

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
READINGTON RECREATION COMMITTEE  
May 22, 2024 7:30pm**

A) Chairperson Emmanuel Bola called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

B) ATTENDANCE:

Emmanuel Bola – present  
Stephanie Panico – present  
Bill Quinn - present  
Alison Quintard - present  
Lisa Routel – present  
Carolann Sherwood - absent

TC Liaison Vincent Panico - present

Recreation Director Gabrielle Bolarakis - present  
Recreation Assistant Director Dina Fornataro-Healey - present

C) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – Ms. Panico motioned to accept the meeting minutes of April 24, 2024. Ms. Routel seconded. Mr. Quinn abstained. Mr. Bola, Ms. Panico, Ms. Quintard, and Ms. Routel voted to approve. Motion passed.

D) COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE – Director Bolarakis received an email from Carolann Sherwood resigning from the committee.

E) OLD BUSINESS

i) Spring Program Updates – Director Bolarakis said 48 programs are running in a challenging rainy spring season. However, everything is running on time. The fitness classes will end in June and then start again in September. There is a break between spring and summer sessions to allow time for any make-up and for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

ii) Memorial Day Parade – The event is on Monday, May 27, 2024. Port-O-Johns's were ordered and will be dropped on Friday at the municipal building and also at the King's parking lot. DPW will be picking up from Taylor Rental on Friday. Bottled water has been donated by Lowe's and is also being picked up on Friday. The hot dogs and buns are ordered and will be picked up on Friday. The Health Dept issued a permit. Mr. Bola and Mr. Quinn will be cooking hot dogs. Mr. Bola said some Girl Scouts will help stuff the buns. Right now there is a 50% chance of rain on Monday and the decision needs to be made by 7am.

iii) Cornhuskers Master Plan Update – Director Bolarakis said the engineer visited the site at the end of April. The survey has been completed for the wetland delineation, but we have not received the document yet.

iv) Park Facilities Update – Pickell park renovations: Field #2 is completely done, the washout at Field 3 is fixed, and the batter's box in Field 1 is fixed. The batting cage nets were received for Cornhuskers Park but they have not yet been installed. Mr. Quinn suggested saving the new nets until next spring as summer has less play than spring. Gabrielle said she would reach out

to baseball to see how many teams are playing in the summer. The Viking Visionaries from RMS worked at Pickell Park, Summer Road Park, and Hillcrest Park on 5/22/24. Students picked litter, spread mulch, and planted flowers and trees at the parks.

Mr. Quinn asked if the playground equipment and fencing has been completed. Director Bolarakis said yes.

v) Summer Program Registration Open – Summer Rec Camp is sold out. We hosted trip night for Summer Rec Camp. All but one trip is sold out. We are preparing for fall registration and some programs have been entered into the software.

#### F) NEW BUSINESS

i) Summer Spectacular – The event is on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 5pm-9pm. There are usually 3,000 people. The contracts for rides, inflatables, basketball, pickleball, and DJ are in place. The trucks for the touch-a-truck area and the non-profits are being asked to be in place at 4pm. Currently there are 5 non-profit tables registered. We need help in the concession stand. ShopRite and Wegman's have donated hot dogs/buns and water respectively.

Ms. Routel added that there is an Open Space walk on June 16 2024 at Woodfern.

#### G) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Sharon Becker: asked to clarify if the Summer Spectacular date was in June. Sharon stated she submitted a volunteer application to be on the committee because there is now a vacancy. Manny said he has not heard anything from the Township Committee. Manny stated that the two alternate positions are available.

Matt Doherty: is excited for the Summer Spectacular. He stated he noticed that the agenda had changed a few times from last night to current. He stated that Ms. Sherwood's resignation was showing and now it is not. Also, the bylaws on the website were changed to include comments from the public but the date listed does not correspond. The bylaws also state the changes have to be discussed and voted on.

Mr. Bola stated that for a previous resignation the name was not listed on the agenda. The name was taken off to keep consistent. As for bylaws there is back and forth to refine it and there needs to be a clear consensus. It will be done by next month. Mr. Bola stated that he will look online.

Matt stated it is pertinent, especially without a microphone at the April meeting, that the comments made by Ms. Sherwood be reflected in the minutes. Mr. Doherty recalled Ms. Sherwood's statements and actions as, "This is a circus, and I don't know if you are the ringmaster (at which point she pointed to Gabrielle), they are clowns (and gestured to the audience), and I do not want anything to do with this committee and this is a joke."

Mr. Bola said this can be corrected.

H) COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD – Mr. Quinn said it is nice to see the upgrades at the park being done and we should be reviewing the 5-year plan. Ms. Bolarakis said we have not yet upgraded the lighting at Pickell Park to LED's. She stated that Hunterdon County will have a new grant cycle for parks with a 25% match, but the grant can be used for maintenance. The

Cornhuskers Master Plan may take up the 5-year plan. Mr. Bola asked if portions of the 5-year plan are included in the Township's capital plan. Ms. Bolarakis stated they are included.

Mr. Bola stated that he wanted to follow up with the Corporate/Business sponsorship packet. Ms. Quintard said it does need to be updated. It was passed around at a previous meeting. Mr. Bola asked to put it on the June meeting agenda.

#### I) ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Panico motioned to adjourn at 8:14pm. Ms. Routel seconded. All in favor.

Next meeting is June 26, 2024 at 7:30pm.