

**Recreation Committee
January 15, 2020**

**Reorganization
And Regular Meeting**

FLAG SALUTE: Led by S. Rude at 7:04pm.

ROLL CALL: Katie Rotondi, Sue Rude, Rob Kowalski, Joelle Brownlee, Tim Duvelsdorf, George Hudock, Stephen Fischer, Karen Ruitenbergh and Eileen Klose

Also Present: Recreation Committee Secretary Valerie Ingles, Softball Representative Anna Pascarella, Kittatinny Little League Representative Carrie Weeks, Soccer Representative Rob Herbison, Soccer Representative Dawn Hudock

Not Present: Oscar Fernandez

STATEMENT: S. Rude stated that this meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of P.L. 1975, Ch. 231, 4 & 13 of the Sunshine Law and that adequate notice of said meeting has been published in the New Jersey Herald being the Daily & Sunday editions as to time, place, and date, and is posted in the usual location of posted notices in the municipal building.

OATH OF OFFICE

SWEARING IN OF RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Susan Rude- 5 year term (expires 12/31/2024)
Rob Kowalski – 5 year term (expires 12/31/2024)
George Hudock – 5 year term (expires 12/31/2024)

Recreation Committee Secretary V. Ingles administered the Oath of Office to Susan Rude, Rob Kowalski and George Hudock for a 5 year term to expire 12/31/2024.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

Sue Rude nominated Rob Kowalski to serve as Chairman for a one year term. J. Brownlee seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. R. Kowalski accepted the nomination. All members were in favor.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

J. Brownlee nominated S. Rude to serve as Vice Chairwoman for a one year term. R. Kowalski seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. S. Rude accepted the nomination. All members in favor.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS: Chairman R. Kowalski designated the official newspaper to be the New Jersey Herald's Sunday & Daily editions.

TIME, DAY & PLACE OF MEETINGS: Chairman R. Kowalski stated that the time, day and place of meetings will be on the third Wednesday of every month except August & December which there will be no meeting. All meetings will begin at 7:00 PM at the Hampton Township Municipal Building.

January 22, 2020 Reorganization	July 15, 2020
February 19, 2020	No August 2020 Meeting
March 18, 2020	September 16, 2020
April 15, 2020	October 21, 2020
May 20, 2020	November 18, 2020
June 17, 2020	No December 2020 Meeting

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES: A MOTION was made by G. Hudock and seconded by T. Duvelsdorf, with all members in favor, to approve the November 20, 2019 meeting minutes.

PRIORITY DISCUSSION

1. 2020 Budget Discussion

Secretary V. Ingles provided the Recreation Committee with a spreadsheet showing 2019's event totals and additional purchases that were made. The Recreation Committee reviewed the 2019 budget and designated some changes to be made to the 2020 budget.

E. Klose stated that she spoke with Township Administrator J. Caruso on the amount in the reserves and the total comes to \$42,500. Chairman R. Kowalski asked what the process is to be able to use those funds if Recreation wanted to purchase a piece of playground equipment or exercise equipment for around the walking path. E. Klose responded that Recreation would need to have the item that they would like to purchase with quotes to present to the Township Committee. She stated that if it was through the Morris County Co-op that the item would not need to go out for bid but that if the equipment was purchased from anywhere else that at least three quotes would be needed to present to the Township Committee and that if the amount is over the bid threshold that the item would need to be advertised to go out to bid. Once Recreation has selected the equipment either way, it needs to be presented at two Township Committee meetings since the funds will need to be removed through an Ordinance. So the first

meeting the request to remove the funds for the equipment will be introduced, then advertised in the NJ Herald, and then the second meeting to adopt the Ordinance to remove the funds for the piece of equipment.

Chairman R. Kowalski stated that he would like to see some other art professionals, local businesses, and volunteers to run some of the art classes. He stated that there cannot be as many class cancellations or changes to the schedule as there were last year, that complaints have been made by the people attending the classes that are waiting in the parking lot for 15 minutes or hearing last minute that the class has been cancelled. He stated that getting some other organizations into the Community Center to run the art classes will take some of the weight off of K. Rotondi's shoulders since any Rec member could be there to open the Community Center. Some suggestions of places to contact were the Little Painted Farmhouse (formally the Painted Barn), a local professional artist, or the art teacher; Mrs. Anderson, from Kittatinny High School, and possibly have them do the art class every other month in between K. Rotondi's art classes. K. Ruitenbergh stated that she can talk to Mrs. Anderson since she sees her at school every day and that she knows the Painter Barn owner is still local, that she may be interested in teaching a class as well.

