout the area. A onetime harvest produce market might work in the fall.

Nancy Kauffman suggested an event involving the Hay Creek Watershed. It would be an educational event in Rustic Park. Scheduling would be affected by bridge construction in 2021. After the bridge is completed, the Hay Creek event could be scheduled.

Matt Elgonitis suggested that the Recreation Board might have a fundraising project to replace the Duck Race. Bruce Godfrey suggested that the discussion could continue at a future date as a fundraising topic.

A yard sale for the Second Saturday in April at Main Bird Park is a tentative project.

Ryan Acevedo will investigate getting a baseball event for May 2021's Second Saturday. Ryan will reach out to the Reading Phillies for possible participation. Bruce Godfrey brought up that the Reading Phillies might not be available in May so that June or July might work better. Nancy Kauffman pointed out that Daniel Boone High School graduation would be held in early June so there should be a check on dates to avoid conflicts.

Nancy Kauffman suggested a fishing event for June. Nancy said she would look into the construction dates of the footbridge at Rustic Park. Matt Elgonitis volunteered to organize the project.

Kristen Thompson will be working on a food truck Second Saturday in July or August.

Bruce Godfrey will be organizing the April yard sale. Tom Brungard suggested having the community center rent out tables if the participants would not be bringing their own.

Nancy Kauffman offered to check into ideas involving rock climbing at the reservoir. It could be in conjunction with a cleanup project. Kristen Thompson suggested that the cleanup Birdsboro is usually held around Earth Day in April. Kristen and Nancy will work on clean up projects for next year.

Nancy Kauffman updated the status of Birdsboro Hometown Christmas. The committee will meet November 24 at 10 am on Zoom to revamp the project. Terry Weiler, the Birdsboro Borough Solicitor and Ken Imes the Emergency Manager, decided that the Christmas event would need to involve people in cars driving by instead of the socially distancing walkway. There would be goodie bags distributed to the cars. There are organizations dropping out due to Covid-19 considerations. The lighting will go out with the contest for the best display. Kristen Thompson said work was continuing a lighting project. She deferred to Matt Elgonitis who has volunteered to build an oversized snow globe. Other ideas were considered with Matt working on the construction. Some of the ideas will be floated at the BHC meeting. It was confirmed that the Recreation Board would take over the operation of BHC in 2021 and lighting contracts would have to be approved.

A preliminary presentation was made by Matt Elgonitis and Tom Brungard on Rustic Park fees. Matt pointed out that there should be better guidelines for Borough Manager Kelly Yanos regarding what organizations should go with the current fee classifications. The problems involved which organizations should have the fees dismissed i.e. the scouts who were grandfathered with no fee and who was a designated borough organization nonprofit or service organization. Pricing suggestions are still being worked out by Matt and Tom.

Tom Brungard suggested a new fee category for profit making organizations that tie up the entire park. Perhaps a higher fee and/or a percentage of the sales. Tom also suggested a new set of lower fees involving weekday or weeknight rentals. Encouraging the usage during the week might offset vandalism. A frequent user fee was brought up to be an incentive for pavilion customers. A lower fee charged for each subsequent rental beyond the initial full price might encourage usage. The pavilions are at 50% rental capacity except during holiday weekends. Advertising on Facebook for openings in the pavilion schedule with links to borough hall. Organizations that may be located outside the borough line with a set percentage of borough residents would qualify as a borough organization.

Nancy Kauffman brought up several reservations about overtime with borough employees for overtime during the week. Nancy also expressed several objections to making the classifications too complicated. Nancy pointed out that the pavilions were underused due to the banning of alcoholic beverages. Nancy felt that there should be no changes to rental fees to organizations outside the borough. She suggested including the Daniel Boone school district be included in service organization classification. Nancy felt that the fees were not out of line with other parks in the area. She also suggested that there would have to be a reciprocal agreement with other communities such as Amity. Kristen Thompson felt the fees were acceptable but that there should be updating of park equipment. Matt Elgonitis reiterated that the proposal should be less complicated and organization such as scouts should always be free. Bruce Godfrey expressed his opinion that scouting organization wherever they are based should be free to use the parks.

New proposals for next meeting

Tom Brungard brought up an idea for a large chessboard to be constructed in Main Bird park to take advantage of the park's location and draw more residents and outside visitors to the borough. Bruce Godfrey approved it as a topic for next month's meeting.

The December meeting will include expanding ideas on each Second Saturday proposal still in planning stages.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm by Bruce Godfrey at 9 pm. The next general meeting will be at 7pm December 17, 2020 on the Zoom app room posted online for use by Council and the Municipal Board. Zoom is available for the board and all members of the public.

Minutes submitted by:

Tom Brungard, Recreation Board Secretary