

Regular Meeting
Recreation Commission
Borough of Rumson

August 17, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:03PM.

Present: John Lembeck, Chairman; James Dengler, Alternate Chair; Kerry Chandler; Dan Bavuso; Mike Cecil.

Kevin Delia, Recreation Director, was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The minutes from the June 15, 2016 Recreation Commission meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes as written was approved by Dan Bavuso and seconded by Mike Cecil. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Stephen Barrett the chairman of the Shade Tree Commission discussed the improvement of the landscaping at the schools in Rumson from the fundraising for Arbor Day. The schools raised enough money to purchase and plant 20 trees on the Board of Education Property. He also explained the loss of a few members to due family relocations and explained the process of recruiting members to the Shade Tree Commission. Stephen continued with his thoughts towards the improvement of the parks in town. He explained in detail his opinion on some new plantings at Meadow Ridge Park. However, he thinks that due to the storm that passed through during the summer that knocked down a tree Victory Park and a deteriorating tree there as well maybe the Recreation Commission should shift their sights to replanting trees there instead. John Lembeck asked about his thoughts regarding a section behind the backstop of the baseball field at Meadow Ridge East. Stephen said they planted 2 or 3 trees in the past in that location and none of them survived. He thought it might have been due to planting the trees in the spring as opposed to the fall. Dan Bavuso asked what an estimated cost for the trees in Victory Park would be. Stephen explained that it would be approximately \$5000 total expense for Victory Park. Dan asked what type of tree would he recommend and Stephen suggested an Oak to replace the Oak that was lost during the storm and possibly a Hickory as well. Stephen asked if he could come back in September to provide a more exact estimate for the work the Shade Tree recommends for the Victory Park and Meadow Ridge. He also explained he could come up with a plan to water the plantings as well.

Dan Bavuso made a motion to spend \$6000 on trees at Meadow Ridge Park and Victory Park through the recommendations of Stephen Barrett. Jim Dengler seconded the motion. All in favor.