Chairman R. Kowalski suggested that a paper can be left in the Community Center with survey questions on the provided classes and get people's feedback. K. Rotondi stated that she would like to coordinate the art class at the Community Center still and will make sure classes aren't cancelled like they were last year. Chairman R. Kowalski asked her to start an email chain to all the Recreation Committee members with the subject "Art Class" and everyone can chime in with ideas of people to run the art classes or when they are available. He suggested setting up 6-8 classes for the year and more can always be added which would be better then cancelling classes. He suggested starting to advertise for them soon stating that the art classes will begin again in March so there's plenty of time to advertise for them. K. Rotondi stated that the supplies for each class are about \$100 so the Recreation Committee decided to up the art class supplies budget to \$900.00. She stated that she still had receipts to hand in for art supplies that she purchased in 2019. Chairman R. Kowalski and E. Klose stated that she may not get reimbursed for those supplies purchased in 2019 since the 2019 budget year has been closed out. Receipts are supposed to be handed in for the year that the items are purchased.

Chairman R. Kowalski stated that he is good with the same budget for Hampton Day as last year which is for \$12,700. He may not need the whole budget but he would like to keep it the same in case.

Chairman R. Kowalski stated that the Miss Hampton/Prince & Princess budget is generally the same every year so that budget can stay the same. E. Klose asked if anyone had spoken with L. Korver regarding the Miss Hampton competition and it being held on a different day then Hampton Day this year since it was a suggestion last year. K. Ruitenbergh stated that the prom is earlier this year to be held in May so it should not interfere with Hampton Day.

Chairman R. Kowalski stated that Fredon Day is going to be the first Saturday in June this year so it may be good to have Hampton Day on the second Saturday of June this year. Then it gives a week cushion as well incase prom got pushed to the first weekend of June. All the Rec

members agreed the second Saturday in June on the 13th works so there is no reason to move the Miss Hampton competition this year. S. Fischer suggested having the KRHS Jazz band come do a performance this year or only have part of the band come perform. J. Brownlee suggested an all boys acapella group that her son is in that would be good to do a performance as well.

E. Klose suggested finding the judges for the Talent Show ahead of time this year so that the judges aren't associated with the town, that some members of the public may find that to be unfair.

Chairman R. Kowalski stated that the budget for the Fall Festival could stay as it is currently and could be revisited once things are being planned for the event. He asked that everyone think about it and at the February meeting if someone would volunteer to Chair and Co-chair the Fall Festival. He stated that most of the Fall Festival would need to be set and ready to go by May. He would also like to see a car/bike show at the Fall Fest if T. Duvelsdorf is still interested in coordinating that. The date for the Fall Fest can be discussed at the February meeting.

Chairman R. Kowalski asked what everyone's thoughts on the movie nights are. J. Brownlee and G. Hudock suggested not perusing it, that it's too expensive. Some other members felt it should be kept. Chairman R. Kowalski suggested leaving the movie night on the budget and revisiting it in February. He stated that he felt it would be hard to just have one or two movie nights throughout the year, that it wouldn't generate enough of the public to come out as a series of movies would.

Chairman R. Kowalski asked if the budget for the Trunk or Treat was acceptable. J. Brownlee stated that she would like the budget to stay the same at \$800 since Recreation would like to try to encourage more trunks to participate by giving out larger prizes this year. They also want to make it a point to say that we want more trunk participation without having to make it mandatory to have a trunk there to participate in the trunk or treat.

Chairman R. Kowalski stated that nets were purchased for soccer in 2019 but it wasn't on the Recreation Committee budget of money spent so he asked Secretary V. Ingles to find out if that money was taken out of Danny's budget or the Recreation budget?

Chairman R. Kowalski asked that the mandatory sports organization meeting in February be posted online and reminders sent to all sports, including KRHS reminding them of the meeting. He stated that the field usage meeting with KRHS still had not happened yet but will be soon, that he doesn't expect KRHS to be present at the February meeting but at least they will be kept in the loop in case they decide that they would like someone to be present.

A MOTION was made by G. Hudock and seconded by T. Duvelsdorf, with all members in favor, to approve the 2020 budget with the above changes made.

