

Franklin Borough
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes for
November 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by the Chairwomen, Mrs. Formica, who then led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mrs. Formica read the Statement of Compliance pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, PL 1975."

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Mrs. Bobbi Formica Chairwoman (Present)
Mrs. Patty Carnes Co- Chairwoman (Present)
Mr. Anthony Marino (Absent)
Mr. Concetto Formica (Present)
Mr. Scott Davis (Present)
Mrs. Christina Sanchez (Present)
Mr. Stephen Skellenger (Present)
Mayor John Sowden (Absent)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Formica asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for October 15, 2020. Mr. Davis made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Sanchez.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

AYES, Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Sanchez

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS:

Approved

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION#1:

Mrs. Formica asked for a motion to move to Open Public Session

Mr. Davis made the motion. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

AYES, Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mr. Davis

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS:

Approved

Ms. Cantaras was joined by the phone and stated that she wanted to share and get some feed back from the rec committee on what was discussed last night at the Forward Franklin meeting.

Ms. Cantaras stated that the Creative Place Making grant is still in play however, with the COVID- 19 restrictions it is making the grant that is supposed to be community based hard to execute int the way it is supposed to be executed.

Ms. Cantras stated that she is looking to collaborate with the recreation committee on different ways to bring the community together without being together.

Ms. Cantras stated that she was thinking of a community-based contest of what your Thankful for with Thanksgiving right around the corner.

Ms. Cantras stated now is a good time to reflect on all that we are blessed with and thankful for.

Ms. Cantras and the recreation committee discussed different ideas and incentives to get residents involved and want to participate.

Ms. Cantras stated that between rec and forward franklin an idea will blossom and we will get the community together and unlock our resident's creative minds.

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Ms. Cantras stated that she would be in touch and check back in for any further ideas or thoughts on the creative minds project.

Mrs., Formica asked if she had anything else to report.

Ms. Cantras stated not tat this time.

Mr. Davis made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mrs. Sanchez.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasures Report – Mr. Davis had nothing to report.

(Secretary of Recreation was unable to provide Mr. Davis with a print out of the trial balance as the system was being updated earlier that day) Mrs. Babcock reassured both Mr. Davis and the rest of the recreation committee that the accounts had no changes since the last meeting.

Holiday Light Contest-

The rec committee briefly discussed the Holiday / Christmas issue that was brought to the recreation's attention via a Facebook post.

The recreation committee discussed possibly adding to our Holiday decorations adding other decorations for the other religious holidays.

Mr. Formica stated that he would be happier with adding things opposed to taking things away.

The committee discussed in length what types of holiday decorations could be purchased to cover all of the Holidays.

Ultimately, no decision was made and the committee would address the issue at a future meeting.

Mr. Davis stated that there are 6 residents signed up for the Holiday light contest.

Mr. Davis asked if the point scale could be bumped up to a 10-point scale this year.

Mr. Davis also asked if we could just keep the voting to only Franklin residents this year.

Mr. Davis suggested that whoever makes the google sign up make that when voting there is a requirement for putting down their address.

Gingerbread –

Mrs. Formica stated that she has been in contact with Heather Russinko one of the owners of Sugar Sisters located on Main Street.

Mrs. Formica stated that she and Heather Discussed having the open registration starting on November 11, 2020 – December 1, 2020.

Mrs. Formica stated that this would give Heather a better idea of how many Gingerbread houses she would be displaying in her store windows.

Gingerbread drop off at the store (Sugar Sisters) the weekend of December 11-13.

There will be set hours announced for drop off when the dates get closer.

The recreation committee discussed voting and adding a people's choice category.

Mrs. Carnes stated that it would be a good way to get people into the store.

Mrs. Babcock suggested that the People's choice winner receive a gift card to the Sugar Sisters store. The committee agreed to that Idea.

Mrs. Formica stated that winners would be announced on December 20th the same date as the Historical Societies Christmas caroling event. They will be on the same day but will not be a joint event. Do you want this added or eliminated?!

Mrs. Formica stated that she also thought of a fun rec event for the members only to come to the Formica 's residence and the rec committee could hold an online tutorial on how to make a ginger bread house.

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Mrs. Formica thought if everyone's schedules allowed this could take place December 1st

Tree Lighting-

The committee discussed this year plans for the tree lighting. The rec members all agreed to make it as simple as possible this year, Limiting the hot Coco and candy bar and giving out candy canes instead.

There was a discussion on purchasing candy canes. (adding to the Holiday Budget)

The committee discussed a social distancing. The committee discussed possibly doing a back drop for pictures, a social distancing Santa, renting a reindeer, etc. The committee were discussing a lot of different creative ways to conduct the tree lighting this year.

The committee discussed having Santa come down on the fire truck and being the one who lit the trees this year and then waved and returned back to the fire truck lights and sirens good bye.

Mrs. Sanchez stated that I'm sure the committee will come up with a creative way to have a fun, safe event making everyone happy and feel safe. The committee agreed.

Mrs. Sanchez stated that there is still some time to brainstorm and think of a creative idea before the event.

The committee stated that the lighting would be held at 5pm.

Mr. Davis asked if the committee was interested in asking the boy scouts to attend like they have in the best years. The committee all were in agreement to ask the Scouts to the event.

Mrs. Formica asked Ms. Cantras if she would be interested in taking photos.

Ms. Cantras softly agreed.

The Rec committee discussed the tree lighting budget and that it the budget this year would be nothing compared to past years due to the restrictions that are in place because of COVID-19.

Mr. Formica suggested setting a budget for all of the holiday festivities. (to be charged to the holiday account.)

Mrs. Formica asked for a motion to set a budget not to exceed \$1,000.00 for holiday festivities for gingerbread house contest, house decorating and tree lighting event.

