

Work Session
Mayor and Council
February 23, 2012

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Mayor Barra who announced that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were met by the required posting and notice to publications.

The following individuals answered roll call: Council members Bernstein, LaMonica, McSwiggan, White and Mayor Barra. Mr. Strauch and Mrs. Wilczynski were absent. Mr. Bole was also present.

Public Comments

Mr. Barra opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Mr. John Dreyer of 6 Butternut Road said he was present to discuss Crestwood Lake.

Last year in early summer, Mr. Dreyer spoke to the Council about the condition of the tennis courts at Crestwood Lake. He believes there could be a very positive aspect to resurfacing those courts. Mr. Dreyer looked into this issue last year and he received an estimate in the amount of \$160,000 to \$170,000 to purchase a material that would be placed on top of the current surface and also allow for a degree of reconfiguration of the existing court setup. That type of surface would be able to be picked up and moved to any other flat location.

Mrs. White said she had received this information from Mr. Dreyer earlier in the year and she forwarded the information to Mrs. Wilczynski who plans to discuss it with the sports organizations in town.

Mr. Dreyer asked for a reconsideration of the rates that are being charged for membership at Crestwood Lake. He also would like to have a survey of the rates of similar facilities in our area. He is aware there is also a waiting list for several of these facilities including Brookside Swim Club.

Mr. Dreyer suggested that the rates for out of town members be doubled instead of trying to get more people to join Crestwood. He also suggested giving a discount to high school students who are from Allendale and Upper Saddle River and consider allowing a similar rate reduction for the students who pay tuition.

Mr. Dreyer would like to return to having a discounted rate for joining Crestwood early in the season. Another suggestion was to raise the rate for an out of town family by one or two hundred dollars. He would like to keep the revenue high but put an emphasis on recruiting Allendale resident memberships.

Lastly, Mr. Dreyer also mentioned soliciting feedback from a broader spectrum of residents regarding adding lights at the fields at Northern Highlands.

Mr. Barra said the issue of lights is under control of the high school. A few years ago the high school came before the Planning Board with a plan for a turf field, and lighting was a component of that submission. He noted that the school decided to delete the lights as part of the plan.

Mayor Barra told Mr. Dreyer that this issue was under the control of the school board at the High School, but he believes the approval process will involve the Planning Board.

With regard to rates at Crestwood, Mr. Barra said the Borough collected more data last summer than they ever have before and he noted that Mrs. Wilczynski and her Committee reexamine the rate structure every year. Last year the rates for out of town members were raised but the rate structure for Allendale residents remained the same. Lake memberships have become more productive for the town.

Mrs. White said the tennis court proposals that Mr. Dreyer provided are for significant expenses – one is in the amount of \$175,000 and the other is for \$181,000.

Mr. Barra said a possible component for the tennis court funding might be a grant, but a grant would probably be in the range of \$50,000 to \$75,000. A grant would provide one component toward the price of the resurfacing, and private funding would be another. Mr. Barra suggested that Mr. Dreyer attend a meeting of the Facilities Committee because all of the people involved in this issue would be in attendance at that time.

Mr. Dreyer reiterated that he thought the rates for out of town members should be raised in order to allow for fewer total members with an emphasis on recruiting Allendale residents.

Mrs. White said she would ask Mrs. Wilczynski to listen to the tape of this meeting and follow up on this issue.

Administration

Discussion of the Crossing Guard Resolution

Mr. Barra said this resolution asks the legislature not to allow Crossing Guards to collect unemployment during the months when school is not in session. Allendale has instituted a program which will go into effect this summer that offers Crossing Guards an opportunity to continue to be employed by the Borough during the summer. If they choose not to accept the employment they will not get unemployment benefits.

The Council agreed that they wanted this resolution on the agenda for the March 8th Council meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Barra said he was in Hackensack today with the Madeline Corporation to make an application to receive a grant for the Crescent Commons sale units. Allendale has already received \$600,000 through HUD for the Special Needs housing.

Today's application is for the second phase of housing and was for an amount between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Although the funding pool has been cut dramatically, Mr. Barra is hopeful Allendale will be successful. A decision is expected in May.

On a motion from Mrs. White, seconded by Ms. LaMonica, the Council voted to adjourn to Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy
Municipal Clerk