

Metuchen Recreation Commission November 19, 2020

Zoom Meeting 7:30 pm

Present: Bruce Peragallo, Scott Brooks, Alicia Killean, Nancy Goldberg, Liza Burns, George Ludwig

- 1) Brighten the Borough – The Halloween Decorating contest was such a success that we will be partnering with the Metuchen Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a House Decorating event. Residents will be encouraged to decorate their houses with lights for the holidays. This event will not be a contest, although we will have a map and random houses will receive a Chamber gift certificate.
- 2) Holiday Events – The Metuchen Borough, MDA and the Metuchen Parade Committee have hired a company that will be decorating downtown for the holidays. Virtual tree lighting will be held on November 29th and a Menorah lighting on December 9th. Winter Fest weekend is scheduled for December 11th – 12th. Plans include the Metuchen Chamber selling Mystery boxes, and Footlighters walking around the downtown along with Santa. Recreation will host a selfie Station with fake snow outside of Whats the Scoop. We will design a backdrop for the window. No hot chocolate, looking into giving away hot chocolate bombs and maybe candy canes. Snow machine and fluid has been ordered and hopefully will arrive in time. We will practice to make sure the sidewalk does not get slippery. A sign up sheet will be sent for volunteers to man the station.
- 3) Nancy approached Lauren Owens about the possibility of doing a zoom holiday cookie class. Lauren would need to have an NJ Business License in order to get paid.
- 4) Since we are unable to gather in Borough Hall this December to take part in Santa's Calling event , due to the pandemic (small offices, shared phones) we are going to consider bringing back letters to Santa.
- 5) Cameras have been installed in Borough Hall, Senior Center and Myrtle Park. Nancy will find out how long the video is available and if we need to add additional signage.
- 6) To date we have collected over \$8000.00 in revenue for field rentals, due to Ken Kacani's diligent overseeing of field calendars. This money has been used for upkeep, cleaning and minor repairs at the fields.
- 7) Metuchen Soccer Club is paying for seeding of Edgar and Hampton Fields. A request for winter time slots was submitted and will be forwarded to Ken to place on the calendar.
- 8) Metuchen High School seniors partook in a Cornhole Tournament on Myrtle Field field sponsored by in part by the Metuchen Elks and Volunteer parents. Good feedback from Bruce Peragallo.

9) Metuchen Basketball has been practicing at Myrtle basketball courts. They used headlights and music were from the videos posted to Facebook was well received. Ken Kacani asked Nancy to look into the possibility of grant money to rehab the court. (maybe COVID related funding ?) Since indoor facilities are not available at this time.

10) US Sport Institute we try offering 2 pop up winter camps. Saturday, November 28th and Saturday Dec 5th at Hampton Park for youngsters ages 5-11 from 10:00 – 1:00pm . \$60.00 per day. Spring Sport programs will start in April for 8 weeks . One of the new offering this year will be SNAG a beginner golf program for 4-6 year olds.

11) NJSIAA winter sports seasons are being pushed back at least 6 weeks. Recreation sports may be following suit.

12) Other winter ideas include – Craft boxes, like the ones offered for Halloween but include a light up frame to follow the Light Up Metuchen theme or a New Years Box with a noise maker craft.

Respectfully Submitted

Alicia Killean