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Tennis Turn Out In New Public Courts

It's a well known fact in political circles that the opponents usually turn out to voice their opposition to pending legislation, while those who are happy with the status quo stay at home. However, the tables were turned on Tuesday, as 27 tennis enthusiasts came to approve the ordinance which would provide for construction of four new courts in Kramer Manor Park, for use of Scotch Plains residents. Only one lone man spoke against the expenditure.

George Tomkin of Happel Court hoped the Township Committee might stretch the \$40,000 to provide more than four courts. However, the ordinance must specifically state how many courts are to be put out for bid. If the bids are cheaper than the \$40,000, it would take another ordinance and another public hearing to build any additional courts.

Jim Winton of Morse Avenue said many residents have been pursuing more courts for over two years, since it has become increasingly difficult to find court space in light of the boom in popularity. The youthful population is beginning to adopt tennis, he pointed out, and the four courts would relieve the overcrowding.

Winton noted that Scotch Plains residents are proud of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood varsity tennis team, and said he would personally like to see the tennis team continue to be given use of courts for practices. However, "Scotch Plains taxpayers get off those courts so Fanwood kids can practice with the tennis team," Winton said, "and we should ask Scotch Plains Recreation Commission to talk again to Fanwood about sharing the provision of practice courts."

Committeeman Walter Grote, liaison to the Recreation Commission, said Recreation Director Richard Marks will be asked to pursue a system whereby courts are doled out to the high

school team in the same ratio as tax dollars to the school budget, with Fanwood paying its share in court time.

Marks said he has been flooded with court time requests in the last two years. Originally, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High and Union Catholic both used the courts daily. As popularity grew, requests were made for court time for Scotch Plains-Fanwood High's instructional program, an intramural program, etc. which Marks noted was impossible to fit in. Therefore, the school use is restricted to practices of the varsity squad at the high school.

"We are going to study it again," Marks said, but he pointed out that it is a fair reciprocal arrangement, since the Recreation Commission is given use of the school gyms for indoor programs in return.

Joe Harvey of Lyde Place was the sole non-enthusiast. He felt that tennis players should pay for their own facilities and that taxpayers should not contribute for the minority who would use the courts.

Because the legal announcement of the tennis court ordinance carried an incorrect date, the hearing was opened this week, but legality requires that it be readvertised and reopened on October 3. However, Committee members pointed out that they have made note of the favorable

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Board Of Education Issues Statement On Sports Participation Fee

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has released the following statement regarding a fee for participation in interscholastic athletics in the school district:

"Last Thursday evening The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education instructed the superintendent of schools to discontinue collection of, and return all monies already collected as a 'Sports Fee' to all interscholastic athletic candidates. This action was taken simply because the board of education had at no time, publicly or privately, voted to impose such a fee on student athletes. The matter of the 'Scotch Plains Athletic Association' account had been very briefly touched upon, by the superintendent some months ago, and, other than an agreement that athletes would provide their own footwear no other agreements were made, or instructions given.

"At that time, the matter of insufficient funds in the account was brought to the administration's attention by the athletic staff who because of their intimate knowledge of athletics and athletic equipment made out the initial budget request. This ac-

count was reviewed by the administration at budget time along with the rest of the budget and submitted to the board for approval. This year, as in past years, the board examined the budget and in the final analysis instructed the superintendent on how many dollars he had to work with. The superintendent then further reviewed the budget, established his final priorities and submitted the final budget to the board for its approval. This is the procedure which is followed in the preparation of the budget, the board tells the superintendent how much money he has to spend and the superintendent, as chief operating officer of the school district, decides how to spend it.

"Obviously there was a breakdown in communications somewhere with regard to the 'Sports Fee;' a letter announcing its introduction was sent out unsigned money was collected. By the time you read

Ordinance Amendment Seeks "Peace And Good Order" In Fanwood

Public Hearing On Zoning Ordinance

The revised zoning ordinance of the Township of Scotch Plains will be the subject of a public hearing on Monday, September 25 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Buildings.

The ordinance revisions have been under consideration for several years, and an initial public meeting was held in the spring, at which time residents expressed opinions on several areas of the ordinance.

Since that time, some changes have been incorporated, and the Monday meeting has been scheduled to provide residents with another opportunity to make their feelings known.

Council Sells Bond Issue

The Fanwood Borough Council sold \$550,000 worth of capital improvement bonds last Wednesday. The 550,000 bonds, which cover many capital improvements authorized and completed in recent years, such as storm sewers, paving, curbing, etc., were sold for \$550,000 at a coupon rate of 4.45 percent. United National Bank was the successful purchaser, being the lowest of four bidding banks.