Mrs. Carnes made the motion Seconded by Mr. Davis.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

AYES, Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mr. Davis

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS:

Approved

Ms. Cantras asked if the committee thought about possibly having a rain date for the tree lighting. The committee discussed and ultimately decided on the day after which is the Sunday (that day would be rain or shine)

OLD BUSINESS:

Concession stand cleanout

Mrs. Formica stated that at the last meeting g we set a date of Sunday the 8th to go clean out the concession stand.

Mrs. Formica stated that she is no longer available for that date and Mr. Davis also stated that he was not available.

Mrs. Carnes stated that she has a ribbon cutting that day as well.

The committee agreed that they would go down to the concession stand on Saturday the 7th at 10 am and do as much as they can and take inventory and go from there.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Review Park and Rec ordinance (196 attachment 1)

Mr. Formica stated that the last time the rec committee met there were a lot of corrections and tweaks that needed to be made to the parks and recs ordinance.

Mr. Formica stated that Mr. Ursin (town attorney) looked and reviewed the ordinance and has come up with a draft of the corrections he believes should be made.

Mr. Formica stated there are areas with in the ordinance that are out dated and almost obsolete

Mr. Formica stated that the ordinance that has been distributed to everyone now has the recommended corrections.

Mr. Formica stated that what you see in red should be eliminated.

Mr. Formica and the committee reviewed the document with the suggested corrections from Mr. Ursin.

Mr. Formica stated that allowing the dogs is now written in the ordinance correctly and we will be purchasing signs for where the dogs will not be allowed such as the beach, playground and fields.

Mr. Formica stated that area is what rec was really concerned about but has we started looking into the other areas it opened our eyes to more areas that needed to be updated.

The rec committee went through the whole document reading and reviewing the draft that Mr. Ursin tweaked.

The committee spoke at length about the field fees and how the seasons are broken down from the last time the committee advised them.

The committee also discussed the lighting fees along with the security deposits. The committee discussed at length about the breakdown of the seasons of the field use. Spring and Fall and the possibility of adding Summer to the ordinance because summer has been added to the field application.

Mrs. Formica stated that they should both have the same information.

The application should reflect what the ordinance states and vis versa.

Ultimately, the rec committee agreed.

Mrs. Formica asked for a motion to add the summer season and editing the dates to the already existing season already mentioned in the ordinance.

Mr. Davis made the motion. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

AYES, Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mr. Davis

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS:

Approved

The committee continued to go through the ordinance and making sure that the application and ordinance agree as far as the fees.

Mr. Formica made notes of all the changes that were addressed by the members and stated he would be going back to Mr. Ursin with the notes/corrections that would need to be added to update the ordinance to be in favor of what the application states.

Mrs. Formica asked for a motion to authorize Mr. Formica to send the notes and corrections discussed tonight to Mr. Ursin to draft the notes and corrections to ordinance chapter 196 Parks and Recs with the added notes and corrections.

Motion made by Mrs. Sanchez. Seconded by Mr. Davis.

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Boy Scout Liaison-

Mrs. Formica asked if anyone had any objections to Mr. Davis being appointed to Scout Liaison.

Mr. Formica asked if Mr. Davis was still ok with being the scout liaison.

Mr. Davis stated that he would accept the liaison to scouts if everyone was in favor of him being the scout liaison.

Mrs. Carnes made the motion to appoint Mr. Davis as the Scout Liaison.

Seconded by Mrs. Sanchez.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

AYES, Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mr. Davis

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS:

Approved

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION # 2

There was no one in attendance to speak at the open public session #2

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS:

Mr. Davis stated that the Scout leaders are having some internal conflicts within.

Mr. Davis stated that he would be meeting the leaders who are having the "issues" to get everyone together to work out some of the issues.

Mr. Davis stated that he would keep the committee updated.

Mrs. Formica stated that she was thinking with everything going on with COVID that she was thinking of going back to when we did the virtual camping idea.

Mrs. Formica stated that the rec committee could do a virtual holiday season.

One week it would be baking and taking pictures and posting and whatever other ideas we can think of. Mrs. Formica asked the committee to start brain storming.

Mr. Formica stated that he has been informed that a woman is looking to donate a bench in honor of her son who had passed away.

Mr. Formica stated that in the past there was a certain bench that had to be purchased and it was an expensive bench.

Mr. Formica was hoping everyone would be ok with letting someone purchase a bench and keeping it uniformed without making people purchase a very expensive bench. The committee members were in agreement.

This woman also has another son who is a well know artist that is known for morals.

He has reached out to the administrator asking if the borough of Franklin would allow him to do a moral in honor of his brother.

Mr. Formica stated that the artist is interested in doing something in the pond area because that is where his brother was always happiest.

Mr. Formica and the committee discussed different places (structures) in the pond area that will be the best place for the moral.

Mr. Formica also gave the committee the newest update for the playground.

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Mr. Formica showed the committee the newest proposed rendering from the 2nd company that reached out. Mr. Formica stated that this company Game Time seems to have better quality equipment.

Mr. Formica stated that with this company we would be getting a little more bang for our buck and you can see that in the rendering they have provided.

Mr. Formica gave the board a brief description of the different aspects of the playground and the layout of the new proposed playground.

Mr. Formica asked the rec committee if they are comfortable with this proposal and asked if he could go forward with presenting this proposal to the Mayor and council for their approval to start getting the processes moving in the right direction.

The committee also discussed different fundraising, grants and ways to have the bigger shareholders in the community donate to the playground fund.

The committee was in agreement with all of the ideas presented by Mr. Formica and authorized Mr. Formica to move forward with the plans presented tonight at the rec meeting.

Mrs./Formica asked if anyone else had anything else to add.

Not hearing anything else.

Mr. Formica asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn, Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.