

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMISSION
February 7, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Stillwater Township Recreation Commission (RC) was held at 7:00 pm at the Stillwater Municipal Building, Stillwater, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Commission Secretary Tammy Leonard with the statement read that this meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Statement. The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Chammings, Mr. Chammings, Mr. Kately, Mrs. Fritsch, yes, Mrs. Sugar

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Murch

Also present, Committeeman Fisher

MINUTES

Mr. Chammings made a motion to approve the January 3rd minutes, **Mrs. Fritsch** seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Chammings, yes, Mr. Kately, yes, Mrs. Fritsch, yes, Mrs. Sugar, yes

BILLS: The Commission had the following bills: NJ Herald (advertising – sched for the year) \$14.50

NJ Herald (advertising – Jan meeting) \$12.40

New Image Landscaping (Volunteer Field)

\$688.75

Tina Sugar (holiday tree reimbursement) \$79.47

Mrs. Sugar asked if the bills would be paid because the town currently doesn't have a CFO. Ms. Chammings stated as soon as the town hired a CFO which would hopefully be the following night. Mrs. Sugar was concerned about the New Image Landscaping bill. She thought that was a large amount of money not to be paid. Ms. Chammings stated there is nothing the Commission can do about that and Mrs. Sugar stated she simply wanted that on the record. Ms. Chammings stated she understood and mentioned she had received a phone call about a bill that had been approved at the December meeting and had not been paid yet and the bill was from September. Mrs. Fritsch asked why a bill from September hadn't been paid yet. Ms. Chammings stated because the town hasn't had an acting CFO. Mr. Fisher stated that Judy Fisher has been acting as CFO and that bill should have been paid. Ms. Chammings clarified that the bill was for services rendered in September but had not been approved until December. Mr. Fisher asked what the bill was for. Ms. Chammings stated it was from Sussex County Mailing for postage for the newsletter. Ms. Chammings stated she had spoken to him stating the voucher had been sent to him in September or October and he told her he had never returned it. It was finally received and voted on in December. Mr. Fisher thought it should have been paid and stated he would look into it.

Mr. Kately made a **motion** to approve payment of the bills, **Mrs. Fritsch** seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Chammings, yes, Mr. Chammings, yes, Mr. Kately, yes, Mrs. Fritsch, yes, Mrs. Sugar, yes

Ms. Chamblings gave Mrs. Leonard money from Jim Giannetti of travel soccer to be put toward the payment of the New Image Landscaping bill. She asked Mrs. Leonard to give the money to Kathy Wunder to be put into the Rec. Commission account.

CORRESPONDENCE: Ms. Chamblings stated the Commission would be sending out some Thank You letters. She also stated she had received a letter from Dave Chernard of Kittatinny Lacrosse asking to get together to discuss the plans for Veterans Park.

Ms. Chamblings also had a letter from Sam Hill Road, a local band, who may want to perform at Stillwater Day. She gave the letter to Mrs. Leonard to file.

Ms. Chamblings also had a letter discussing the Enviro-Loo, an environmentally friendly “porta-potty”. She stated the Commission really should be looking into other options beyond Lovenberg's. She asked if Mr. Chamblings would look into researching the Enviro-Loo with her. She then gave a folder to Mrs. Leonard with a contact number for someone she had spoken to in the past about a similar Enviro-Loo. She asked Mrs. Leonard to contact this person to see if she could come speak to the Commission regarding this matter.

Finally, Ms. Chamblings was invited as Chairperson of the Rec. Commission to the Stillwater Emergency Rescue Squad Installation Dinner. She was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the Recreation Commission for continued dedication and assistance to the community.

OLD BUSINESS

Bus Trip Update: Postponed until next month due to Mrs. Murch's illness.

Parks Maintenance/Upgrades Update: Ms. Chamblings stated the Commission needs to address the seeding and fertilizing of Veterans Field at the March meeting. She stated she was contacted by someone from football about having a meeting to discuss the seeding/fertilizing, but stated that would be tabled also due to Mrs. Murch's absence. Ms. Chamblings stated this really needs to be addressed at the March meeting. Mrs. Fritsch stated the board meeting for KMFL was canceled this month due to the schools being closed and that Jesse Burrini was the designated spokesperson from KMFL. Ms. Chamblings stated that Mr. Burrini was the person who had contacted her. She also stated that the seeding/fertilizing is why Dave Chernard from lacrosse had contacted her. Mrs. Fritsch stated it makes sense to schedule a meeting to discuss it all together.

