

Somerville Recreation Commission

Somerville New Jersey

August 3, 2016

August 3, 2016 at the BOE Office, Conference Room, 51 West Cliff Street, Somerville, New Jersey.

The special open meeting came to order at 8:02 pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Ken Cornell, Jennifer Gander, Daniel Kumar, Christopher Peake, Jay Scott, (Council Liaison) Jason Kraska, and (Recreation Director) Kathy Gerndt

ABSENT: (Chairman) Tammy Stouchko, Luc Sergile, and (Alternate) Jon Roethke

Vice Chairman Daniel Kumar opened the meeting and stated, *"The meeting will please come to order. Adequate notice of this meeting as required by the Open Meeting Act has been provided in that on January 1, 2016 a copy of a notice specifying the time, location and date was (1) posted upon the bulletin board outside of Borough Hall, (2) mailed to the Courier News, and (3) given to the Clerk Administrator. If any member of this body believes this meeting is being held in violations of the Open Meeting Act, please state your views at this time."*

Hearing none, we moved to the next item on the agenda.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

- Recreation Director, Kathy Gerndt stated that the purpose of the "special" meeting was to draw attention to the topic rather than burying it on a regular meeting agenda where it may have gone unnoticed. There's no hidden agenda to what transpired at the skate park or secret agenda for future plans. It was determined that the wooden skate park presented a hazardous condition; it had exceeded its life expectancy; and we eliminated what was deemed to be unsafe. We felt strongly that the public should be engaged in the decision making process going forward. This is the beginning of Phase 2 – determining how to best serve the community at large. Phase 1 was demolition; and Phase 3 will be to identify funding in order to proceed with construction. There is no timeable for completion. There are many rumors circulating and this meeting will serve to set the record straight – we're not anti skate park, nor were repair costs estimated to be five thousand dollars. We have an open mind – suggestions have already included tennis courts, concrete skate park, and a dog park.
- The meeting was then opened to the public for comments. Residents were asked to state their name and address for the record. Unfortunately, some of the names were unrecognizable on the recording. There were thirteen people in attendance.

Suggestions included:

- Tennis courts with a multi-purpose wall
- Concrete skate plaza
- Dog park

Concerns that were mentioned:

- Lack of a long range plan for overall park system
- Flood zone
- Funding

Other questions that were raised:

- Plans for Southside and current status of DEP remediation
- Plans for Landfill area – what recreational facilities will be built

ADJOURNMENT:

In conclusion, Kathy Gerndt thanked those in attendance for their time and interest. She stressed that there will be additional public meetings on this topic, but that the public is always welcome to attend the monthly Recreation Commission meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of every month. The Council Meetings on the first and third Mondays are also open to the public.

K. Gerndt encouraged attendees to help spread the information that was shared, and to stay tuned for future surveys and announcements.

J. Gander also thanked everyone for their ideas and feedback, and cited the importance of gauging public interest.

There being no further business J. Gander made a motion to adjourn, and C. Peake seconded the motion. It was approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Kathy Gerndt
Acting as Secretary
KG