



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

Recreation, Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee

WebEx Meeting

January 7, 2021

8:00 am

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER ATTENDANCE

8:00 am

Summer Jones, Village Trustee and Committee Chair
Karen Hartshorn Hilton, Village Trustee
Steve Schnall, Village Trustee
Peter Travers, Director of Recreation & Cultural Affairs
Sara Keffer, Recreation Leader

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

8:05 am

REPORTS

1. Recreation

8:15 am

a. Program update

- i. Senior Programming - The Recreation Department is now partnered with Sing for Hope which offers programs involving fitness, acting, singing and more. All the scheduled events will be held online via Zoom. There is a three month subscription that we have for residents for free. There will be additional Healthy Bones programs via Zoom.
- ii. Spring Programs - Baseball registration has just opened up with over 200 registrations in the first three days. Flag Football did not have a program in the fall of 2020 due to COVID restrictions. Peter Travers is working with their committee to schedule field space for the spring 2021 season. There is a Spring Soccer program where numbers have been diminishing over the years with more of a variety of programs available in the spring. Coordinating with the high school, the Field Hockey team would like to schedule field space for the spring of 2021.
- iii. Summer Camp - Registration for other local programs have opened, leading to a high demand for the Village's Summer Camp to open soon. Peter Travers suggested hiring the Camp Director at the next Committee meeting to meet the demand, set schedules for activities, and plan pool and bad weather procedures. With minimum wage increasing 10% each year until it reaches \$15.00/hour in three years. Camp is not expected to have access to indoor facilities due to COVID restrictions and will be advertised as "fair weather only" unless restrictions are lifted for indoor activities. Peter Travers will contact the previous Summer Camp Director

to discuss interest in working in summer 2021. Peter Travers suggested to Committee members that the Summer Camp fees will increase from \$770.00/child to \$850.00/child to cover costs for the minimum wage increase. Peter Travers will report back next meeting with a revenue and expense report for Summer Camp. The Paddle Courts are currently being demolished due to the construction of the Baird.

2. Facilities & Capital Projects

8:30 am

- a. Baird Renovation Update - The demolition permits have been approved and according to the work schedule, this Monday, would involve demolition of the inside. Peter Travers will schedule a groundbreaking photo with the Trustee Members.

3. Cultural Arts Update

- a. Watershed Literary Events - The next event is on the calendar for Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. with two readers. The Recreation Department agreed to give an honorarium for each reader of \$150.00/reader.
- b. Black History Month - There are major components that involve Recreation, Arts, Social Change and Health for the Month's events. Recreation is reaching out to residents of South Orange with sports backgrounds and tying it into social change with the community for their biographies and to create a virtual panel that will either be prerecorded or live via Zoom. Erasing Essex County Borders will host 4 runs (one each weekend) with a historical element for each run. The Black History Month Art Exhibit will be posted in a park that has the best visibility. Events and marketing will be posted through social media and the Recreation Department's Cultural Affairs page and calendar.

4. Events

- a. South Orange Summer Nights - SOPAC is in contact with Peter Travers to look for outdoor space to host events and borrow sound equipment from the Recreation Department. New Waterlands was given as a potential option for ticketed events in the summer. This is an ideal location to better organize participants coming in and out due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

5. Strategic Goals

- a. 2021 Goals - Discussions will be continued at the next scheduled meeting.

6. Budget/Revenue Overview

- a. Capital Budget - Peter Travers requested a personal vehicle for staff to decrease the use of employees' personal vehicles. The Committee fully supports the request that employees should not use personal vehicles for work purposes.
- b. Three year comparison - there was a revenue decline in 2018 to 2019. Lower enrollment was shown in reports for fall soccer. The biggest general revenue decline is from 2019 - 2020 due to COVID-19 shut downs with a 76% decrease. The budget would have increased and reached the normal benchmarks should all programs have continued as normal. Peter Travers forecasts that the department will reach the million dollar revenue mark if COVID-19 conditions improve.
- c. User Fee Agreement -

- d. Scholarship Fund - Peter Travers reported the scholarship fund has received more donations in 2020 than in previous years.

OLD BUSINESS

9:00 am

1. Carter Park Update - Peter Travers met with the Playground Designer. They should have a few playground design plans sent by next week. The plans will circulate for public comment. A resolution should be scheduled in the February meeting to start work in the summer.
2. Shakespeare in Spiotta - Steven Schnall reported that there have not been any news from Susan and Nathan. He will reach back out to get going on plans.

NEW BUSINESS

9:36 am

1. New Logo - Steve Schnall reported that each of the departments will get a logo update one at a time.
2. Naming of Service Road - Summer Jones reported that plans are in place and is working with the Business Administrator. Peter Travers is working with Mike on where signs should be installed to keep them from being damaged by large vehicles.

NEXT MEETING DATE

February 4, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

9:45 am