

Franklin Borough
Recreation Committee
Minutes for
February 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Chairwomen, Mrs. Sanchez, who then led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mrs. Sanchez read the Statement of Compliance pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, PL 1975."

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Mrs. Christina Sanchez Chairwoman (Present)
Mrs. Bobbi Formica Co- Chairwoman (Present)
Mr. Anthony Marino (Present)
Mr. Concetto Formica (Present)
Mr. Scott Davis (Present)
Mrs. Holly Sollitto (Absent)
Mrs. Patty Carnes (Present)
Mr. Stephen Skellenger (Present)
Mayor John Sowden (Present)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Sanchez stated that at this time she would like to have a motion to accept the January 16th meeting minutes.

Mrs. Formica made the motion to approve the January 16th meeting minutes.

Seconded by **Mrs. Carnes**

Upon Roll Call Vote:

AYES Mrs. Sanchez, Mrs. Formica, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Carnes

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: Mr. Formica, Mr. Marino

Approved

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

No audience to have a public session

Presentation:

A playground rep came from the playground company - **Ben Shaffer Recreation** to explain to the recreation committee what the proposals are for the existing playground and a proposal for a new playground for the pond area.

Scott the playground rep, explained the plans for the handicap accessible playground as well. Giving the rec committee a better idea of where the glider will be placed in conjunction to the rest of the playground.

Scott, the playground rep, explained that the playground underwent an inspection earlier this week and there will be a full report submitted sometime next week.

Scott, the playground rep, stated that the committee has a few options at this point.

1. To replace and fix the areas of the playground that need to be addressed.
2. Phase out the old equipment and phase in new equipment
3. Plan and budget for a whole new playground.

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Scott the playground rep displayed a poster board of what his ideas would be for a new playground and explained each piece and the reason for that particular lay out. Scott stated that this was just a general concept and things can be changed and have a different lay out as long as they follow the safety restrictions.

Mr. Formica stated that there are many ideas being thrown around as far as the playground layout and that particular area all around.

Mr. Formica stated his ideas one in particular being adding a sidewalk along the road side of the outside area of the playground.

Mr. Formica asked what was covered as far as the warranty.

Scott stated that labor for the first year was free and any replacements parts would be covered for 15 years and would be shipped directly to the DPW garage.

Mrs. Sanchez asked if the benches along the left side when you enter the playground now will still be there in the new proposal. Scott stated that the benches will still be there. The proposal has them being replaced same bench just replaced or repaired if repairs can be made.

Mr. Davis stated that there were two tables with benches also is that something that will remain. Scott replied by stating yes, because they are not mounted to the ground. The Tables can be easily moved from one area of the playground to the next.

Mrs. Sanchez asked if the flooring was part of the proposal. Scott stated that the flooring was not part of the proposal because there were so many different ideas being talked about.

Mrs. Sanchez asked about the different kinds of flooring and which would be most cost effective.

The clear answer being the wood fiber.

Mr. Formica asked about the pieces being in stock and the delivery time being true to what was stated on the proposal of 4 to 6 weeks to be delivered.

Scott assured Mr. Formica of the proposed manufacturing and deliver time would be as stated 4- 6 weeks.

Scott briefly discussed the process of the installation process.

Scott spoke at length of the different kinds of flooring materials that can be used and gave a brief description of each.

Scott also gave the differences in the cost of the flooring as well as the maintenance cost of each.

Mr. Davis stated that he read somewhere that this playground is for 205 users.

Scott the playground rep explained that the playground capacity for the unit on display will be able to accommodate 205 children.

Mrs. Sanchez asked if there were any other questions from the committee members.

There not being any more questions Mrs. Sanchez thanked Scott for coming to the meeting and sharing his thoughts and ideas for the playground area.

Scott thanked the board for having him and stated that the full report of the inspection will be submitted by the end of next week.

Mayor Sowden asked if he could just add something as well in regards to the playground discussion.

Mayor Sowden stated that the purpose of tonight's presentation was to get some ideas and to really start brain storming on how the rec committee would like to go forward with the playground area. Mayor Sowden stated that this is not a decision that needs to be made right away. Mayor Sowden stated that this was just a meeting to get ideas and brain storm with the professional.

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Mayor Sowden stated that as the rec committee can see it is going to be expensive and needs to be thought about and not taken lightly. Mayor Sowden stated that this is everyone brain storming and sharing ideas with each other.

Mayor Sowden suggested replacing and fixing what is existing for now and go from there as we continue to brain storm on potential descension that works best for the rec committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasures Report –

Mrs. Carnes gave a report on the rec accounts.

Mrs. Carnes stated that she did look into the tree lighting/ Christmas budget and rec came in below budget in both events.

