

Recreation Commission Minutes - FINAL
Jun 18, 2014

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

Attendance:

Chairman John Lembeck; Commissioners: Dan Bavuso (left at 8.14pm), Kerry Chandler, Jim Dengler, Sharon Greener, Bob McGinty were present; Mike Cecil and Councilman Ben Day were absent. Recreation Director Sarah Orsay was also present.

Public comment portion:

There were no members of the public present.

Chairman's Announcements

Chairman Lembeck proposed that future meetings be limited to 2 hours, allowing 10 minutes per topic, to facilitate a more productive and concise dialogue.

The Commission went into closed session for 10 minutes to discuss a personnel issue.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no Minutes to approve.

Directors Report

Parks

Meadow Ridge - Ms. Orsay reported that she continues to work under the assumption that Meadow Ridge Center will be closed September – March for maintenance and repair. To this end, Ms. Orsay has applied to Oceanport for use of a Maria Gatta regulation field for weekday practice and Blackberry Field for Sunday regulation games. Ms. Orsay has applied to RFH for turf times when available on Sunday afternoons, but will not know until late August at the earliest. In addition, she applied to Fair Haven for Sunday games, although the FH Rec Director indicated that they would prefer to close the new, upper fields on Sunday after TROG.

Ms. Orsay reported that the Meadow Ridge South slabs had not been completed yet, likely due to the wet Spring weather.

Mr. Dengler suggested we investigate a relatively inexpensive covering for the Meadow Ridge path such as stone dust and get a cost estimate from Precise to install, given that DPW is short-handed. Ms. Orsay will follow up with Borough Administrator Mr. Rogers and DPW's Mr. Anderson, when he returns from leave in late July.

Ms. Greener and Ms. Chandler suggested that the Commission consider replacing the current Meadow Ridge restrooms with a new facility including storage and a concession stand and consider using high end porta-potties to replace the "bricks and mortar" bathrooms, which are unwelcoming (at least the women's room).

Programs

Baseball/ Tball — Ms. Orsay updated the Commission on the All Star team tryouts, coaches, and post-season schedule, as well as the East-West TRLL All Star games.

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Ms. Orsay noted that Recreation needs to review the Baseball expense numbers next year and possibly adjust the fees accordingly as there were some additional costs with Little League that were unanticipated.

It was discussed that next year Recreation should purchase another large portable pitching mound for Riverside South as all the 46/60 teams used the mounds this year and that we consider using a canvas (temporary) fence for the 46/60 Little League teams on one designated field, if possible. The concern is the multi-use flexibility of our fields, but Ms. Orsay will give this consideration when doing the 2015 Spring field schedule.

Softball – Softball did not end up having an All Star team, although there was interest among the participants. The Little League Dec 31 Softball division age cutoff date did not correspond to the Grade-level registration for the teams, so it was not practical this year. Next year TRLL Softball Coordinators must decide if they wish to be age-based or grade-based, which will determine All Star eligibility.

Lacrosse and Tournament Team Lacrosse – The Commission discussed how to mitigate scheduling conflicts with the Girls Lax Tourney Team and RSC travel soccer programs that resulted in lower attendance for rec lax. One suggestion was for Grade 3&4 teams to play games on Saturdays only, which may be possible, but avoiding Sunday Lax games for the older girls is more challenging. Separately, Ms. Chandler noted that holding practices for all the players in Grades 7/8 at the same time worked well.

Ms. Orsay noted that new this year parents were given the option of purchasing the Grade 5-8 jersey/squort rather than turning them in.

Travel Soccer – Mr. McGinty updated the Commission that travel soccer tryouts for the 2014-2015 season were almost complete. Eric Wachtel and Brian Forster were selected as the BU9 Soccer head coach and assistant coach, respectively.

Ms. Orsay shared several concerns surrounding the travel soccer program that had been brought to her attention by parents, including: 1) lack of turnover year-to-year; 2) reducing conflicts with/cannibalization of other sports; 3) keeping fees appropriate to a publicly sponsored program. Ms. Orsay added that the Travel program and Crew assume a disproportionate amount of time and resources given the number of participants relative to the other Rec programs and, in general, these smaller programs are more demanding. She asked the Commission for suggestions as to how to find a more appropriate balance. There was a discussion of these issues and the Commission asked Ms. Orsay to put together a “strawman” Travel Policy document based on their discussion as a starting point for a more in depth separate discussion at a later date.

Summer Camps – Ms. Orsay reported camp registration numbers to date – Open Registration ended on May 31, but it is expected that registrations will continue to dribble in. Each external camp is paying the Borough an Admin Fee of \$10 per camper, consistent with Fair Haven and other towns. A portion of this fee will be used to hire a professional Athletic Trainer to be available to each camp in case of injury. This Admin Fee will also offset the cost of credit card payments and processing associated with on-line registration, which is run through Rumson Rec, as well as compensation for marketing and facility / field use.

