



Franklin Township  
Advisory Recreation Council  
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017  
Community / Senior Center  
7:00pm  
Minutes

**In Attendance:** Keith Stewart, Nancy Sayre, Bill Gallagher, Lewis Hurd, Elois Taylor, Percy Sanders, Ty-Wanna Cotton and Bill Milligan

**Excused:** Carl Wright and Rebekah Solomon

**Absent:** Susindran Thangarajo, John Moon, Stanley Crougter and Darrin Russo

**Staff:** Alice Osipowitz and Dan Reeve

**Call to order:** Mr. Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Ms. Sayre and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 and November 9, 2016 meeting as presented, Mr. Sanders abstained, all others in favor, motion carried.

**Public Comment:** A motion was made by Ms. Sayre and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to open the meeting to the public, all others in favor, motion carried.

Seeing no speakers from the public are present, a motion was made by Mr. Milligan and seconded by Ms. Sayre to close the meeting to the public, all others in favor, motion carried.

#### **Committee Annual Re-Organization**

Mr. Stewart welcomed all members and wished all a Happy New Year. Mr. Stewart reviewed the adopted Advisory Recreation Council by-laws and members expectations. No questions were asked. Mr. Stewart reviewed the Advisory Recreation Council structure and discussion ensued around the officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

A motion was made by Mr. Milligan and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to appoint Mr. Stewart as Advisory Recreation Council Chair for 2017, all others in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Milligan and seconded by Ms. Taylor to appoint Ms. Sayre as Advisory Recreation Council Vice Chair for 2017, all others in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Sayre and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to appoint Mr. Milligan as Advisory Recreation Council Secretary for 2017, all others in favor, motion carried.

#### **Superintendents Report**

Mr. Reeve provided a written program report.

#### **Program Update**

- Franklin Township Parks & Recreation held their annual Franklin Township Tree Lighting. Each year the tree lighting marks the kick off Franklin Township season of giving. The Franklin Township Parks & Recreation Department collected new, unwrapped gifts and needed items for Center for Great Expectations, a transitional housing shelter for teens and adults that are pregnant or with small children, and Operation Jersey Cares, an organization that helps the troops overseas as well as the returning soldiers and Marines that have been wounded in combat. Volunteers from the following organization assisted with handing out candy canes, cookies, hot chocolate, running game and craft booths, performing and many other invaluable tasks:

- Boy Scouts –Troop 154
  - Franklin High School Madrigals
  - Franklin Township Boys Council
  - Franklin Township Public Library
  - Franklin Township Youth Council
  - Girl Scout Troup 60157
  - Praise Presbyterian Church
- Franklin Township Youth Council is a volunteer community service organization staffed and governed by youth, ages 12-18, based in Franklin Township, NJ (Somerset County). The Youth Council's goal is to develop and support community youth and charitable projects through its various committees including: Diversity, Education, Environmental, Health & Wellness, Therapeutic, and Youth & Community. In addition to developing community programming, members participate in local events as volunteers in order to improve and strengthen their community through service.
    - FT YC currently has 88 members (64 vested members; 24 provisional).
    - The newest applicants hail from 7 different schools. This is the first time this has happened.
    - Provisional members will be evaluated at the beginning of March for permanent membership into the FTYC.
    - Members volunteer for every Recreation special event and several youth programs.
    - During the 2015-2016 FTYC members completed over 2300 hours of community service.
    - With 84 members, the 2016 Youth Council membership was the largest in the organization's history.
    - FTYC boasts 2016 FHS salutatorian (Priti Kantesaria). This is the 5th time in the past 6 years that we have had a valedictorian, salutatorian, or both in our membership.
    - 2016 was 4th time FTYC partnered with a Franklin public school to teach curriculum.
    - Two of our past members (class of 2012 and 2015) have medical patents with Johns Hopkins University.
    - We are in the process of developing an alumni network.
  - Senior Programs hosted a Cooking Demo by Chef Dillon Peavey. (47 participants) A two course meal was prepared and everyone got to sample a full dish of each. Give-a-ways were donated by Clover Health.
  - Brain Games Workshop for Senior Citizens presented by Tobi Ehrlich of The Oscar and Ella Wilf Campus for Senior Living. (50 Participants)
  - Franklin Township “Live Above the Influence” Poster Contest Award Ceremony was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Franklin Township Council Chambers for grades 1 -12. This year we had 19 students that participated in the 2016 “Live Above the Influence” Poster Contest. Special thank you to the Franklin Township Municipal Alliance members for their votes, and supporting the youth of the Community.
    - Krish Patel was the Grand Prize winner from Franklin Middle School.
      1. The following students won First Place:
        1. Matece Pena, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
        2. Isha Patel, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
        3. Grace Tuck, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
        4. Esmeralda Rosario, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - The Franklin Twp. Local PBA 154 sponsored the Annual Holiday party for the Teen Rec program on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Upcoming Events

- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Breakfast Commemorating The Life and Work of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Jan. 16
- Parks & Recreation Job Fair – Feb. 4
- FYI Black History Celebration – Feb. 18
- Senior Citizen Cooking Demo, Sponsored by ShopRite – Feb. 24

Mr. Reeve presented the 2017 Spring Program Fees. Fees have generally stayed consistent with 2016 pricing.

A motion was made by Ms. Sayre and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to accept the 2017 Spring Program Fees as presented, all others in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Osipowitz recommends hosting a program planning session at the Feb. 2017 meeting. Mr. Stewart agreed and asked that it be on the agenda.

## **Directors Report**

### **Budget Update**

- Only change from 2016 was request to increase senior supplies. All other line items were kept status quo.
- Department budget hearings are scheduled for Feb. 7, 13 and 21.
- Department budget and capital budget items are discussed at the budget hearings.

### **Park Improvements**

- Middlebush Park
  - Concession Stand
    - Updated shipping time frame is now January or February
    - Dependent upon weather, completion of construction is scheduled for February or March
- Resurfacing of basketball courts will be completed at the following parks in spring 2017. New backstops are being installed.
  - Bascom
  - Nassau
  - Dunham Lebed
  - Rutgers Heights
- Inman Park
  - New pavilion installed by tennis courts.
  - New benches have been ordered.
- Williams Park Spray Park
  - Currently in design phase. Going out to bid in February or March.

Ms. Osipowitz acknowledged the Engineering and Public Works Departments for all their hard work in making repairs and renovating the parks in 2016 and 2017.

### **Old Business**

No old business

### **New Business**

Ms. Osipowitz provided a brief update on the Lewis Street Teen Drop-In Center project. Once Township Council approves bid specs, a feasibility study bid will be publicized. Surveys and focus groups will be utilized to collect data regarding residents' needs.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Ms. Sayre and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm , all others in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Reeve  
Superintendent of Recreation