In attendance: Ned Panfile, Dianne Ackerman, Stephanie Fourie, Melissa Wojcik & Bruce DiBisceglie (dept chair). Steve Andrews (Councilman). Jennifer McManus (student representative)

Meeting Location: Garabrant Center

1. **Communications**
   1. The July 2019 Mendham Borough Recreation Committee (MBRC) meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Minutes and agendas will be posted to the Mendham Borough website as approved.
   2. Communications:
      1. Jeff Cooper forwarded an email from Rich Quamme (Ferriero Engineering) regarding the restoration of the tennis courts at Orchard & Park in Borough Park.
         1. Need to obtain Morris County Soil Conservation District approval as the project exceeds 5,000 square feet of disturbance
         2. Ferriero Engineering is moving forward with going out to bid. Paul Ferriero submitted to Joyce Bushman on Aug 14 for signature.
         3. A fee of $725 will be needed prior to the MCSCD meeting on August 28th.
         4. Rich will provide Jeanne Pugsley with the advertisement and bid opening date.
         5. Bid process should conclude 30 days following the bid opening date.
      2. Bruce, Jeff Cooper & Chief Camoia received a request from Paul Allatta (Little League) to approve a lock box system at the Carriage House to replace the need for individual keys.
      3. Bruce received approval from Hilltop School of the Day Camp’s application for use of the school gym as a safe haven during rainy weather.
         1. Unfortunately, the approval was communicated one week after the camp had closed.
         2. Bruce will follow up with Hilltop to get this approved prior to the opening of the 2020 camp.
   3. Meetings:
      * 1. Steve & Bruce attended the Meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council on July 22nd

Matt Kornick presented his Application for Public Approval and fielded questions from Mayor & Council for a Gaga Pit as part of a school project.

Questions focused on the purpose of the project, progress, resources and finances. Matt was able to reply with some information but was requested to get all answers to the Mayor & Council asap.

The Mayor & Council approved resolution #119-2019 authorizing Matt’s group to move forward pending answers to questions.

Steve Andrews reported on:

Bid Spec progress for Orchard and Park tennis courts. Foundation should be completed in the fall of 2019 and final resurfacing in the spring of 2020. Dave Sharkey asked if construction can begin in fall 2019.

Successful concerts and movies to date.

A need for WMSC to post signage at the Firehouse Turf Courts with rules, regulations and credits to WMSC for the donation.

* + - 1. Bruce met with Jeff Carter on August 6th to negotiate a 2/10 net 30 arrangement with The Club at Mendham for 2020’s summer camp.
         1. Currently, the camp is the only user that pays in arrears.
         2. Jeff Carter agreed to a 10% discount subject to camp payment in January 2020.
         3. This will save approximately $200 per year.

1. **Labor Day Parade Updates**
   1. Bruce reported that 47 of the 48 marching groups for the parade have replied with confirmation of attendance. Five groups from 2018 cannot attend in 2019 (four of the five are possible for 2020)
   2. Assignments:
      1. Bruce at the start (Heritage Manor & W Main) assisted by Bud and the Knights of Columbus.
      2. Ned at the HS parking lot
      3. Kevin on the Phoenix House balcony with PA announcing (new PA from the camp)
      4. Diane, Stephanie & Melissa helping the line-up on Tempe Wick assisted by the Knights.
      5. Steve will march with the Borough Council; Jennifer will march with the Day Camp.
2. **Concert & Movie Updates**
   1. July 28, FabForward Concert:
      * 1. Weather clear, 82o. Attendance: 7:00=60, 7:30=160, 8:00=150, 8:30=145. Retention (end/peak) 91%
   2. Aug 1, Coco (DRIVE-IN):
      * 1. Weather clear, 70o. Attendance: 8:30=40 cars, 50 seated. Major success! Must continue with:
           1. alignment with day camps’ After Dark
           2. ice cream sales (provided by Mendham Creamery)
   3. Aug 4, Larry Stevens Concert:
      * 1. Weather clear to start, rain at 8pm, 78o. Attendance: 7:00=40, 7:30=90, 8:00=called due to surprise rogue rain cell. Stopped at 8pm, audience and band asked to leave for safety. All left with no problems prior to the heavier rain.
3. **Park Facility Updates.**
   * 1. Turf Field
        1. 135’x25’ (LxH) mesh ball fencing installed by DPW and has corrected all problems.
           1. Cost of $820 was donated by the day camp as a primary user of the courts.
        2. The Observer Tribune ran a cover story on August 15th about the turf court project (see appendix)
     2. Gaga Pit: No progress has been made. Dylan Byrne was leading the group but has resigned. Bruce met with Matt Kornick who said that no money has been raised despite MPD offering funds. The remaining group of Matt Kornick and Matt Cantale has not approached the MPD and to date has not provided plans to Mayor & Council. Little progress has been made since March 2019.
        + 1. The MBRC is preparing for another group to take the lead on this needed project. Stephanie will talk to Greg Ryan about making this an Eagle Scout project.
4. **Prior Business:** 
   * 1. Day Camp concluded with a total of 996 weeks sold, up 18% over 2018. Despite consistent decline in K-6 population in the Borough and Township, the day camp rose in enrollment in 2019. Most of this increase came in the groups from K-4.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2019 | 996 |  | 2017 | 958 |
| 2018 | 843 |  | 2016 | 1008 |

