

**BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes**  
Minutes for August 20, 2024 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

**1. Call to Order**

A monthly meeting of Borough of Mountain Lakes Recreation Commission was held on August 20, 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: James Aitken, Phyllis Deering, Heather Hornyak, Derek Jackson, David Keyt, Shaun Lehrer, Mark Odenwelder, Rob Wianecki

Non-voting Members in attendance: Laurie Stepper (Recreation Director)

Guests in attendance: None

Members not in attendance: Sara Forman (Board of Education Liaison), Melissa Muilenburg (Council Liaison), Tish Scarola

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on July 16, 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.

- Summer Recreation Programs are complete
  - Participant registration compared to 2023 is as follows:
    - Rec Program      2024 - 507    2023 – 482
    - Sailing            2024 - 112    2023 – 151
    - Teen Adventure 2024 - 189    2023 – 196
  - Sailing has been on decline and Laurie plans to meet with Holly Daniel and the two camp directors.
- Summer Wrestling event July 10-11 for high school aged kids had over 40 participants. This event supports Jr Laker Wrestling.
- On Thursday August 1 the Tourne played at Island Beach. Over 80 people attended and enjoyed the music.
- HUB Lakes sports are complete – Women’s and Men’s Softball; Women’s and Men’s Volleyball; Women’s and Men’s Golf one-day event; Youth Dive and Swim.
- Cornhole haven’t had any interest the first two Sundays. We will see what Aug 18 and 25 brings.
- July 31 was the International Lifeguard Appreciation Day – a gratitude post was listed on social media. All lifeguards received a certificate of appreciation and a coupon for an ice cream.
- Laker 55+ Club interest survey was created and included in the July 26 Borough blast, as well as posted to the website. As of August 13, there were 44 responses to the survey. We plan to offer the first meeting in the Fall.
- As of August 13, the following “rented” Racks remain empty (I did not evaluate rings)
  - Midvale Boat Dock – 37 (July 9 - 41 of 103 racks)
  - Midvale Boat Dock – 23 (July 9 - 23 of 62 SUPs)

- Big Dam – 12 (July 9 - 16 of 36 racks)
- Big Dam – 10 (July 9 - 12 of 32 SUPs)
- Island Beach – 12 (July 9 - 14 of 48 racks)
- Island Beach – 2 (July 9 - 5 of 32 SUPs)
- Participated in a rSchools Today training webinar on the scheduling module.

#### Upcoming Events

- Thursday, August 15th at 7pm - Brother Wisdom - Rockin' the Ages
- Monday, August 19 – Movie Night at Island Beach

#### Monthly Meetings

- Recreation Commission
- HUB Lakes
- DPW Subcommittee
- Quarterly Safety Committee Meeting

#### 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

#### 5. Old Business

- Hub Lakes – no update at this time. We still need someone to takeover leadership of bowling. We do not have participation in many of the hub lakes events.

#### 6. New Business

- Wifi will be installed on beaches
  - Will enable wireless door codes on bathrooms
- Light timers will be added to Lake Pavalion, Basketball and Tennis courts
- Event Ideas
  - Decorating Contests Porch, House, Yard and/or Door
    - Halloween
    - Holiday Decorating Contest
    - Classifications like
      - Best DIY vs Professional
      - Laker Pride
      - Spookiest / Festive / Creative

- Best in Show
  - Funniest
- Gingerbread decorating contest in conjunction with ML Library
  - No candles, battery operated lighting or writing
  - Should be covered with gingerbread but can use other materials for construction
  - May need volunteers and will likely leverage high schoolers to fulfill hours requirements.
- Storyboard at Birchwood in September with Susan Lyon
- Fallfest
  - Volunteers, including high school students, setup stations with activities around the Birchwood Lake trails.
    - Pumpkin Carving
    - Apple Cider
    - Hot Chocolate
    - Bean Bag toss
- New Resident Welcome Pack
  - At this point it is an idea based on questions from new residents
  - Could contain a calendar of events per month
  - Recycling / Garbage Guidelines
  - Trail Maps
  - Summer Rec Programs
  - Beach Rules, including test
  - Hub Lakes
  - Things to sign up for:
    - Borough Blast
    - Nixle
    - Virtual Backpack
  - There used to be a Mountain Lake Bulletin that was mailed
    - It had kids' events, town events etc
    - Bus schedules
    - Religious events
    - Upcoming arts or sports events

## 7. Announcements

Next meeting September 17, 2024

## 8. Adjournment

David Keyt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Derek Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:25 PM.