Ms. Chamblings stated the graffiti has been removed from the concession stand at Swartwood Park. Mr. Fisher stated it was removed the very next day. Jeanette Campbell stated she considered it temporarily gone. She said it looks like a big white window. Ms. Chamblings stated maybe SWAP could paint the cinder blocks. Mrs. Campbell stated if not she was sure the Little League would paint the wall to make it look nice. She stated that with everything the Commission has done for the fields, the league has received many compliments on the field from other towns coming in. She stated the league wants to help keep it looking nice. Mr. Kately stated he was sure SWAP could come paint it.

Ms. Chamblings asked Mr. Fisher if the Rec. Commission could have a formal letter from the Town Committee stating where we stand on the donated property. She asked if everything is now done or if the lawyer has one more paper to file. Mr. Fisher stated the engineers have filed all the soil samples and that has come back. He believes there is a final document to be filed with soil conservation, a “final commit thing”. He stated that all the deeds have been filed, but would like to change the one deed to eliminate the walking trail. He stated Mr. Chamblings has had a problem with the trail and it would open up more area. Ms. Chamblings stated she believes that is

something that needs to be brought to the DEP. Mr. Fisher stated he would discuss it with the engineer. Mr. Fisher stated he would bring the letter up at the next Town Committee meeting.

Ms. Chammings stated the Commission is waiting to hear who the co-op will be. Once the co-op is known the Commission can look into prices for the necessary clay. Mr. Fisher stated he thinks the town will be using the Morris County Co-op again.

Open Public Session: The meeting was opened to the public at 7:23

There being no discussion, **Ms. Chammings** made a motion to close OPS at 7:23, **Mr. Kately** seconded.

NEW BUSINESS

Field Use Forms: Ms. Chammings stated that at the last meeting the Commission received a field use form from Kittatinny Travel Baseball. Jeanette Campbell was present to discuss the field use form for Stillwater/Fredon Little League which she had submitted on January 8. Ms. Chammings stated Mrs. Campbell would be discussing the number of children/teams the league would be having and the days/times they will be needing the fields in spring and fall during the second Open Public Session.

Stillwater Festival: Ms. Chammings stated she would like to bring the Stillwater Festival back to the first full weekend in June. She asked if this was the general consensus of the Commission. Mrs. Sugar asked if it would be held at Stillwater School. Ms. Chammings stated it would. Mrs. Fritsch asked if the Rec. Commission would still be officially working with the Historical Society. Ms. Chammings stated the Commission would not officially be working together with the HS to have a Stillwater Day. She stated that didn't mean that couldn't still happen. The Historical Society hasn't held any of their meetings yet this year. Ms. Chammings stated the Stillwater Day in September was great but many games were scheduled on that day. Mrs. Fritsch pointed out that games would still be going on in June as well. Mrs. Sugar asked when in June the Festival had been held. Mr. Chammings stated it was always at the beginning of the month. Ms. Chammings stated this avoided conflict with graduation and Miss Stillwater was more likely to be able to attend. Ms. Chammings stated the discussion could be tabled and a date decided at the next meeting. Tentative dates were chosen: June 4 and September 17 or 24. A decision will be made at the March meeting.

Spring Newsletter: Ms. Chammings stated the spring newsletter generally goes out at the beginning of Spring. Information is solicited from local organization and usually the town liaison writes a small statement. Mrs. Fritsch suggested adding a "hold the date" section for the Tree Lighting etc.

Stillwater Clean-Up Day: Ms. Chammings stated this is usually around Earth Day. The date was set for April 30 with a rain date of May 1. Mrs. Leonard will have Mrs. Wunder post the date on the town's website as soon as possible. Ms. Chammings stated the Commission would also like to entertain having another Clean-Up Day in the fall. She stated the Commission will find out from Clean Communities if that is possible. She stated that perhaps roads during the first clean-up day and parks during the second. Mr. Fisher suggested calling the second "Beautification Day". If approved by Clean Communities, the second day will be in the fall.

Stillwater Movie Nights: Ms. Chamming has been in touch with the Stillwater Rescue Squad and discussed that during town events they would be as present as possible. She spoke with Helaine from First Responders who has given some dates for mid-March for some possible movie dates at the Stillwater Firehouse. Ms. Chamming stated it is really nice there, they have a screen and a fire place. We'll try to set a date and advertise through the school newsletter. It will cost very little, approximately \$100 for drinks and refreshments. Ms. Chamming thought if the movie were procured from Netflix it could be shown. She will be looking into that. Mrs. Sugar stated there is a very good system in there to show the movie. Ms. Chamming stated she would email the members the possible dates after the Responders had their meeting.