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring Fling –

Saturday April 18, 2020

Mrs. Formica gave a brief update on the spring fling. The theme for this year's **Spring Fling** will be the **Roaring 20's**.

Mrs. Formica stated that she is still working on getting prices from local restaurants.

Mrs. Formica stated that by the next rec meeting she should have a finalized list to bring back to the committee to finalize setting the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sponsorship for rec events-

Mrs. Sanchez stated that she has brought up at other meetings that the rec committee needs to write up some sort of letter and or document that allows for the rec committee to go around to local business owners asking if they would like to sponsor a Franklin recreation event weeks, or months prior to the event to elevate asking for last minute donations.

Mrs. Sanchez stated that she would like to even go a step further and create a donation tier.

Mrs. Sanchez referenced the Jr women's club of Sparta who do the same idea for their Sparta Day event.

This way it makes it easier on the rec members who are soliciting donations and for the businesses who make the donations.

The committee in a whole thought the donation tier was a good idea and Mrs. Sanchez stated that she would research other groups and see how their tiers are listed and gather up as much information as she can to start working on a Franklin Rec donation tier.

Dog litter signs/stations:

Mrs. Sanchez brought up the topic of installing the dog litter signs and doggy bag stations down at the pond for residents whom walk their dogs at the pond.

Mr. Formica stated that the animals should not be able to be down at the pond especially near the fields if we install doggy bag stations are, we are then encouraging them to walk their dogs down at the pond?

Mrs. Sanchez stated that she feels the same way and brought that point up the first time we discussed this issue.

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Mrs. Sanchez stated that she understands what Mr. Formica is stating however, just because the dogs are not allowed down there does not mean they won't be down there. Mrs. Sanchez stated clearly, they are walking their dogs down at the pond and they are doing their business. Mrs. Sanchez stated ignoring it is not helping the situation either. Mrs. Sanchez stated is there a way that we can change the ordinance or suggest to the council to change the ordinance. Mr. Formica stated that he has taken notes and he will address this at the next ordinance committee meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS:

Mr. Formica stated that there is a lot of ideas for the playground area right now. Mr. Formica stated that he has received a lot of emails on the playground the last couple of days.

Mr. Formica stated that they are not going to go ahead with the new matt they will work with what they have and make that work for now.

Mr. Formica explained his ideas and what his ideas are for the plans for the playground.

Mr. Formica stated that he is waiting for the inspection report to come in to really see what needs to be fixed or replaced and see what that would cost and weigh the cost of that with the reality of how long we are willing to keep the existing playground.

Mr. Formica stated at this point there are many options. This is the time for the rec committee to address their concerns and ideas if they have idea express it. Mr. Formica stated if you do not like an idea express it. Mr. Formica stated like the mayor said no decision is being made tonight or this week. This is a big purchase and cannot be handled lightly.

Mr. Formica stated that they called the fence company and they are coming out next week to look at the softball fence and close the two sides in. Mr. Formica stated that they will have to do a double gate to allow access for an ambulance. Mr. Formica stated that he will also have them look at playground fence and give them an estimate on a newer nicer fence for the playground area.

Mrs. Carnes gave a brief update on EDC and that they are always brain storming at their meetings on different ideas for the town as well.

Mrs. Carnes stated that there was a suggestion at the last meeting of having an Ice festival. The idea was to have something down at the pond during the winter to get people out and about during the winter. The committee brainstormed ideas that the town would allow and ideas that may not work for our town.

Mrs. Babcock stated that she had something for under miscellaneous comments in regards to a field use application.

Mrs. Babcock stated that Wallkill Valley Little League's President Brian Connelly came in and dropped off his field use application.

Mrs. Babcock stated that he only gave a check in the amount of \$250.00 which would only be the lighting fee for one season of lighting.

The committee stated that he would need three checks for \$250.00 or one check in the amount of \$750.00.

The committee also emphasized how important it was that the league get all of their background checks in as soon as possible. Mr. Formica stated the laws have changed.

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Mr. Formica also stated that the camp is allowed however, they would need to fill out their own application and submit their own payment.

Mrs. Babcock stated that she would email Mr. Connelly in the morning explaining and bringing the issues discussed tonight to his attention.

The committee discussed the new light on Main Street briefly and expressed how they thought they looked great and wished they could be carried out throughout the rest of the town especially in the area of the pond.

Mrs. Sanchez stated that the RFQ for the paddleboards for the pond will be in this Sunday's paper.

The committee expressed their disappointment and disgust with the news of Sugar Sweet Farms.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Formica made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Seconded by Mrs. Carnes**
All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Babcock
Recreation Secretary