

Birdsboro Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes

08/26/2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Birdsboro Recreation Board was called to order at 7pm on 08/26/2021 at Birdsboro Borough Hall by Board Chruce Godfrey.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present

Tom Brungard, Secretary, Christen Thompson, Matt Elgonitis and Asheli Godfrey were present. Ryan Acevedo, Amy Mammarella, and Sharon Morgan were absent.

Recap of Recent Completed Events

Water Event

The water event was held at Rustic Park on August 15, 2021. Turnout was larger than planned. Five board members and three spouses did everything they could do to keep the event running as smooth as possible. The need for a group of nonmember volunteers was noted. Chruce and Tom, as was brought up at the July meeting, felt that volunteers should help without becoming board members at that time. Future board members could be selected from the volunteers who show the most initiative.

Christen Thompson felt that requests to other organizations for volunteers in special events would be helpful. Matt Elgonitis mentioned that the fire company's last-minute decision to fill the dunk tank was very helpful. Cristen and Matt both suggested that high school students looking to perform community service, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts would be a logical means of getting more help for large events. Asheli Cox pointed out that the Girl Scouts have restrictions with regards to any event involving water.

Chruce Godfrey pointed out that there were nine people running an event with approximately 400 people. He determined that at a minimum of twenty people would have been needed to run the event smoothly.

Christen Thompson also pointed out the \$500 donation from Uncle Jack's was not paid from the borough to the company providing the bounce house prior to the event. There had not been sufficient time to shop around for other vendors with different payment arrangements.

Matt Elgonitis reported that there was only one mishap during the event. A child hurt himself by catching his finger on a fishhook embedded in a tree. After bandaging, the child was OK to continue.

Matt also felt that tarps were needed for next year's event Tom Brungard pointed out that a store such as Ollie's might have a good price for extra large tarps that could be stored for next year's use.

Tour of Birdsboro

Tom Brungard gave an update of the 9/11/21 Tour of Birdsboro. Tom showed the board one of the completed guidebooks. Each guidebook will be used by a tour guide to show a maximum of 15 tourists in their group the route around downtown Birdsboro. Having people sign up for different times and closing signups for a group when 15 tourists selected that group would prevent having a mob going around all at once. Such a circumstance would impair the hearing of the guide's presentation and possibly cause homeowners a feeling of intrusion.

The guidebooks contained pictures and text of the historic areas. The guides would not be reading the text verbatim. They would paraphrase the text and emphasize facts they felt they could best explain. Each tour group would have a slightly different experience.

Christen Thompson was commended by Tom for enabling the use of Signup Genius software to facilitate the easy separation of attendees into manageable groups. There could possibly be seven walking groups running at fifteen-minute intervals from 9:30 am to 11 am. Two bicycling tours at 9 and 9:15 were also planned.

Tom felt that publicity for the tour was not done as well by him and fellow organizers. Facebook was being utilized but more places such as bulletin boards at local businesses.

Chruce Godfrey volunteered himself to be a guide. This offer was gratefully accepted by Tom.

Tom told the board about the special tour stops. The First Street Players will present a playlet at their venue. Dick Happell is planning to be at another stop along with Bern Bernhart, a railroad historian.

Christen Thompson mentioned that a senior's group at St Marks would be a good target audience.

Tom asked that the board give out flyers to friends and businesses.

An in-depth discussion about Facebook strategy was headed by Asheli Cox. It was determined that several posts would be needed up to the day of the event. It was suggested that every three days, a new and different post would be used. Pinning posts on the board's Facebook page was dismissed because the pavilion rental post brought in consistent revenue each week.

Examples of mishaps at the former railroad bridge across Furnace Street were used to show how humor and anecdotes will enhance the tour.

Flyers will be handed out at the August 28 farmer's market.

Upcoming Events

Movie Night

Movie night is scheduled for August 28, 2021, with a scout night sleepover. The event would be moved one week if weather inclement. It was also discussed about cutting back movie nights to one a summer next year.

Halloween Drive Through and Parade

Matt Elgonitis gave the date preview of the drive through as October 23, 2021. The borough Halloween for the Halloween Parade will be October 28. Matt pointed out that the parade would also coincide with the scheduled Recreation Board meeting in October. Chruce decided that the meeting would have to be October 21. Chruce will be asking Borough Council for advice on how to advertise the date change. The agenda for the September meeting will also include the announcement.

A discussion on candy to be given out by the board on their Halloween parade float involved quantity, amount, where to be purchased and payment of the candy. It was decided that the board would ask Borough Council for money out of the Recreation Board budget for the candy. Various board members will check on candy prices.

Matt Elgonitis also reported on the need for volunteers to help with various Halloween decorations needed to be built for both Halloween events.

Christmas In Birdsboro

Chruce Godfrey reported that the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas committee met on the morning of August 26, 2021. The committee decided that the event should be renamed "Birdsboro Hometown Christmas" as it was called four years previously. This was to be

presented to council for final approval at the 9/07/2021 council meeting. Chruce felt there should be no opposition to this change.

A plan for donations and lights acquisition was discussed at both the Christmas in Birdsboro committee meeting and at this board meeting.

The next Christmas in Birdsboro committee meeting will be held September 28, 2021, at 8:30 am in borough hall. Chruce Godfrey and Matt Elgonitis both committed to being at that meeting.

Ongoing Projects

Sensory Walk

No new developments

Grants

The rejection of the Giant Markets grant for park improvement was discussed. New strategies for future grant writing were also discussed.

November event

It was determined that no event for the month would be planned. A possible pancake breakfast might be planned for December 11 which is the date for Christmas in Birdsboro.

New Business

No new events were planned at this point. It was felt that the board should not have monthly activities occurring during the first three months of 2022.

It was suggested by Tom Brungard of the need for lodging for riders of the Schuylkill River trail. This was suggested by a member of the public not present at the meeting. It was determined this would not be in the jurisdiction of the Recreation Board and should be passed on to the borough council.

It was suggested that the board work more with the various organizations of the Schuylkill River trail in the future.

Matt Elgonitis voiced a suggestion from councilman Tony Scioli that the board consider expanding their membership to more than nine people. No action was taken regarding this proposal.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm by Board Chruce Godfrey.. The next meeting will be at 7pm on September 23, 2021, in Birdsboro Borough Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Brungard, Recreation Board Secretary