



Somers Point Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 6th, 2024
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.

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In Attendance:

Commissioner Adams
Commissioner Shields
Commissioner Stanton
Commissioner Stewart

Also in attendance: Councilman Owens and Councilman Haberkorn

Approval of Minutes: Approved M Stanton

Recreation Director Report:

- Playground Equipment- Councilman McGuigan submitted designs for new playground equipment at Kennedy Park. Anticipate having pricing available for the July meeting.
- Pickleball/Tennis Courts- New center strap for the nets have been ordered.
- Shipping Container- Contacted Greg Schneider to schedule a meeting to review the shipping container and the flooding issue at the football field.
- Shuffleboard Courts/Senior Center- Nothing new to report.
- Other- Beach Concerts starting next week and the Farmers Market is off to a great start to the season.
- Events- Nothing

Council Liaison Report:

- Councilman McGuigan was unable to attend and asked commission to review the playground update.
- Councilman Owens
 - The Arts Commission is utilizing the Senior and Community center.



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- The boat ramps have not been operational since Memorial Day. Jason Frost has contacted a contractor for repairs.
- Weekly Farmers Market at Somers Point Mansion Memorial Day through Labor Day
- Historical Society Museum is having an open house on June 8th from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

- Councilman Haberkorn
 - We Walk Somers Points started June 1, 2024. Nine people participated. The walking schedule was distributed to those who attended and the schedule has been posted to the city's website.

Facility Use Requests/Permits:

- Islamic Academy of SJ
 - During the Public Portion, an inquiry was made about liability. Commission Stewart explained that all parties using facilities are required to have insurance.
 - Recreation Director Shallcross confirmed the application has insurance
 - Approved: B Adams



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- Somers Point PAL Movie Night
 - Nick Wagner, Somers Point, represented PAL.
 - In the past Movie Night was held at Kennedy Park. PAL is requesting to move the event to the softball field.
 - The event is expected to have approximately 50 children attend.
 - Approved: B Adams

- Yoga for Seniors
 - Maureen Helbig, Somers Point, addressed the Commission
 - Mrs. Helbig is a certified yoga instructor and is requesting to have beginner classes for seniors at the Senior and Community Center.
 - During the Public Portion, it was asked to have the tables return to the original set up for the Pinochle Group. Recreation Director Shallcross and Mrs. Helbig will coordinate returning the tables.
 - Yoga for Seniors will be advertised on city website, Facebook, and newspapers
 - Councilman Haberkorn shared information on how to learn about events in Somers Point and distributed cards with the bar code.
 - Approved: B Adams

Memorial Bench or Tree Requests: No requests

Old Business:

- Playground Equipment
 -
- Shipping Container
-
- Shuffleboard Courts - Senior Center
 - Councilman Haberkorn provided an update. 24 people are interested and there were 200 hits on social media. There is no age restriction, and it is suggested that the evening hours be scheduled to play.
 - Recreation Director Shallcross is requesting quotes and will present an update at the July meeting.

New Business:

- National Night Out - Band
 - The Commission was asked to pay the fee for the band to play at National Night Out. In 2023, the Commission paid \$400 for the band.
 - A straw poll was taken the decision was unanimous to pay the band fee.



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- We Walk Somers Point
 - See Council Liaison Report

- Reusable Bags at The Beach
 - Recreation Director Shallcross reported that a company had contacted him regarding reusable bags at the beach. A sample is being sent and Mr. Shallcross will present the information at the July meeting.

Correspondence:

Ask doug what was addressed

Public Portion:

- Linda Rile, Somers Point (***doug last name***)
 - Ms. Rile is a weekly user of the Senior Center and addressed the Commission.
 - Asked the restrooms be routinely cleaned.
 - The Pinochle Club generally has 20-25 people per week participate.
 - The middle room was at one time a room and now it has become a storage room.
 - Suggested events for seniors such as
 - Bus trips
 - Back bay boat trips
 - Philadelphia Day – soft pretzels; bands
 - In the past they had a Big Band Day and suggested a 60's or 70's day
 - Need to communicate with Seniors who do not have access to a computer or the internet and suggested advertising events in local newspapers.

 - Mrs. Murphy, Somers Point
 - Ms. Murphy is an OEM volunteer.
 - Mrs. Murphy was unaware of where the Senior Center is located and inquired about transportation to the center. Currently transportation to the center is not available. Mr. Murphy asked if it is something that could be available.

 - Joann Santoro, Somers Point
 - Ms. Santoro asked about available funding.
 - Commissioner Stewart explained that the current year's budget is completed and there are some limits now. When preparing the next budget, the Commission can request Council for additional funding.



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- Molly Seltzer, Somers Point
 - Ms. Seltzer inquired about organizing Bridge Club.
 - Ms. Seltzer was informed that if there is an interest, the group can submit an application to reserve space to meet weekly.
 - Suggested a trip to the Cape May County Zoo and to Cape May

- Susan Igoe, Somers Point
 - Ms. Igoe stated the playground at the Senior Center needing repairs.
 - Commission Stewart explained that we are aware of the needed updates to the playground at the Senior Center and Kennedy Park. Councilman McGuigan has been communicating with manufacturer. The playground equipment is being replaced site by site and Kennedy Park is a priority. Public Works inspects the equipment for safety. For liability purposes, the manufacturer repairs the equipment.

- Sue Weiler, Somers Point
 - Ms. Weiler's concern is the need for a good line of communication. Most seniors are not tech savy or do not have access to a computer or the internet. Suggestions were made to put notices at the supermarket, install a glass bulletin board at the Senior Center, place flyers at the little libraries and the Somers Point library.
 - More information on how to communicate Senior events will be addressed at the July meeting.

- Nancy Norton, Somers Point
 - Ms. Norton suggested bingo at the center and the money generated goes back to the center.
 - Ms. Norton suggested and Ice Cream Social at Custard Hut.

Facility Reports:

- Fehrle Field – The pole is being addressed and the fields look great.
- Wayne Drive – Tennis courts have some weeds that need to be addressed.
- Senior Citizens/Community Center – Part of the fence near the shuffleboard court needs attention.
- Kennedy Park -
- Kern Field – good shape
- William Morrow Beach - Lifeguards started two weeks ago. There has been a complaint that beach goers are not returning toys to the box.
- Bike Path – Looks good

Owens –

Adjournment of the Meeting: approved B Adams



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Next Meeting:

- July 18th, 2024