Easter Egg Hunt: Mrs. Sugar stated that the Stillwater Firehouse will be holding their Easter Egg Hunt on April 23. She asked when the Commission wanted to hold theirs. Ms. Chamming stated she thought the Commission would be assisting the Fire Department with their egg hunt. Ms. Sugar stated she could bring that idea to the department. Ms. Chamming asked Mrs. Sugar to find out the approximate cost of the egg hunt and maybe the Commission could split the cost.

Reports: Mr. Chamming stated Mayor Scott visited his house to discuss the donated property and the nature trail.

There were no further reports.

Executive Session: none

Liaison Report: Mr. Fisher had a request from the DPW. They would like copies of the field use forms so they know when the fields are being used and can go empty the garbage. Mrs. Leonard stated she would provide them with copies.

Committee Member Comments: Ms. Chamming stated she would be speaking with the Environmental Commission about working together at Veterans Field. The Environmental Commission would like to meet with the Rec. Commission before their Feb. 14 meeting to discuss the garbage at the field. Back in 2004 an email was sent to the Environmental Commission from some town residents about caring for Veterans Park. The meeting would be to discuss caring for the environmental side of the park. Ms. Chamming stated she would email the date of the meeting to the Commission members to see who could attend.

Open Public Session: **Bill Stekowitz**, 907 Hardwick Road, stated he had been made Chair of the Church Deacons. The deacons are looking for a grant for a Cultural Resource Center. They are going to try to get some ROSI property for this center. He has spoken with Tina Keppler who stated she would be willing to help with the boy scouts. There would be cook-outs, science projects, hunting for salamanders, etc. He was sent here to see if the Rec. Commission knew of any grants that may be available for them. He stated he would be approaching the Historical Society as well. Ms. Chamming asked how much property would this resource center need? Mr. Stekowitz stated he was told about 8 acres minimum. If there were to be a hiking trail it would need to be more than a few acres. They might be adding a community garden as well. Mrs. Sugar asked where the property was. Ms. Chamming stated there hasn't been a property designated for this. Stillwater has approximately 250 acres of ROSI, which is recreation and open space. Ms. Chamming stated she assumes Mr. Stekowitz is here because the Commission has the

recreation title. She stated he will probably also go before the Environmental Commission because they have the open space title.

Mr. Stekowitz also mentioned possible trips we could share. One suggestion was to Grey Towers. He stated it is being expanded with the park commission.

Jeanette Campbell, Stillwater/Fredon Little League, wanted to give the Commission an idea of the number of participants/teams the league will have for the coming year. She stated there would be about 200 kids, half coming from Stillwater and half from Fredon. There should be about 17-18 teams using fields between Stillwater and Fredon. Ms. Chammings asked if that would be Stillwater Park, Veterans Field and Lodestar. Mrs. Campbell stated they would also be using the Paulinskill Lake field for T-ball and Aldersgate for coaches pitch. She stated they would most likely also have a senior team due to the fact that Kittatinny won't be having a 9th grade team this year. They may even have enough seniors for 2 teams. The senior teams, as well as the junior teams, will need to play on a 90 foot field. The only one available to the league is Stillwater Park. She stated her hope that when the Commission makes their decision about the Kittatinny Travel Baseball field use form they keep in mind that their 12U and 10U teams use a 60 foot field. SFLL may possibly have 4 teams that will need the 90 foot field. It was pointed out that travel baseball hadn't asked for use of Stillwater Park. Mrs. Campbell was glad to hear that, but added there will be 4 minor and 3 major teams that will need to play between Veteran's and Lodestar Parks. She stated that last year Lodestar Park took Wednesday nights away from SFLL and gave it to travel. She stated SFLL gave travel Saturday nights and Sundays because the league doesn't use it then. She stated that usually travel teams don't conflict with little league, they work around little league. She added that travel can use the field in Hampton and she believes there is a 60 ft field at Kittatinny that they can use Monday through Friday. She stated that travel will most likely have Lodestar again on Wednesday nights and they will have Saturday nights and Sundays. With the field at Kittatinny they could have practices every night of the week. SFLL has a hard time getting their kids fields for practices twice a week. Ms. Chammings asked Mrs. Campbell if she would be willing to sit down with the Commission and travel baseball to go over the schedules and work something out. Mrs. Campbell said absolutely. She stated she is not against travel baseball. Her son plays on the team. She hopes everyone can work together. She stated the little league really only uses Stillwater Park for fall ball and travel is usually done by then so that shouldn't be an issue. Travel usually finishes their season in June about the time little league has their All Stars. Ms. Chammings asked when All Stars finish. Mrs. Campbell said around the end of July depending on how far they go. She stated that last year they had an issue with the travel team over at Lodestar Park. They had told the little league they didn't need the field and the league planned an All Star game there. That night travel decided they were going to have a practice on the field even though they had already said the little league could have it for their game. They had to relocate two teams to a field that was an hour away because travel had a practice with 4 or 5 children for half an hour. She stated it was done purposely because travel didn't like some people in little league. She is worried that something like that could happen again. She stated that her son plays for both and she wants both organizations to be able to get out and play. She is willing to work with them