2. Dates of 2020 Recreation Committee Events

- a. **Art Class Discussion-** Follow up with dates in February
- b. **Movie in the Park-** Follow up discussion in February.
- c. **KRHS/Hampton Recreation Easter Egg Hunt-** K. Ruitenbergh stated that KRHS suggested having the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 4th at 11:00am. They will aim to have the Egg Hunt outdoors at Hampton Park if the weather/fields are nice if not then it will be indoors at KRHS.
- d. **Hampton Day-** Saturday, June 13, 2020 from 3pm-dusk
- e. **Summer Soccer Camp-** O. Fernandez is still considering camp dates
- f. **Summer Recreation Program-** S. Zaruba is still considering camp dates but the paperwork to submit to the Educational Foundation for the insurance is ready to go once the dates are selected.
- g. **Town Wide Garage Sale-** Saturday September 19th and Sunday September 20th from 9am-3pm. There will be no fee to be placed on the map this year.
- h. **Fall Festival** – Follow up discussion in February.
- i. **Trunk or Treat-** Friday, October 23rd from 6pm-8pm at Hampton Park
- j. **Tree Lighting and Holiday Party-** Friday December 6th at 7:00pm

3. Wednesday February 19th, 2020 at 7:00pm- mandatory sports organization meeting.

Chairman R. Kowalski asked V. Ingles to send an email reminder to the sports organizations to be present at the February 19th meeting and for the sports to bring their “wish list” of items needed in the park.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. 2020 Parks and Recreation Program New York Yankees Games, Group Pricing and Dates

Chairman R. Kowalski stated that this was information on the group ticket pricing on the 2020 Yankees games. He asked if Secretary V. Ingles could find out what the minimum number of people is required for the group sales and if the tickets need to be purchased in advance. He stated that if the tickets needed to be purchased in advance that he doesn't feel it would be a good idea. If they don't need to be purchased in advance then the information could be put on facebook for people that are interested for a specific game and they we could purchase the tickets after getting the feedback. He asked V. Ingles to follow up with an email after finding out.

OPEN DISCUSSION

E. Klose stated that she felt that last year's Talent Show was great having the comedic commentary from the judges and feels it would be great to have those comments again like on "America's Got Talent" but suggested having the audience do the judging this year. She suggests having them vote by ballot then have the results tallied that way. The Committee members felt that was a great idea.

G. Hudock stated that he would like field use at KRHS brought up at the upcoming sports meeting with Chris Carroll. He stated that basketball would like to use the KRHS basketball court because they don't have a lot of time to be able to practice at McKeown School and have nowhere else to get practice time in. He stated that they are always told that there is no gym time at KRHS though travel basketball gets to use the basketball courts there.

G. Hudock also stated that the backboards and nets need to be replaced at Hampton Park. He said that the blacktop is great but that the backboards are old and the material that they are made out of vibrates so badly when the basketball hits it that the ball just drops, it doesn't bounce off of it like it should in a real game.

J. Brownlee stated that she wants to get a copy of the Sussex County Travel Soccer rules specifically with kids playing on Rec soccer. G. Hudock stated that if a child no longer plays travel soccer that they must not play on travel for a full year before they can play on a Rec league again. Travel Soccer official O. Fernandez is not relaying that information to parents that if their child plays travel soccer that they cannot go back to Rec for a full year. They will discuss the rules with him at the next Recreation Committee meeting to make sure parents are being told all of the information before signing their child up for travel soccer.

K. Ruitenbergh stated that she had an idea for the movie nights. She suggested combining a movie night with other towns and have the movie played at KRHS to split the costs. Another idea is that each town could host one movie night at their municipality so that there would be a summer long series of movie nights. She will touch base with the different Recreation Committee's to see if anyone is interested in doing that and which month they would be interested in hosting.

T. Duvelsdorf suggested having a video game tournament. The Committee agrees that would be a fun idea but there is still a lot of research that would need to be done to make that happen such as; what would the game be, how many kids could play at once, what would the other kids have to do while they're waiting, where would it be held, etc. Chairman R. Kowalski asked T. Duvelsdorf to do more research on the idea and bring the information back to the Committee at a later date.

PUBLIC SESSION

Kittatinny Little League (KLL) Representative Carrie Weeks introduced herself to the Recreation Committee. She stated that she was just elected as the KLL President and wanted to

give the Recreation Committee some updates on what KLL would like to do this year. She stated that they want to have sports clinics over the summer and would like to use Hampton Park if possible. The sports clinics would most likely be 3-4 days for 1-2 weeks. She also stated that not this summer but possibly next summer that they would like to have a summer camp.

