

Borough of West Long Branch

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Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 12, 2025

Time: 6:04 PM – 6:35 PM

Attendees: Debbie Ronan, Chris Neyhart, Lorraine Strohmenger, Barbara Ruane, Beth Garrigal, Fred Migliaccio, Alex LaSalle, Mary Ellen Lo Bello

Absent: Carrie Sniffen (notes provided)

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM.

Meeting Topics & Discussion

Debbie Ronan

- **Yoga Shirts:** Tan shirts sold out. New color is sage green.
- **Chair Exercise:** Participation increasing as seasonal residents return.
- **Mahjong:** Held every Wednesday (weather permitting in the gazebo).
- **Lamppost Painting:** All posts primed; top parts underway. Bottoms to be done in a single day when weather permits. Banners to be installed post-completion.
- **Franklin Lake Sign:** Work scheduled between May 20–30. Weather has delayed the start.
- **Park Sign Improvements:** Checks received, production to begin shortly for Ronan/Shirvanian, Valenzano and Sorrentino Parks.
- **Owen Park Signage:** Current signage is unsightly; resident complaints received. Replacement pending park development plan finalization.

Carrie Sniffen (via notes) – Easter Egg Hunt Recap

- Great turnout, beautiful weather.
- DJ was entertaining but too loud.
- Positive feedback on lawn letters and train ride.
- Wind issues: tattoos too small and blew away; recommend eliminating them next year.
- Suggestions: use elastic tablecloths, increase egg count, adjust jellybean contest count.
- Buy portable bollards for events, refurbish crossing sign, consider new bunny costume.

Kite Fun-Fly Festival – June 28, 1:00–3:00 PM

- Event led by Debbie.
- Wind contingency plans: games like parachute race, kite parade, Frisbee toss.
- Emphasis on family, fun, and contests (e.g., longest/shortest/most unusual kite).
- Prizes: ribbons, trophies (Amazon), gift cards; one prize per category.
- In contact with American Kite Flyers Association to feature professional flyers.

Chris Neyhart

- **Bocce:** Ongoing every Thursday, 5:15 PM at Ronan Shirvanian. Police surveillance added due to property damage and littering.
- **Fishing Derby – June 7 (10th Anniversary):**

- o Registration: 9–9:30 AM; Fishing: 9:30–11:30 AM.
- o Fish delivery scheduled the day before; vendor aware of \$900 budget.
- o DPW to provide chairs, tables, and garbage setup.
- o Pizza donated by PBA (LaScarpetta's), free ice cream vouchers from Nano's.
- o Additional fishing poles purchased; donations received.
- o Jim Gomez or G&M to provide trophies.
- o Prizes to be awarded based on fish caught; ice cream voucher given to all who return fishing card.
- o Event logistics: police cones, EMTs on scene, plates/wet naps needed.
- o Volunteers: Home Depot (4–6 people), brick campaign display by Barbara Ruane, others TBD.
- o Giveaways: buckets from Home Depot, vests available for adult volunteers.
- o Hoping to find working air horn (microphone ineffective).

Lorraine Strohmenger

- **Summer Concerts:** All concerts confirmed, no changes.

Summer Rec Program

- 32 campers registered; residents only with required proof.
- Revamping online registration form for next year.

Movie Nights

- Still in planning; Alex is vetting movie options.
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Meeting Adjourned at 6:35 PM