

Metuchen Recreation Commission meeting October 14, 2020 via Zoom 7:00pm

Present: Donald Wallace, Bruce Peragallo, Matthew Masturzo, Alicia Killean, Nancy Goldberg, Scott Brooks, Liza Burns, Ken Kacani, Debra Rubin (Metuchen Mirror)

Poster Painting – Grab and Go Boxes - This event was designed to replace the Halloween Poster Painting contest due to our inability to use an indoor facility. 106 boxes were purchased @ \$8.00 each. Boxes contained paints, brush, 2 crafts, Halloween candy, glow light and a chance to win a \$10.00 gift certificate to either Whats the Scoop or Lollipopland. Registration was done through our website and several pick up times were offered. Everyone seems excited to have some to do with their youngsters.

Decorated Halloween Haunted House Contest – Currently have 7 entries on our website although we anticipate more by the deadline. Participants are asked to upload photos and addresses at added to the map which Tyreen Ruetter (Metuchen Chamber of Commerce) is updating daily. Entries are due by October 23rd. First place \$100.00 gift card and a basket of Chamber swag, Second place \$50.00, third place \$25.00. All winners will receive a lawn sign ! A banner advertising the event as well as an ad/ and article in Mirror was arranged. Judges will be needed to help select the top 3 houses.

Halloween - Halloween is on with trick or treating happening on Halloween with a few suggested modifications. Nancy was part of the Mayor's Task Force which included students from 2nd – 6th grade. Recommendations include wearing a cotton mask , flyer to download saying Trick or Treater Welcome here, stay in your neighborhood, hand sanitizer available and small socially distance groups. A PSA will be filmed utilizing the students. First Presbyterian Church is having a truck or treat.

Field Hockey – 74 girls registered in 3 sessions. No contact, no games. Each player received a reversible tank top and a field hockey ball to keep, to limit contact. Heather Napolitano and Beth Abbot are lead coaches as well as 2 HS players and several volunteer parents.

Saturday Tennis Lessons – We offered lessons for youngsters ages 3 -14 all levels. Approximately 50 participants are attending between the hours 8:00am – 1:00pm. Because of social distancing we had to spread out across 4 courts and we have had some public pushback. Hopefully next season we will be back to normal or we can have less registrants requiring 3 courts. The courts seem to be very popular in the morning hours but evenings are basically not being utilized. New LED lights were installed at the beginning of the month.

Saturday Sport Squirt Classes – Classes are being held through the USSport Institute. All sessions are filled as well as the Parent and Child classes. Rec Soccer has about 200 youngsters registered – about 100 less than usual. Smaller groups on the field training in pods – everyone is happy.

Metuchen Basketball League – is trying to determine if they can have a 2021 season as they will not be allowed to use the schools. They are looking for alternative venues – inquired about use of our outdoor courts, using our insurance and renting lights. They will be conducting a survey of their parents in the coming weeks.

Field Rentals - Rentals have brought in over 7000.00 this season. We are renting in the off times – early morning. We are using this for field cleanings, field repairs, and repairing the backstop on Myrtle Field. DPW will be fixing the portion of the fence destroyed in the last storm.

Edgar Baseball /Football Field – Ken Kacani’s (and the Commission’s) goal is to get Edgar in better working condition so that it is used more regularly . Looking to create a maintenance program going forward. Next step is getting the baseball field up and running for the Middle School. We are looking into increasing the fee ordinance for rentals/ We might need to consider increased signage that remind people no bikes on the turf and no soft tosses into the fences. Plan to engage with DPW and come up a plan for the fields in the Spring to include grass cutting and field lining.

Looking Ahead - We are not sure what the Holidays will bring. The Holiday Parade Committee is meeting soon and we should have an update on the status of a parade (probably not happening), tree lighting, menorah lighting, and Santa’s Calling. We need to think of ways that we can do it socially distanced with limited callers. Suggested include, House Decorating Contest, Cooking or Craft zoom classes and maybe writing letters to Santa.

Respectfully Submitted

Alicia Killean