C. Weeks stated that they would like to open Little League up to children ages 4-5 years old for a T-ball program. They are anticipating opening day to be on April 25th, 2020. Little League would like to participate more with Township events. She stated that her family participated in the Trunk or Treat last year on behalf of KLL and they really enjoyed it. Tracey Coombs is now the Hampton Representative for KLL but that she was unable to make it to the meeting that evening.

C. Weeks stated that they plan to clean up the Snack Shack and get it prepared for the spring season and that she is going to go through the Little League cage and clean it out. She asked if she could put the old helmets and equipment that's no longer used in the dumpster as they have in the past. She will recycle the old bats.

Softball Representative A. Pascarella stated that she thought the video game night is a good idea and that she would also like to see a BINGO and a karaoke night.

A. Pascarella stated that there is no one that can use the field grooming machine at this point. Chairman R. Kowalski informed her to prepare a list of about 5 people that may be interested in using the field machine. She responded that she could but that she would like those people to be shown how to use the machine by DPW Manager D. Bayles. Chairman R. Kowalski asked A. Pascarella to get him the list of people that are requesting to use the groomer and he can see about training them on how to use the machine. She also stated that she's going to do some changes to the softball shed, such as painting and fixing the roof.

Soccer Representative R. Herbison introduced himself to the Recreation Committee as the new President of Hampton Soccer. He stated that the little soccer field in the back of the park needs drainage. G. Hudock responded that McKeown owns that field. He stated that Hampton maintains that field but McKeown actually owns that property so Hampton can't make that decision. It would have to go to the Board of Education and the Township Committee.

Chairman R. Kowalski, DPW Manager D. Bayles, Travel Soccer Representative O. Fernandez, a KRHS Lacrosse Representative and Soccer Representative R. Herbison need to meet in the spring before any lines are laid out to discuss the fields and layouts. J. Brownlee stated that there are two large boulders in the back that need to get moved then the one soccer field could be shifted over.

R. Herbison stated that the Rec Soccer numbers are way down because of Travel Soccer. He stated that they didn't have a 7th and 8th grade team last year because there weren't enough participants.

R. Herbison asked if fencing could be put up by the little soccer field. He stated that soccer balls go into the woods frequently and the kids have to run in to get them in the poison

ivy. Chairman R. Kowalski stated that he wasn't sure if the town would allow a chain link fence to but put up buy maybe a snow fence would be a good alternative to block the balls from going into the woods. R. Herbison asked if he could put a sponsor banner up so that he can do some fundraising that way. E. Klose stated that the sponsor signs are a sore spot with the Township Committee due to the signs being left up year round when they're supposed to be taken down after the season is over.

The Recreation Committee discussed the sponsor signs and agreed that if it's conveyed to sports that they are allowed to put the signs up but that at the end of the season they must be taken down or they will be removed and disposed of, that there is no reason for the sports to come request permission each season to have the signs put up.

The Recreation Committee discussed the weeds in the tree line between Hampton Park and KRHS fields that goes from the KLL Snack Shack to the entrance to the KRHS path. The weeds are completely overgrown and are filled with poison ivy. Chairman R. Kowalski stated that one year KLL had the SLAP program come in to clean that area out. It is KRHS property there so approval from the Board of Education would be needed before proceeding with either having the area sprayed for poison ivy or having the SLAP program come to clear it out.

R. Herbison stated that the soccer nets at the McKeown field need to be replaced. Chairman R. Kowalski asked if McKeown or Hampton owned those goals. G. Hudock stated that Hampton owns the goals though McKeown does use them. They would look into whose responsibility it would be to replace the nets to those soccer goals. He also stated that he is going to need more benches.

R. Herbison stated that they need to come up with a better field schedule for travel soccer and rec soccer usage. He stated that many times travel shows up at the rec fields and starts using the fields when they weren't scheduled to make up a rain date or something when it's rec's scheduled time. He stated that O. Fernandez has been very helpful with telling the teams to leave the field when that happens but it shouldn't be happening. K. Rotondi asked if the master calendar for field use is still a possibility. Chairman R. Kowalski stated that he would create the calendar however every team needs to send their schedule to him, that he only received a couple schedules last year.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by K. Rotondi and seconded by J. Brownlee, with all members in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie L. Ingles
Recreation Committee Secretary