

## RUMSON RECREATION COMMISSION

April 17, 2013

Minutes - FINAL

### Attendance

Chairman Lembeck called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The following members were present: Lembeck, Bavuso, Chandler, Dengler, MacGillis, McGinty, Shanley, and Council member Joan DeVoe. Councilman Ben Day arrived at 7.25pm.

Also present: Sarah Orsay, Recreation Director

### Public Portion

Rumson resident Scott Caldwell is seeking to expand the pool of travel basketball players to provide more kids the opportunity to play travel basketball. He suggested that we increase the Travel basketball team size to 16 from 10, and allow all 16 to practice. Players 1-8 would get most of the game time and players 9-16 could possibly play tournaments, as they likely would not get much game playing time. Commissioner Shanley cited the already limited gym time and tight court space would make this solution difficult to implement. However, he said he would reach out to Harry at Mid Monmouth to see if any other towns were playing in an organized league that supports 'B team' play and Mr. Caldwell should follow up with him directly.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dengler called for approval of the March 2013 Minutes, Mr. Bavuso seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

### Chairman's Announcements

None.

### Director's Report

#### Parks

Meadow Ridge – Meadow Ridge West baseball field is completed. Mr. Lembeck indicated that the far side of MRW will be cemented next year.

The new dugouts have been completed at Meadowridge West and South and the dugout covers have been installed at the fields.

No Soft Pitch Signs arrive this week and will be installed at MRE.

#### Recreation

**Baseball** – After a slow start to registrations, baseball registration numbers were down approximately 15% from 2012 (360 v 430), with second grade boys down significantly by 25 players. The Colt League took 4 players from other towns within the League in order to have enough players to field two teams.

**Girls Lacrosse** – This continues to be a very popular program with registration almost flat to last year, near 300 participants. The U15 and U15 Tournament teams have begun practices.

**Travel Baseball** – We have a total of 3 Rumson Rec sponsored teams and 5 unaffiliated Rumson-based teams using our fields this spring.

**RFH Rowing** – We have 45 high school rowers on our team, including 21 Freshman. Navesink River Rowing has been pleased to share our site and they anticipate moving back to their site shortly. Ms. Orsay is looking into

possibly increasing the cost of our Masters rowing program to meet the costs of paid coaches and upkeep of the equipment.

**Soccer** – Jerseys continue to come in and Ms Orsay estimates that we are only about 25 short.

**Travel Soccer** – Mr. McGinty is working with MOSA coordinator Mr. Tom Mulligan and Ms. Orsay to schedule Open tryouts for all the Rumson Soccer Club teams, which we anticipate will be in late May/early June.

**Camps:** On-Line registration for camps opened on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. New summer Rec approved activities include Yoga for Teens and Adults, Learn to Run for Teens and Adults, Mad Science (K-3), LEGO Engineering Camp, and Sourlis Spring Basketball Clinics in May and early June. Registration for Summer Camps, Summer Playground, Summer Hoops and Fall Soccer and Flag Football run April 15 – May 31, after which time a \$25 Late Fee will be incurred.

### **Special Events**

**Baseball Parade** was held on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We had beautiful weather and great attendance. After the parade and snacks, Rumson 8<sup>th</sup> grader Owen Doherty sang the National Anthem. Ms. Orsay made welcoming remarks and John Hird was honored for his extensive service to the town. Mayor Ekdahl presented Mr. Hird with a Borough Jacket inscribed with “Director Emeritus – Recreation.” Eighth grader Patrick Kelleher caught the Mayor’s first pitch of the season. Ms. Orsay received very positive feedback on the event.

**Kelleher Kids Triathlon** – Rumson Recreation is a beneficiary of this family event, receiving between \$1500 and \$2000 a year, which is in its fourth year. It will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2013, beginning at Victory Park.

**Fair Haven Camp Night** - FH Rec sponsored a Camp Night featuring summer activities available to FH residents. Several of our Camp Directors attended and Ms. Orsay provided fliers for all our joint camps. FH’s Rec Director, Charlie Hoffman, and Ms. Orsay will consider a joint Summer Activities marketing event next year.

**Memorial Day Parade** – Borough Administrator Tom Rogers asked Ms. Orsay to take a larger role in the planning of this parade this year, and planning will begin shortly.

### **Projects**

**On-Line Registration** via Community Pass On-Line Parks & Recreation System launched April 15<sup>th</sup>. It has been very well received for its ease and convenience. We are adding Community Pass’s **On-Line Field & Facility Reservation** System in May.

**Field Aeration** - Mr. Dengler will arrange a meeting in May with an on-site evaluation with an Aeration professional. Related to this topic, Mr. Shanley and Mr. McGinty indicated that we should bring the contractor back to Forrestdale as the field seems to be in very poor shape for its recent renovation. Ms. Orsay will follow up.

