

**RUMSON RECREATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 19, 2012
MINUTES**

Chairman Lembeck called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Lembeck, McGinty, Bavuso, Shanley, Pattwell, Dengler.

Also present: John Hird, Recreation Director.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the November minutes, with corrections. Voice Vote: Ayes, unanimous.

Public Portion

Stacey Izzo, Rumson resident, appeared to speak to the Commissioners regarding her son, Tristan, who is 10 years old. She requested that the Flag Football program be extended to 6th graders, so that her son can participate again next year and not have to play tackle football. Mr. Hird stated he has had a number of similar calls, and he thinks they can accommodate the 11/12 year olds next year, as long as they can get the coaches, which he does not think will be a problem.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the November, 2012, minutes, with corrections. Voice Vote: Ayes, unanimous.

Director's Report

Parks

Meadow Ridge East and Meadow Ridge Center – Mr. Hird stated they had a tremendous turnout of volunteers to help reseed and repair these fields. This gives them a head start going into March. He had ordered another turf blanket, which helps to get the grass growing faster. He would suggest that each year they buy another one to use on other fields. Mr. Dengler thinks they should get the smaller ones to help with the worn patches. Chairman Lembeck has said they should start with the sod immediately after the last soccer game. Mr. Hird will find out if a smaller turf blanket would be beneficial for their purposes.

Meadow Ridge West – Work has been delayed. Hopefully, this will begin again in the spring.

Crew Site – Mr. Hird reported they had some storm damage, and he will need to order some additional equipment. He has the purchase order ready to go. He would like to have everything here by March 1. He thinks it will cost about \$40,000, and the money is in the budget to cover the cost. Mr. Pattwell suggested spending the money out of the budget and then get the money back from the insurance.

Piping Rock Park – The flag pole is down, and there is some other damage that needs to be inspected to see what needs to be done. The lights are functioning.

Riverside Park – They are also looking to see what needs to be done at this site.

Martello – Mr. Hird thinks they should try and continue with this project in January, if possible.

Victory Park – The equipment was discussed, and Mr. Hird reported that some was repaired and another swing has been installed. There is concern with the condition of the other equipment, and it is being looked at.

Discussion arose as to the best way to recondition the fields, including hiring a professional company, such as the ones that condition golf courses, to help maintain the turf. Mr. Pattwell thinks it is worth getting a price for this, and he offered to investigate this further.

Basketball – They played their first game as scheduled before the storm the week of 12/2. They lost the week prior to that for practices. They opened up the clinics as advertised, and the games occurred on Thursday nights and Friday nights.

Mr. Hird reported that he had a call from the school regarding a concussion situation. The coach who was involved in this issue had just taken the concussion course, which was very timely.

Basketball is all set for the rest of the year. The refs have been assigned, and the games have been scheduled. The clinics are going well.

Mr. McGinty suggested having a Rec league for the high-school-age kids, although he is aware there are gym problems. Mr. Hird said he agrees this would probably be successful, but it would need to be very well supervised, based on past experience. He thinks it is worth exploring for next year, and he asked the Commissioners to think about how it could be supervised and organized. He suggested running it the same way as they run Rec basketball – both boys' and girls' programs.

Christmas Tree Lighting - This event took place on 12/2/12, and they had great weather. The owner of the company they use to rent the Santa and elves characters attended and had a great time. They went through more candy canes and food than ever. It was a great event.

Travel Baseball - Mr. Hird had an inquiry about 7/under, and he wanted to see whether there were any other local towns that had an interest in this age for travel baseball for kids with a higher skill level. He asked the members how they felt about this. He will call Todd Hermann and give him the contacts for Little Silver, Fair Haven, and Red Bank, so he can see if there is any interest.

Baseball & Lacrosse - Registration forms have been printed and are on the web site and out to

the schools. This year, the Rec Lacrosse is only girls. The baseball jerseys are in for Junior and Senior Little League and Colt League.

Crew - Winter conditioning forms will be going out. They only charge \$75 at present, and Mr. Hird thinks they should raise this fee to \$100. They work out three times per week, and he

thinks they may need to increase the fee to cover the cost of the instructor. They will need to eventually buy new ergs, also. The Commissioners think it should be raised to \$125 to cover their expenses.

Mr. Hird said they could have a fund raiser and raise \$10,000 to help with the costs. Mr. Dengler would like to see a budget for the Crew program. Mr. Hird reviewed how the Crew program started and how they raised the funds to start the program.

Chairman Lembeck suggested replacing some of the older crew equipment, and Mr. Hird reported on the costs for new boats. They refurbished some of the boats, but found after a while it is a waste of money. The new boats would be used for racing, and the older ones could be used for practice. Mr. Pattwell reported on some places that want to turn over their boats, and the equipment is probably maintained very well. Rumson Rec may be able to purchase a one-year-old boat in very good condition. Chairman Lembeck suggested having Dan Edwards approach the schools that participate in the regattas to see if this is possible and what they can get.

Flag Football - Mr. Hird reported that they will be expanding the age group to 11/12 year olds. Also, he would like to do a Round Robin tournament, as they do in soccer, and he asked the Commissioners to think about this. Mr. Bavuso thinks they should mandate the mouth pieces this year.

2012 Kids Triathlon - They received a \$2,000 donation this year.

Senior Citizens - Each year Rumson Recreation provides \$1,500 to the Senior Citizens, and a motion was made and seconded to approve this again for this year.

Background Checks - Mr. Hird has received another supply of forms, and the checks are ongoing.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hird reported on the current expenses and revenues for the past month. Bills for the basketball custodians and refs are still coming in, as well as some other expenses. Available funds total approximately \$168,000, and they will still owe money on Meadow Ridge West (\$38,000), for a balance of approximately \$130,000.

Travel Basketball

The tournament occurred, and the winter season starts January 4th.

Other Business

Mr. Hird received an email regarding stand-up paddle boarding from a person who has organized

this type of activity and worked with many state and local organizations. He would like to put together an event to raise money for people affected by Hurricane Sandy and other various local non-profits. Mr. Hird thinks this would be a very good event to have at Victory Park. It would be a one-day fund-raising event. The Commissioners thought it could be a good thing for Rumson Recreation to do. Mr. Hird will inform the person to send a letter to Mayor and Council with the proposal. Chairman Lembeck thinks anything they can approve that affords residents

more fun on the water is a good thing. Mr. Hird noted that it takes 2-3 months to get the required permits. This could become something that Rumson Rec may want to consider incorporating into its programs for the future.

Mr. Hird reported they are still interviewing for his replacement.

New Business

Mr. Dengler asked about adding some additional paths at Meadow Ridge Park. He thinks there is room to do this, and he thinks it would be nice to provide more variety to the path system. Mr. Hird would not want to see it take away from the play area, and Mr. Dengler said this would not happen, and he thinks it can be done cheaply and accomplished by volunteers. Mr. Hird noted it would need to be looked at very carefully, and removing trees is another issue in town.

2013 Meeting Dates

January 16	July – No meeting
February – No meeting	August 21
March 20	September 18
April 17	October 16
May 15	November 20
June 19	December 18

At this time (8:50 p.m.), the meeting moved into executive session to discuss matters of personnel. At the end of this session, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: January 16th, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Murphy
Clerk