

**Recreation Commission Minutes  
July 20, 2015**

Chairman John Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**Attendance:**

Chairman John Lembeck – present; Commissioners: Mike Cecil, Kerry Chandler, Jim Dengler were present. Dan Bavuso arrived at 7.10pm, Bob McGinty was absent. Councilman Ben Day and Recreation Director Sarah Orsay were also present.

**Public comment portion:**

Barry Goldsmith, former lifelong resident who currently resides in Locust and Florida, enthusiastically introduced the RC to Pickle Ball, a paddle sport played on tennis courts, easily accessible to youth through seniors. Mr. Goldsmith requested that the Borough line a tennis court to accommodate this new and growing sport. The court can be temporarily lined to accommodate Pickle Ball and would not interfere with the tennis lines. The same nets can be used.

Mr. Lembeck thanked Mr. Goldsmith and told him the Commission would consider his request.

**Chairman's Announcements**

The June 17 meeting and subsequently rescheduled July 8 meeting were both cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and the Commissioners were asked to notify Ms. Orsay as soon as possible if they could not make this meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The February 2015 and April 2015 Minutes were unanimously approved.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Parks**

Members of Recreation Commission's Parks' Committee (Lembeck, Chandler), DPW, Borough Administrator and Councilman Joe Hemphill had determined that the **Victory Park** playground is in need of only minor refurbishment at this time, including regrading, mulching, curbing, painting, and minor equipment replacement. It is anticipated that this work will take place in September. However, the Parks Committee should establish a 5-10 year replacement plan, including budgeting and fundraising. Separately, the Victory Park tennis court refurbishment is completed and looks like new. Many residents have stopped by to extend their appreciation. Related to this, the VP basketball court has some cracks. An initial estimate for repairs is \$6300. The Director recommended that the Commission consider doing this work in September, before the damage becomes more serious.

**Piping Rock** – The Borough will be submitting Phase II of the Monmouth County Open Space Grant for the proposed Piping Rock turf project in September. A public hearing will be held before the submission.

**Programs**

Ms. Orsay updated the Commission on the **Little League** post-season play, which was enjoyed by all participants.

**RFH Girls Lax** – Feedback from participants suggested that the RFH Girls Lax Select Tournament Teams were too big and simply not competitive enough to compete against the multi-season travel teams they were facing. Ms. Chandler expressed frustration that some players were not honoring the participation requirement in either the

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Tourney Team or Rec team. In addition, a number of the girls on the Tournament Team play on other select teams, which conflicted with Rec & the Tourney team schedules. Having now offered a Tournament Team for several years to limited success relative to the work involved, the Commission unanimously agreed that this type of team was not a good fit for Recreation and would not be offered through Recreation going forward.

**Summer Registration** for Rumson Recreation Approved Camps and Recreation programs is complete and participation numbers were a little higher than last year in most cases. **Summer Hoops** in particular added several teams. Chess Camp and Marine Science were again oversubscribed. However, the **Learn to Row** program numbers were down considerably. Ms. Orsay postulated that this was due to not offering Crew Winter Conditioning for Middle Schoolers ("MS WC"), who were then going to other programs and staying with those programs. Mr. Lembeck felt it important that we prioritize MS WC this winter to create a pipeline.

**Crew** – Related to Crew, Mr. Bavuso announced he was resigning from the High School Crew Steering Committee and made a candidate recommendation to fill his seat. This was discussed and Mr. Lembeck said he would speak to the candidate. In addition, there is a new applicant to be the full-time High School Crew Coach, whom if hired might also be a successor candidate to the Steering Committee.

**Fall Recreation Registration** is complete with Flag Football and Rec Soccer numbers consistent with last year, 350 & 600, respectively. The Flag program was restructured from an age-based registration to grade-based with a separate Kindergarten Clinic. There is a significant waitlist in the Grade 1 & 2 division and the Director suggested addressing this by adding teams and a second game field (Forrestdale). This would also entail hiring another Coordinator. The Director informed the Commission that there were suitable Coordinator candidates, but offering umpire/referee pay would attract the type of candidates we were looking for. The Commissioners felt that we should do what is necessary to get the kids into the program. Separately, it was agreed that it was too late to open a new 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade division for this Fall, but that Rec would introduce that age division for Fall 2016 registration.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Policy Committee** – Mr. Dengler, Ms. Chandler, and Mr. Cecil introduced a revised Mission Statement and Code of Conduct, which were voted on and unanimously accepted. They will be adopted immediately.