In other action, the Council gave final approval to an ordinance which creates a new commission, the Environmental Action Commission. The Commission replaces the recently created Mayor's Committee on the Environment. As a Commission, the environmentalists would be in a better position to apply for funds from various agencies, etc.

One citizen asked Mayor Theodore Trump about the possibility of overlapping duties and also about the land-purchase authorities of the new commission. Although there is bound to be some degree of overlapping interest between the new Environmental Action Commission and the Recreation and Shade Tree Commissions, Trump hopes all will go smoothly, with a member of each of the other commissions cooperating and attending meetings of the Environmental Action Commission.

Any acquisition of land by the Environmental Action Commission is subject to approval of the Borough Council.

Trump said he anticipates making appointments to the Commission at a special meeting of the Council, slated for September 27.

this article all sports fees collected should have been returned because the board of education never authorized anyone to collect a sports fee to begin with."

Would Protect Rights Of Young And Old Citizens

Hopefully, it will be tougher to make a public nuisance of oneself in the borough of Fanwood, under terms of an amendment to the "peace and good order" ordinance. The amendment was introduced last Wednesday, during the regular meeting of the Fanwood Borough Council, and a public hearing is slated for October 11.

The new section of the ordinance prohibits any number of public activities. For example: "no person shall remain idle in essentially one location in a public place in such a manner as to create a breach of the peace, create or cause any disturbance or annoyance which would interfere with another person's comfort and repose, or obstruct the comfort or passage of pedestrians, bikes, or vehicles. Nor can a person enter, or refuse to leave, any public or semi-public property in violation of regulations of officials in charge of said property. Regulations regarding public and/or semi-public properties must be approved by resolution of the Borough Council.

In addition, whenever any police officer using reasonable judgement, decides that the presence of any person in a public place is causing any of the conditions cited above, he may order the person to leave the place.

Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt specified that the ordinance is not an "anti loitering" ordinance per se, nor is it aimed at kids. Pollitt said the amendment was meticulously drafted to assure free access to public facilities and to spell out rules which would apply to young and old alike. Since 1934, Fanwood has what has been termed an "anti-loitering" ordinance. The amended ordinance is more topical for today and is similar to legislation in other communities, Pollitt said.

The introduction of the amendment follows a summer of concern over a group of teenagers who had been gathering both in the afternoon and at night at the entrance to LaGrande Park in Fanwood, and along Second Street adjacent to the park. Recreation Commission officials have repeatedly voiced their distress because the idle teenagers sitting at the park entrance have deterred very young children and their parents from entering the park for the organized summer program. Similarly, neighbors along Second Street have petitioned the Council for action, and have claimed that the teen gang has been encroaching on neighborhood properties, sitting on automobiles, obstructing traffic, etc.

While Pollitt pointed out that he felt the ordinance is responsive to citizens, kids, recreation officials, police and citizens of the borough alike, Councilman Stephen Ritter expressed his hope that the ordinance would not be used as "a harassment-type thing." The ordinance is very broad and covers a lot of

areas, the Democratic Councilman pointed out, and it depends a great deal on the wisdom of the police department in enforcing it.

Councilman John McCall announced that he had met with members of the youthful group who gather at the park. He discussed the proposed ordinance with them and they approved it, he said.

Another new ordinance creates the new title of detective sergeant within the police department. It was explained that Sergeant Charles Persson has been assuming the duties of Captain Harold Millwater, who is retiring, and the title change will formalize his job title to be commensurate with his duties. Public hearing is October 11.

Councilman Stephen Ritter noted that the move is a lateral one for Persson, "yet he is assuming the work of a captain. I don't like lateral moves. I feel we should consider giving him more pay."

Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt said the title adoption in no way precludes Persson for a position of detective lieutenant or captain. There are three line sergeants who could apply when a captaincy is to be filled, and the Council plans to consider promotion of another patrolman to line sergeant when the 1973 budget is discussed.

Residents of Glenwood Road attended the meeting to seek improvement at their street corner. Poor paving creates hazardous icing at the corner of Midway

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Groundbreaking For New School Construction

Dr. Peter N. Britton, Jr., president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, will officiate at a groundbreaking ceremony Saturday at 10 a.m. in the football field behind Park Junior High School. The groundbreaking, which will be an informal ceremony, signifies the start of an extensive school expansion program approved by the voters last September.

A new 700-pupil elementary school will be built at the site behind Park Junior High, on Willow Avenue. Four elementary schools -- McGinn, Coles, Brunner and Evergreen -- will receive additions, and Park Junior High School will be improved with a small addition housing a library.