Summer Playground–Ms. Orsay updated the Commission on the registration numbers (212 registrants v a total 275 for last summer, but this number is expected to increase). New this year, Recreation provided green cinch sacks with the Rumson Recreation logo that can be worn as backpacks and hold the children’s snack, sunscreen, etc. Program highlights include a blow up obstacle course on July 16 that was so popular last year.

Summer Hoops – Ms. Orsay noted that registration was down somewhat from last year, with 6 teams in the oldest age group, and 4 in each of the two younger divisions. Ms. Orsay distributed to the Commission the list of volunteer coaches for their review.

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Flag Football—Ms. Orsay gave an update on the Fall registration numbers (Open Registration ended May 31), but indicated these would likely go up significantly by Jun 31.

Flag Football has a new division, 11/12 year olds. We hope to have enough participants for 4 teams. There is high demand from the younger age divisions, especially the 5/6 year old Division. Field space may be an issue this year due to the increased numbers and added Division. In addition to the Turf, Flag will use Upper High School and Piping rock. Mr. Bavuso has requested that DPW line these for Flag to reduce the significant set up time each week.

Soccer – We have 25-30 certified teenage refs, who have completed an application process and will do a brief interview with Ms. Greener and Ms. Orsay. In addition, with the Commission's approval Ms. Orsay has revamped the pricing system to be more in line with other towns and to reduce the incentive to ref games alone.

Ms. Orsay reported that she is the Coordinator for the NMSA soccer league for the next two years and that her first meeting with the other town coordinators is on Jun 19th at Bingham Hall.

Committee reports

Travel Basketball—Mr. Cecil reported that Mid-Monmouth travel basketball tryouts were complete for all except Boys 8U and notification is in process. The youngest boys' age group (first and second graders) had a particularly high interest level (over 40 children for 12 spots), so it was decided that these tryouts would be in September for a January season start and that only 8U (within 12 month band) would be eligible. Given this high level interest from the youngest participants, Mr. Cecil and Ms. Orsay will work on ideas for restructuring the Rec program for these age groups to incorporate more games, etc.

Ms. Orsay and Mr. Cecil are attempting to access additional indoor court space in the Fall. This may mean fees need to be increased if additional practice times are allotted. Ms. Orsay expressed concern about the impact on Rec if Travel practice times are increased.

It was agreed no permits would be issued for summer practices for the younger teams whose season does not start until January and next year it was proposed to move these teams' tryouts to the Fall in 2015, if practical.

Crew—Mr. Lembeck reported that the meeting between Mayors Ekdahl, Lucarelli and RFH Superintendent Righi to finalize the crew contract will be on July 10th.

Ms. Orsay reported that Fall High School crew registration has not opened yet as the program needs financial and parent support and, in addition, Head Coach Molly O'Rourke announced that she is moving to California in July, so we need to undertake a search for a new coach. Ms. Orsay updated the Commission on the Summer hires and student volunteers as well as the registration numbers. The D Team (aka Freshman Development Team) has almost 30 members, more than twice the number from last year. Ms. Orsay cancelled Women's Crew due to lack of enrollment (only 4 registrants), but this allowed the High School program to take on more - approximately 60 enrolled - with max 32 rowing each session, thus maximizing student-coach contact.

Special Events

Kelleher Kids Triathlon – The 5th Annual Kids Tri attracted 250 people on Father's Day at VP. Ms. Orsay reported that Race Forum (Doug Rice) did a great job running the event with the help of many local volunteers. It was and a great family event and participants included young children on tricycles up through 14 year olds. The proceeds benefit Rumson Recreation and Rumson EMS.

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Summer events – Ms. Orsay updated the Commission that Laser Tag was cancelled due to scheduling difficulties, but that the Playhouse Puppet Theater will put on a show at the Victory Park Gazebo on Sunday, July 20th at 5.30pm - “Picnic and Puppets in the Park.” Ms. Orsay is also looking into Movies in the Park on a few Sundays at 8.30pm.

Family Fun Days – Mr. Dengler suggested sponsoring a few Family Fun Days such as waffle ball, volleyball, kick ball. This idea was met with great enthusiasm.

Projects

PRTP – No update.

Field and facility fees- Pending Council approval later this year.

Administrative

Volunteer Background Checks – there is yet another new procedure. Ms. Orsay is working to get answers so our coaches can complete their certification process. This has been a trying and frustrating process since the Kanka Foundation funding expired last year.

Rutgers SAFETY course offered September 19 for our Fall Coaches – 19 registrants so far.

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Orsay reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. Of note, it would seem that baseball registration fees will likely need to increase next year.

Old business

New business

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aug 20 at 7 PM at the Charles S Callman courtroom.

The meeting adjourned at 9.06 PM.