and hopes they will be willing to work with little league. She has requested use of the fields Monday to Friday. She stated there may be some nights they won't be able to use the fields from 4:30 to 6:00. She is willing to offer that time to travel if they can get their coaches and families out there at that time. She thinks they will really need Monday through Friday to get the little league kids two days of practice. Ms. Chamblings thinks that if everyone sits down together a schedule can be worked out for everyone. She stated that SFLC have been excellent stewards of the field: you maintain the field, you buy clay for the field, you pick up the garbage, etc. Mrs. Campbell said she would love to sit down and work it all out. She stated that travel has the option of going to Paulinskill as well. She stated that all the little league equipment is at the main fields they use. Travel keeps all their equipment in their cars so they can essentially go from field to field. Ms. Chamblings stated she couldn't find the field use form from travel so she wasn't sure what they had asked for. Mrs. Campbell stated that her husband is the coach for one of the travel teams and she really does want them to be able to have fields. She also hopes they realize that little league will probably be around longer than them. Travel teams come and go and little league is here for the kids. She stated they probably spend \$20 to \$25,000 per year on the kids. It's a big organization, not just one team. Ms. Chamblings stated that maybe there can be a meeting between the Commission, travel baseball and SFLC to discuss a schedule before the next Commission meeting. That way the field use forms can be presented for approval with the schedules attached. Mrs. Campbell stated that they need to know what field use they've been given by Fredon, Kittatinny and Hampton. She stated maybe they won't even need any Stillwater fields. Ms. Chamblings stated they should schedule a meeting the last week of February or first week in March when all groups can sit down with schedules and go over their needs. Mrs. Campbell stated she just wanted the Commission to be aware that they are a large organization trying to take care of a large number of kids. They want to have a good program for them. Mr. Kately asked if travel was able to go to many different fields but little league was confined to only Stillwater and Fredon. Mrs. Campbell stated that was correct. Mr. Kately asked wouldn't it be natural that the Commission give precedence, scheduling wise, to the Stillwater/Fredon teams because they are geographically confined. Mrs. Campbell stated they have Hampton, Sandyston, Kittatinny and Fredon. She also thinks they have fields in Sparta they can use because they are a Sparta based league. She doesn't expect them to run up there, but it is available. Mr. Kately stated SFLC has 18 teams. This will probably use all the fields we have with very little excess time, possibly Saturday afternoons and Sunday. He stated that during the week it doesn't sound like the Commission can really accommodate travel. Mrs. Campbell stated that Monday through Friday she has worked out a schedule just trying to get two days a week of practice for the kids, little league is using everything. She stated that there may be a few days where travel could use the field from 4:30 to 6:00. Mr. Kately stated he thinks SFLC may want to keep those times in case of rain and rescheduling. Mrs. Campbell stated she hopes that travel will do what other travel teams have done in the past, make way for little league. She stated little league accepts all their kids. Any of the travel kids, living in town, can come and play for the league. Travel is an elite group. They only take a certain number. They have try-outs. Little League is open to anyone. Even the travel kids can come play with the league. There are a few of the travel kids already signed up to play with the league as well. Mr. Kately stated it looks like during the spring the Commission will only

be able to give travel Saturday nights and Sundays. He stated travel has the option of going to other fields. Mrs. Campbell stated they just have to go and ask for use of those fields. Mrs. Fritsch stated the Commission doesn't know if they have done that so we need to wait and see. Ms. Chammings stated the field use form needs revamping. A schedule really needs to be attached. She stated there has never been such a demand for use of our fields. The demand has greatly increased. Mrs. Fritsch and Mrs. Sugar agreed that there is a need for the schedule to be attached. Mrs. Campbell stated that they are also trying to work with Kittatinny for the use of the 90 foot diamond for the 15 and 16 year old team, but they won't know about that until about mid March. Ms. Chammings stated she would get in touch with the travel team and let them know we want to get together with schedules in hand because our field use forms say we need them.

Open Public Session was closed at 8:09.

There being no further business, **Ms. Chammings** made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, seconded by **Mr. Kately**. In a voice vote, all were in favor. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2011 at the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Leonard, Secretary

Lisa Chammings, Chairperson