* + 1. The MBRC recommended flooding the t-ball field area in the winter to create an ice-skating rink. This would eliminate the need to test Mountain Valley Pond for 8” ice depth and would increase safety. Bruce will discuss with DPW/Jeff Cooper.

1. **New Business:** 
   1. “Day Camp”
      1. Bruce decided that the “Day Camp” needs to be correctly branded. The term “Day Camp” will be replaced as the activity is neither all-day or a camp. As such, the name ‘day camp’ brings about state regulations that should not apply to the Mendham morning sessions at the Borough Park. The staff decided on the name ***Mendham Morning Adventures***. This accurately brands the sessions as a morning outdoor recreational activity, and does not subject Mendham to unnecessary regulations that apply to true day camps and not to what we do.
      2. Amanda Sherwin has retired from the camp to pursue opportunities with her personal business. The announcement was made during the last day of camp.
      3. Kristel Gallagher immediately was promoted to Camp Director. Kristel is going on her 10th year with the camp (not including six as a camper). Kristel was recommended by Amanda as her successor and is currently the highest-ranking camp staff member.
      4. Bruce announced that a new position of Director in Training (DIT) will be installed immediately. This position will be a hybrid of director and head counselor, like the successful Head Counselor in Training (HCIT) position that was installed in 2016. The HCIT is a hybrid of the Head Counselor and Counselor position and fosters upward development of staff.
      5. Bruce will be drafting a letter to camp families to:
         1. thank them for a successful 2019
         2. apprise them of the changes ahead of 2020
         3. explain future rate changes as a necessary result of the NJ state mandated graduated rise to $15/hr. minimum wage by 2026. Original drafts of the law did not include summer employment. The final version of the law does include a gradual rise to $15/hr. for summer employment.
   2. Carriage House key system (from 1,b,ii above)
      1. Currently keys are signed out individually and tracked by Karen Orgera at the Bowers Building.
      2. Paul Allatta (LL Director) requested a system with a key lock box at the CH with one code access to be used by all.
      3. The MBRC expressed concerns that should the code be distributed; the security of the CH would be comprised and untraceable. Jeff Cooper shared this concern.
         1. Ned expressed the concern of security beyond the first generation of users.
         2. Dianne and Jennifer suggested an alternative where each user would have an individualized access code that would completely replace the need for a physical key. Tracking of access would become digital and traceable, ensuring security and accountability.
            1. The MBRC favored this alternative
            2. Bruce will begin a feasibility study which will include costs.
            3. Subject to the findings, the current system will remain in effect.
            4. Bruce will contact Paul Allatta to share the MBRC’s position.
   3. A proposed Dog Park
      1. The MBRC received feedback from the public for an enclosed Dog Park.
         1. There is a demand for a dog park as the public has been using the tennis courts as such.
         2. Bruce suggested using the area between the t-ball field and playground area. There is a dilapidated batting case that has collapsed. Bruce will investigate converting this batting cage area into a Dog Park
            1. Ned questioned accessibility and parking. Bruce replied that the public parking behind the shops on East Main would provide direct access.

***Next Meeting: tentatively 7:30pm, Thursday, September 19th, 2019 at the Garabrant Center***

***Appendix:***

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