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM DIRECTOR

- The treasures report was provided by Helen Graves, Borough of Rumson CFO to the Recreation Commission.
- Kevin Delia explained that Doug Rice gave the Rec Recreation Commission a donation of \$2175. Mike Cecil asked if we can send a thank you to Doug Rice for the donation. John Lembeck said that usually the mayor would send a thank you note for donations.
- Kevin Delia asked the Recreation Commission to establish the fees for the upcoming winter season. He showed the Recreation Commissioners the details from the winter of 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. Kevin explained why the Recreation Commission should wait to increase the cost for crew until after this year because of the new location for the rowing machines and the hope that the wear and tear is less on the machines. He also showed the Recreation Commissioners the new floor at the Forrestdale gymnasium and provided details of the cost of the floor and associated upgrades. Kevin asked if the Recreation Commission was ok with paying a portion of the work that was done and also consider increasing the costs to pay for additional features in the gym. The total would be \$5 per basketball registration to help pay an additional \$4000 to help alleviate the costs on the school. The specific items to be paid for are the stage pads and the walk draw curtain. Dan Bavuso asked about increasing the travel basketball fees as well. Mike Cecil told the Commissioners that due to a reduction in gym time at Congregation B’Nai Israel the travel basketball costs will be reduced, however, the fees will remain the same. Dan was concerned with the amount of use the travel basketball teams would get on the new gym floor and not be charged the additional fee like recreation basketball would. Kevin Delia thought if we charged the travel teams as well we would be double charging many families because many of the kids play both rec and travel. John Lembeck asked about the coach’s fundraiser basketball game. Kevin said Dr. Bormann would still like the rec department to raise funds through a coach’s game. Dan Bavuso made a motion to raise the fee of recreation basketball by \$5 for each registration for the winter of 2016/2017 to give back to the Board of Education of Rumson. Jim Dengler seconded the motion. All in favor.
- Kevin asked if the recreation commission was interest in providing the new coaches the Coaches Deck for the various sports that we offer. John Lembeck suggested that we just order them and ask at the end of the season if the coaches used them to gauge future use of the cards. Kevin said he would look in to providing them for football and basketball and also the exact pricing for each sport. He said he would provide a more detailed estimate at the next meeting.
- Kevin Delia discussed WeForum and their initiatives and how they are going to donate 100 reusable water bottles to the recreation department to use as awards for the in-town soccer tournaments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The members of the Recreation Commission discussed the next section of the Recreation Commission Policies Draft, OPEN AND CLOSED INITIATIVES in depth. Once the recommended changes are made by Kevin Delia the Recreation Commission Policies will be updated and made available for review. Once all sections are discussed at length and recommended changes made the policies shall be codified by the town council.
- John Lembeck suggested that recreation commission add a section devoted to field upkeep and negligence. John suggested that it be some type of discipline outline for coaches in all sports to take better care of the playing surfaces in the parks.
- Kevin Delia also told the Recreation Commission that he would like to add another section to the Recreation Policies devoted to the Travel Sports Tryout Procedures.
- Kevin Delia asked Mike Cecil to discuss the new background check to the Recreation Commission. Mike detailed the ease of registration with the new site, NCSI. Kevin also explained the minor issues of overseeing the process from outside use.
- Kevin Delia told the Recreation Commission that the new registration system, League Apps, will be up and running very soon. Most of the remaining work will involve content details and design. Kevin explained the current use of the website with the scheduling feature and how he has used it for flag football and soccer already.
- Kevin Delia updated the Recreation Commission on the status of the travel baseball teams and their functioning under Rumson Recreation. He explained that as currently constituted the travel baseball teams were still functioning as a sponsored program and not as part of Rumson Recreation. This is was in part due to multiple events but Kevin said he would like to resolve any misunderstandings right away. Kevin said he would notify the current travel baseball coaches that a decision needs to be made as to whether they want to be part of Rumson Recreation or not within a week. Kevin would like to do this because the schedule priority status is needed to complete the fall season schedule. Kerry Chandler brought up the use of professional trainers with the travel baseball teams. A discussion continued regarding the use of trainers across all the travel sports and how the argument for trainers by the baseball community will focus on the acceptance of trainers for travel soccer. The conversation continued with the focus towards eliminating professional trainers for soccer in the future. Kerry suggested to grandfather in the current teams that use trainers but to not allow it for future teams. She said we could then get more coaches that don't need trainers and to get back to volunteer parents running the teams. Jim Dengler suggests we need to be consistent across travel sports rather than allowing it to occur in soccer alone. Kevin said that it makes more sense to leave the policy about professional trainers alone for the time being and to allow the baseball coaches to petition the recreation commission for use of such. He said the other option available is for the individual travel baseball team to opt out of Rumson Recreation so they can continue their use of the professional trainers.
- Kevin Delia told the Recreation Commission that he would like to delay the summer registration period in 2017. He shared with the Recreation Commission the financials

for the current late fees and the total registrations associated with them. Kevin then detailed his plan to delay the registration period and explained his theory behind the need to delay the period. The Recreation Commissioners agreed that the registration should be delayed to June 1 to July 15 for the open registration period for the fall of 2017.

- Kevin Delia detailed the increase in the fall registrations and how the numbers across the board are greater than the previous year for flag football and soccer.
- Kevin Delia explained that the town engineer, Dave Marks, thinks the Victory Park playground is just in need of minor repair and resurfacing, however, the DPW thinks that most of the playground needs to be replaced. John Lembeck suggested that the Recreation Commission wait for the two departments to decide what the best course of action would be before the Recreation Commission decides to spend any money on updates.
- Mike Cecil asked about the progress of the restoration of the running trail at Meadow Ridge. Jim Dengler said we were waiting on finding another location of the material that was presented at the previous meeting to go and look over. The expense of \$80,000 for just material was thought to be excessive and maybe we can reduce the amount of material for the project. Jim Dengler suggests that we have Dave Marks, Rumson Borough Engineer, to look into the estimate and the scope of the work for the project. Kevin Delia thinks that the greatest expense will be the work rather than the material. Kerry Chandler suggested looking at the material at the Fair Haven running trail to determine what they used because she feels it is a better product and has held up better than what is at Meadow Ridge. John Lembeck suggested reaching out to DJ Breckenridge, Parks Recreation Director for Fair Haven, to find out the material that was used for their running trail.
- John Lembeck suggested that we have volunteers to step up for the Halloween Parade. Dan Bavuso volunteered to help Kevin Delia with the parade.

PERSONNEL ISSUES at 8:33 (closed session)

EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed session)

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:28pm

Kerry Chandler made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Dengler. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by: Kevin Delia