

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for October 15, 2024 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on October 15, 2024 on Zoom teleconference. It began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson David Keyt, with Derek Jackson as secretary.

2. Attendees

Voting Members in attendance: Heather Hornyak, Derek Jackson, David Keyt, Shaun Lehrer, Rob Wianecki

Non-voting Members in attendance: Laurie Stepper (Recreation Director), Melissa Muilenburg (Council Liaison)

Guests in attendance: None

Members not in attendance: James Aitken, Phyllis Deering, Mark Odenwelder, Tish Scarola, Sara Forman (Board of Education Liaison)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on September 17, 2024 was made by David Keyt and seconded by Derek Jackson.

4. Report of the Recreation Director

Report was prepared and presented by Laurie Stepper.

- Fallfest at Birchwood Lake on 10/13 was a great success. Special thanks to Heather for helping to organize the scouts. Next year there are some discussions of extending it to include vendors for a small fee. The total cost was about \$300 and much of the activities can be reused.
- Halloween Porch/Door Decorating Contest was launched to the community, currently 1 entry already received. Laurie may look into promoting it on the town bulletin board near Borough Hall.
- Jr Laker Wrestling registration opened on Sept 6, and currently has 25 kids registered (as of 10/7/24). This time last year there were 5 kids registered, as registration only opened October 4, 2023.
 - New this year is an introductory program for kids in kindergarten through 2nd grade, which focuses on skills and movement, with no competitive matches.
- Confirmed Jr Laker Volleyball details, including facility reservations and budget. Scheduled to open for registration in December, with the program starting in February 2025.
- Laker 55+ Club meeting scheduled for Thurs, Oct 10 at 2pm and 7pm to accommodate work schedules. The first event will be a trivia night in Morristown. There will also be a walking tour of Brooklyn Bridge and lower Manhattan. Transportation will not be included due to the exorbitant cost.

- Finalized Briarcliff Middle School and Mountain Lakes High School Ski Club details. Scheduled to open for registration the beginning of November.
- On September 23rd the Recreation Director, Laurie Stepper, presented an overview of the Recreation Department's programs, events and sports to the Borough Council. Several recommended changes to existing programs and new programs were proposed to the council, discussed and voted upon.
 - Financial Assistance – Approved; Update to include that the Borough will not retain copies of income verification for security purposes. Also, a confidential conversation will be had with the applicant on their need.
 - Sponsorship Program – Approved
 - Fee Schedule – Initial approval to consolidate specific fees into a range of fees, which will be presented at a future Council meeting
 - Fireworks – Approved to move forward with scheduling fireworks on Fri, July 4, rain date Sat, July 5.
 - Family Boat and Swim Races – Approved to host them on a Tues in July, with Wed as rain date.
 - Commemorative Bench Program – Approved; need to wait for fee schedule to be updated and approved to start the program.
 - Rack and Ring
 - Extended Use – Council approved to extend use to Dec 31st for all locations.
 - Occupy Policy – Not approved; Council would like a soft approach for 2025, where a notice would be sent on July 1st asking the resident if they are really going to use their rack and ring, or if their spot can go to another resident on the waitlist. This will be discussed more in the DPW Subcommittee meeting as well.
 - There is a broad concern about the increased demand given that the club is closed and does not seem likely to open in the Summer 2025.

Upcoming Events

- October - Halloween Porch/Door Decorating Contest
- December – Holiday Porch/Door Decorating Contest
- Friday - Sunday, December 6-8 - Gingerbread Wonderland at Mountain Lakes Library
- Sunday, December 8 – Tree Lighting 5pm at Kauffmann Park
- Sunday, December 29 – Menorah Lighting 5pm at Kauffmann Park

Monthly Meetings

- Recreation Commission
- HUB Lakes
- DPW Subcommittee

Ongoing tasks

- Manage facility requests from residents and organizations.
- Oversee and support sports programs with school facility requests and supply purchases, if needed.

- Weekly eblast.
- Social Media posts.
- Update the Borough website.
- Borough Hall electronic sign.
- Manage Borough Hall room reservation calendar for conference rooms and Chambers.
- Submit payroll 2x per month.
- Bi-weekly facility report
- Manage Rack and Ring requests
- Monthly finance report

5. New Business

- New Event Idea Brainstorming
 - Astronomy Events
 - Summer Music Festival
 - Art on the Esplanade
 - Mountain Lakes Day – likely transitions to Fallfest?
 - Turkey Trot will transition to the YMCA
- Promotion of the Sponsorship Program
 - Create a monetary fund and list of programs or events that will not be paid for by tax payer dollars, and will instead be paid for by the sponsor or multiple sponsors.
 - Need a list of businesses in or connected to Mountain Lakes

6. Announcements

Next meeting November 19, 2024

7. Adjournment

David Keyt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Derek Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:22 PM.