Ms. Orsay reported that the \$50 Late Fee instituted for Fall registrations seemed effective at encouraging on-time registrations, making season planning much easier.

**Travel Soccer** –Mr. McGinty, assistant travel soccer coordinator Chris Hawke, and Ms. Orsay are working on implementation of the new policy of the Borough hiring and compensating professional travel soccer trainers, rather than travel coaches undertaking this directly.

**Special Events** – The Movies in the Park series jointly sponsored with FH Rec is going well. The remaining schedule; Big, 7/27, and Frozen, 8/2. The Summer RFH Rowing team raised \$150 for the team on concession sales at How to Train Your Dragon 2 on July 8 and will be working the Concession again at Frozen. RFH Rowing parent Ellie Osmulski and her son Ed are overseeing the planning and organization of these fundraisers.

**Personnel** – The Commission went into Closed Session from 7.58pm to 8.15pm to discuss candidates to fill the Recreation Commission vacancy. The Commission asked Ms. Orsay to submit the agreed upon candidate recommendation to Council and also recommend that the Council create an Alternate position that "may" be filled.

**Administrative**

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Ms. Orsay suggested that an independent professional be hired to record the Commission Minutes, as had been done under the prior Rec Director's tenure and as the Borough Zoning Board does. The Commissioners unanimously agreed that it would be appropriate to again have an independent professional record the Minutes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Orsay reviewed the June Treasurer's Report, including revenue/expenses for summer and fall programs.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Parks Committee will set a meeting date for August or early September to begin to craft a plan for parks, including MR (bathrooms/path), and VP.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Board Education Session** – The Director informed the Commission that the RC will partake in a 90 minute professional Board Education session and she will be sending out dates to coordinate.

There were several **institutional permit requests**:

1. **Knollwood School** is seeking daily afterschool use of Meadow Ridge Path in the fall for its cross-country team. Due to the high volume of auto and athlete traffic from RFH and Forrestdale at this time, and complaints of congestion last year, the Commission regrettably declined this request.
2. **Holy Cross School** is seeking use of a regulation size soccer fields for games in the Fall. The Commission agreed if we could accommodate them we will and hoped that Holy Cross would in turn accommodate Recreation requests for gym use.
3. **US Sports Institute** is requesting approval for Fall pre-school field classes during the day on Thursdays and Sunday afternoon, and also continued tennis classes on Friday afternoons. Both requests were approved.

**Policy Recommendation** – The Director presented a proposed revision to the **Field Fees & Permits Policies** as suggested by Mr. Cecil: namely, professional trainers for individual residents should require a permit, but not a fee. Professional trainers for non-residents should pay a fee. Professional trainers using our facilities to conduct a business (i.e., group classes) would still be subjected to a permit fee. Mr. Cecil suggested the fee should be kept at \$250, not the previously suggested \$500. The goal is compliance – we wish to encourage professional trainers/residents to obtain permits for both scheduling efficiencies and insurance requisites. The Commission unanimously agreed to this recommendation, which Ms. Orsay will forward to Council.

Related to this, it was agreed that individual professional trainers should not be issued permits for the Victory Park basketball court or tennis courts.

It was agreed to raise **Summer Program Late Fees** in 2016 from \$10 to \$25 to encourage on-time registrations.

**Third Party Marketing Request** – The Littoral Society requested that we advertise their not-for-profit science camps at Sandy Hook on the Rumson Rec web site. Several Commissioners cited concerns over setting a precedent for posting for an organization not directly related to Rumson; however, others felt that a nearby not-for-profit offering a program that our community clearly has demand for – based on the high number of those wait listed for the Marine Science Camp – should be approved. It was agreed to post in the camp in Third Party section of the Rumson

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Recreation web site and that all such requests must come to the Rec Commission or an RC Sub-Committee and will be considered on a one-off basis.

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**UPCOMING REC COMM MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- Movies in the Park on July 27 & August 2 at Fair Haven Fields at 8.30pm
- Parks Committee Meeting – Ms. Orsay to facilitate date
- Board Education Session – Ms. Orsay to facilitate date (mandatory for all members)
- Recreation Commission Meeting - Wednesday, August 19th at 7 PM at the Charles S Callman courtroom.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Orsay