

# Somers Point Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes – July 5, 2018

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Paul Huber at 7:02pm**

## Open Public Meetings Act

Read by P. Huber: Adequate notice of this Regular and Executive meeting, setting forth time, date, and location has been provided in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act by prominently posting to local newspapers and city websites. All minutes will be provided upon request.

## Flag Salute

**Members Present:** B. Adams, P. Huber, M. Owen, M. Stewart

**Also Present:** CER Director S. Somers, Councilman J. Toto

**Approval of Minutes:** M. Owen motion, M. Stewart second. Approved.

## CER Report

S. Somers reported that the beach concerts had started and have been well attended. They are generating a lot of good PR and have had no incidents of note. The boat ramps are bringing in good revenue. There was a hit-and-run accident at the Route 52 ramp that resulted in a knocked down pole but left the ramp functional. The damage was addressed and was covered by insurance. The kids concert series starts Monday July 9<sup>th</sup> and is expected to have a good crowd. The broken teacup spinner from JFK park has been removed. Public Works suggested leaving the other for now as it is in working order. When it breaks, it will be removed immediately.

## Council Liaison Report

J. Toto reported that Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, *Jaws* would be shown at Morrow beach. He spoke with the Harbormaster regarding potentially dredging the boat ramp areas; the Harbormaster said it was unnecessary and would self-resolve. The NJ Sustainability Green Team is working on a grant for a dog park and was told to coordinate with the Commission. Pickleball court plans are generating positive chatter in the community.

## Permit Requests

1. **Somers Point School District Summer Camp:** P. Huber motion (with fee waiver), M. Owen second. Approved.
2. **Somers Point Sharks Football:** P. Huber motion, M. Owen second. Approved.
3. **Iocco Memorial Bench Request, JFK Park:** P. Huber motion, M. Stewart second. Approved.
4. **Panarelle Bench Request, JFK Park:** P. Huber motion, M. Owen second. Approved.
5. **Good Old Days Festival:** P. Huber motion, M. Owen second. Approved.

## Old Business

1. **Event Parking at John F. Kennedy Park:** The June 16<sup>th</sup> Arts Commission “Art in the Park” event had high turnout and parking became an issue. Cars were parked on the inner ring of the horseshoe despite signs prohibiting parking there, and cars blocked resident driveways. At least one car was issued a citation. An announcement was made to move cars from restricted areas. Lines will be painted marking resident driveways, and S. Somers will research adding neon “No Parking” signs on the inner ring of the horseshoe.
2. **Budget Approval:** Commission was approved a budget of \$56,500 for 2018: \$5,000 for the Senior Citizen’s center workout stations, \$2,000 for the Massachusetts Avenue park playground fence, \$10,000 for the Kern Field snack stand, \$6,000 to re-top the Babe Ruth infield, \$3,500 for Morrow Beach outdoor signage, \$10,000 for playground shades, and \$20,000 for wells for the Little League and Babe Ruth fields.

## New Business

P. Huber and S. Somers were approached by the Patcong Creek Foundation looking for an area to use as an education

center for youth seminars and ecology and biology lessons. They are considering leasing the Youth Center. The Commission agreed the idea was worth exploring, and P. Huber said he would encourage the Foundation to put together a formal request. The idea of rebranding the Senior Citizen's Center to a community center was briefly discussed as the Center is open to the public for rental.

## **Public**

Fred Akers, Administrator of the Greater Egg Harbor Water and River Association, presented two potential projects. The first involved installation and educational sign regarding the river at John F. Kennedy Park. The second involved addressing an invasive species called Japanese Knotweed. P. Huber suggested submitting formal applications for each idea.

## **Facility Reports**

1. **Fehrle Field:** A business' sign was stolen from one of the fields and left on a resident's porch. The sign was retrieved and re-installed.
2. **Wayne Drive:** P. Huber reported the tennis courts look great.
3. **Senior Citizens Center:** P. Huber and M. Owen will assess the area for the potential installation of pickleball courts.
4. **Kennedy Park:** No issues reported.
5. **Kern Field:** P. Huber reported that hockey is working with the construction company and insurance to repair the septic situation. If they are unable to resolve, the city will handle repairs and take the money from the hockey program.
6. **Youth Center:** Councilman Toto expressed his support for exploring the aforementioned idea from the Patcong Creek Foundation.
7. **Morrow Beach:** Bacteria issues have self-corrected. Councilman Toto reported complaints about restroom capacity at the beach. Portable restrooms are present to increase capacity in the summer, but sometimes that is still insufficient. The Commission will research options regarding higher quality portable restrooms such as trailer models.
8. **Bike Path:** No issues reported.

## **Good of the Order**

Skip Broomall will be joining the Commission next month, and his appointment will result in a full Commission. He was previously the Vice President of the Zoning Board but stepped down to avoid a conflict of interest with his wife's new position.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.**