



Somers Point Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 2nd, 2022
7:00 PM

Open Public Meetings Act:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided. The agenda for this meeting has been posted in City Hall and the City’s website at somerspointgov.org. This Meeting will be held in person at City Hall, and live streamed on the City’s YouTube page.

Flag Salute

Call to Order 7:00pm by M. Stewart

Roll Call:

Members Present: M. Endicott, D. Shields, M. Stewart

Members Not Present: B. Adams, C. Marshall

Also in attendance: H. Dil, J. McCarrie, S. McGuigan, M. Owens, D. Shallcross

Approval of Minutes: D. Shields

Recreation Director Report:

- Tennis Courts
 - To asphalt the tennis courts, 60 x 120 area and add lines for four pickleball courts, the estimated cost is \$110,000 before coating the lines; anywhere that is flat and does not include grading
 - D. Shallcross is requesting a quote for a smaller court
- Morrow Beach Playground
 - Equipment was due in late May
 - No further update
 - Replacing broken parts at this time

Council Liaison Report:

Facility Use Requests/Permits:

- National Night Out- 8/2/22- Football Field, event is 6-8 PM, set up 4/4:30 PM
 - Nick Wagner representative for the Police Department attended the meeting
 - Fee waived
 - Approved: M. Endicott
- Christmas in July - Movie at JFK Park, 7/23/22 7-10 PM.
 - Applicant is renting a screen
 - Approved: M. Endicott
- Islamic Academy of SJ-Free Festival – application will be revisited at the July 7, 2022 meeting
 - Approved: M. Endicott

Memorial Bench Requests:

Memorial Tree Requests:



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Old Business:

- Playground equipment
- Snack stand – D. Shallcross is getting quotes.
- Pickleball -
- Tennis courts -
- Baseball field wells – M. Stewart is researching another well next to the existing well.

New Business:

- Little Free Library on Bike Path – D. Shallcross to ask the applicant to follow the process by submitting an application.
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- Dog Park
 - Citizens are noticing dog waste in public areas such as Kennedy Park, ball fields, and bike path, where dogs are not permitted.
 - J. McCarrie commented that a dog park would eliminate the problem
 - Council is looking to down size the dog park
 - D. Shallcross is reaching out to other municipalities to see what they are doing
 - Enforcement is the issue and a discussion was had to consider signage to include “fine”
 - D. Shallcross will research installing locked gates in public areas
 - Item to remain on the agenda

Correspondence:

Public Portion:

- Ken Berardis, Linwood, President of Somers Point Street Hockey and Sharks Football
 - Expressed his concern about the proposed dog park area
 - Not opposed to a dog park
 - The proposed area is in constant demand with 300+ kids in the months of July through March with field hockey
 - On Saturdays and Sundays during football season is hard to find parking
 - Excited dogs place a risk of harm to the kids
- Nick Wagner, Somers Point
 - Spoke on behalf of the Vice President of Somers Point Hockey
 - Outgrew the current parking lot
 - Dog waste could be an issue and hard to catch the owner’s to pick up after their dog.
 - There is space available with an opportunity to expand the current area by adding a field or playground
 - Outgrown storage and Somers Point Hockey is looking to store another shed



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- Patrick Deely, Somers Point
 - Addressed the dog park
 - If the dog park were to happen, would like to see a study to be done for cost and liability
 - Put the dog park not in an area where flooding is an issue
 - The city does not take care of the area – volunteers have removed snow
 - Suggested using a portion of Kennedy Park for the dog park
 - Not opposed to a dog park
- Dave Darcusio, Somers Point
 - Agrees with the citizens who spoke before him
 - Major liability with many kids running around
 - Potential injury to dog walker – could get hit by a foul ball
 - Hockey rink is one of the first locations to flood
 - Supports the dog park
- Theresa Dougherty, Somers Point
 - Supports comments made by others on the dog park
- Patricia Jasinski, Somers Point
 - Suggested to put the dog park at the tennis court and put the pickleball court at the recreation center
 - Also suggested, split the existing tennis court – one tennis court and convert the other tennis court to four pickleball courts
 - Suggest a port a potty at the tennis/pickleball courts
 - Port a potty is a priority over the benches
- Mike Owens
 - \$110,000 for asphalt and fencing
 - Will work on the budgeting and with the city engineer for the pickleball courts
 - Suggested memorial bike racks
- Stacie Brookbanks, Somers Point
 - Morrow Beach Playground parts did not arrive by the end of May as previously stated and she followed up with D. Shallcross
 - Currently orange plastic fencing surrounding the playground
 - D. Shallcross was not sure who installed the fencing and will ask Public Works
 - Asked for an update on the five year plan
 - S. McGuigan commented that overtime playground equipment will be replaced and will have a report in July
 - Neighborhood Grant – more a planning grant and can apply \$125,000 each year for 5 years for items such as signage, side walk, flags on Bay Ave
 - S McGuigan to report on \$117,000 COVID money received from the state
 - H. Dil assumes Public Works was instructed to better secure the beach playground



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Facility Reports:

- Fehrle Field
- Wayne Drive
- Senior Citizens/Community Center
- Kennedy Park
- Kern Field
- William Morrow Beach
- Bike Path

Adjournment of the Meeting:

Approved: M. Ednicott

Next Meeting:

- July 7th, 2022