**Defibrillators in Parks** – Ms. Orsay has arranged for Lifesavers, Inc., a specialist in this area, to present to the Rec Commission at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**CPR/Emergency Training** – Ms. Orsay still working on arranging a class for coaches.

**SUP at Victory Park** – Ms. Orsay going to seek proposals from Stand Up Paddle (“SUP”) providers to offer a program launching from the Rowing site at Victory Park, which will be presented to Council for approval. The program would be in effect a Rumson Rec Approved Camp.

## **Administrative**

**Background checks and Concussion Course Completions** continue to come in.

## **Committee Reports**

**Baseball** – Mr. Bavuso is exploring further the idea of Rumson Rec joining the Little League, as a way to make Rec baseball more appealing in the face of competition from Lacrosse, Travel Soccer, and Travel baseball. Mr. Bavuso was invited to attend a meeting in the near future with representatives from surrounding towns who are considering offering the same League. Mr. Dengler suggested that we also include the Head of EMSA & Penninsula Leagues in these discussions.

**Travel Basketball** – Mr. Shanley sought approval of several new coaches who volunteered and were vetted as well as the Commission re approving coaches each year going forward, which Mr. Dengler motioned to approve, Mr. MacGillis seconded, and all approved.

**RFH Rowing** – Mr. Lembeck reported that we leased one 8 for \$2500. In addition, we are seeking to organize the parents to initiate a new round of fundraising for much needed capital investments.

**Flag Football** - no update

**Travel Soccer** – Mr. McGinty is working on putting together tryout dates and announcements for the upcoming 2013/2014 Travel Soccer Season. In addition, he sought approval to add two new teams, a Boys U11 and a Girls U9, bringing the total to 12 Rumson Soccer Club teams along with two new coaches to the Travel Soccer roster: Ms. Jenn Collum Glassman for the new BU11 team, and Mr. Matt Cheslock for the new GU9 team. After a lengthy discussion (see below) of the appropriate level of support for Travel teams given field availability and the impact on Rec, this was approved. [Ms. Chandler raised the motion, Mr. Bavuso seconded, all approved]

**Lacrosse** – Season underway in both Rec and two tournament teams.

## **Treasurer's Report**

No new significant expenditures have occurred requiring funds outside of existing program revenue, except for the \$6000 purchase of the On-Line Registration system, which ultimately will be covered by program fees. The Commission discussed the possible need to raise participation fees in the future in order to provide proper maintenance and upkeep to our fields and parks.

## **Other New Business**

**Request for a mid-court adjustable basketball hoop to be installed at Rogers Park** came in via email from a local resident. Mr. Anderson, of the Department of Public Works, had investigated the site and said while possibly workable, it did raise potential safety concerns. Mr. Shanley indicated that we had recently installed adjustable hoops at Forrestdale School so it does not seem necessary to install more at Rogers Park. Concern was also raised that older kids would likely hang on the shorter hoops and damage them. Thus, no one voted in favor to install these at Rogers. Ms. Orsay to notify the citizen of the decision.

**Skills Clinics for Rec Soccer** – Ms. Orsay proposed adding several thematic skills clinics for the Rec Soccer program in the Fall, if the budget allows. Mr. Dengler suggested perhaps we could get the high school coaches or high school soccer players involved, but Ms. Orsay's suggestion was to provide the same level of professional trainers accessible to the Travel Soccer Players. Clinics might include defense; offense; goalie clinic. The Commission was open to the idea so Ms. Orsay will investigate further, including costs and field space necessary.

**Women's Crew** – a citizen had emailed a request to Ms. Orsay asking if several non-residents could be included in a group of 8 rowers and participate in our summer program. The Commission suggested we ask the citizen to make a formal proposal, which will be considered when received. The Commission also discussed possibly charging a different fee for non residents.

**Purchase new Game Clock** – Mr. McGinty suggested we purchase a new game clock to be kept at the turf for Flag Football and Lacrosse use. This would entail putting a box at the High School to store the timer. Ms. Orsay will follow up to see if we can get approval to put a box at the RFHRHS turf.

**Martello Field** – Mr Dengler outlined the costs associated with redoing Martello field which was a project being researched prior to Hurricane Sandy. Next step is for Town Council to approve and if approved, begin discussions on funding. Several Commissioners openly discussed the ability to seek possible grants for the project.

**Rumson Rec Sponsorship of Travel Teams** – Discussion of this topic continued and included discussion of limited field space, the poor condition of our fields due to overuse, and the impact of travel programs on our rec programs. Nothing was conclusively decided and the Commission agreed to continue to weigh the issues.

The session ended at 10.31 pm and the meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: April 17, 2013.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sarah Orsay  
Director of Parks & Recreation  
Borough of Rumson**