

Recreation Commission Minutes  
March 19, 2014 - FINAL

Chairman Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7.00 PM

**Attendance:** Chairman Lembeck, Commissioners Dan Bavuso, Mike Cecil, Kerry Chandler, Jim Dengler, Bob McGinty were present, as was Councilman Ben Day. Recreation Director Sarah Orsay was also present.

**Public Comment Portion**

Present were Tom and Arleen Mulligan and Mike Bailey, Rumson Soccer Club coaches who had missed the RSC discussion in the February 19 meeting.

The Mulligans coach the girls 13U team, which has 12 members. They are likely to lose 2 to 3 kids this spring and so are seeking Commission permission to open up their club to non-residents.

Mr. Bailey inquired as to why there was only one weekly practice for travel soccer teams this season. Ms. Greener explained that a second practice was available on late Saturday afternoons for those who requested it, but each team will only be allotted one weekday practice due to limited field space in the priority given to in-season (or one-season) sports.

Mr. Tim McCooey arrived late and asked to make a public comment, which Chairman Lembeck granted. Mr. McCooey wanted to know why the Rumson Soccer Club age requirement rules are more restrictive than the MOSA league rules (Editor's note: Rumson Soccer Club has a one year age range of eligibility, while the MOSA league allows a two year age range of eligibility in most divisions.) Mr. McCooey stated that he believes that any child should be able to try out for the soccer team regardless of age if they have the ability: he cited an example of a four-year-old trying out for an eight-year-old team. His feeling is if children are qualified to make a team, regardless of age, they should be allowed to try out and make it. In fact, it was pointed out to Mr. McCooey that the MOSA league rules do not allow children under the age of six to participate in travel soccer at all and six year olds may only try out for a 7U team or an 8U team if more than half of the members of the 8U team are seven.

Mr. McCooey then asked for an exception to be made for his daughter, who is currently six years old and in first grade, to try out for the 2014-2015 9U travel soccer team. Apparently she has been practicing with the current 9U travel team in violation of both Rumson Soccer Club and MOSA league rules. The Rumson Recreation commission was not aware that Mr. McCooey's daughter had been practicing on this team as an underage participant because her RSC registration form indicated that she was in third grade. It was explained to Mr. McCooey that these rules exist for both safety and fairness reasons. Mr. McGinty also suggested that there were other programs outside of Rumson, as well as in town clinics for this age group.

The public comment portion ended at 7.35pm.

The Commission decided to vote immediately on whether or not the Mulligans would be allowed to open their team to non-residents. Mr. Dengler raised the motion be approved, Ms. Greener seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission did not vote on Mr. McCooey's request for an exception since his 6 year old daughter is not currently eligible for any Rumson Soccer Club teams according to both RSC and also MOSA league rules.

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**Chairman's Announcements**

At this point Mr. Lembeck requested that the Commission go into closed session (7.40pm) so that he could provide a confidential personnel update. The commission came back on the record at 7:53pm.

**Directors Report**

**Parks**—Ms. Orsay announced that the **fields** would be open on March 24, a week later than normal. The turf blankets will be taken off this week, but we don't expect that the reseeding was successful given the harsh winter.

In order to maximize field space and accommodate as many participants as possible, travel soccer will be limited to one weekday practice (Saturday after slots are available for a second practice) and K-2 tball/baseball /softball will share one diamond for two teams - one team will use soft bases in the outfield, one the diamond, switching weekly. In addition, the three 14U teams will all share practices times on MRE, in an effort maximize coaching volunteers and field space.

The **defibrillators** will be installed in the parks this week, and the bathrooms will be opened and the water turned on.

**Programs**

**Basketball** —Rec Basketball ended March 1 with the Double Elimination March madness tournament for grades five through eight was the highlight of the season. The blind draft at the beginning of the season was successful in that every game in the tournament was extremely close and decided in the final minute. It was very exciting and we received tremendous feedback from parents and players alike.

**RFH Rowing** - the Spring season will be run by Rumson Fairhaven Regional High School. The contract between the Borough and the High School is still pending, but the fundraising exceeded the \$50,000 goal, with a total of approximately \$70,000 raised through the car raffle and the Regala party. The raffle winner was chosen and notified on March 1.

**Baseball and Softball** registration is complete, the teams have been selected, but we're still struggling to find softball coaches. Practice starts March 24 and the regular season will start on April 7<sup>th</sup> for most teams. Due to lack of interest, the 16U category was eliminated and the 13U team has been combined with 8th grade registrants to form a 14U. The 14U baseball and all softball division games will start after spring break on April 21.

**Travel Baseball**— all tryouts are complete, participants have been selected and notified. Each team used an independent evaluator and Ms. Orsay received no complaints about the process. The 8U team had 34 kids try out, which is a positive sign for the future of our baseball program.

**Girls Lacrosse**—registration is complete, but need one more coach at the grade 7 and 8 level. The overall registration numbers are up from last year (we have one additional 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> team and one additional 7/8 team).

**Camps**—Ms Orsay distributed the list of summer camps to the Commissioners, which had been approved by the Commission in January. The Camp Info Night will be held on April 1 at 6:45 PM at the high school in conjunction with Fair Haven recreation. Ms. Orsay expects almost all of the camp directors to be in attendance.

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**Summer Playground**—counselor applications are due March 31.

**Travel Soccer**—it was suggested to allow Mr. McGinty, Ms. Greener and Ms. Orsay joint discretion on whether or not to allow Rumson Soccer Club coaches to open up their teams to Fair Haven residents prior to the next Recreation Commission meeting, using the determination guidelines agreed upon on in the Feb meeting. Ms. Chandler raised that the motion be approved, Mr. Bavuso seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Travel Basketball**—Mr. Cecil would like to have at least one of the two tryouts be held on indoor court. He also brought up again the idea of extending gym space for the fall and winter travel basketball season and he would like to add a second weekly practice in-season for the travel teams. It was also mentioned that it would be nice to have pick-up games available for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders and also high school students.

**Special Events**

Miss Orsay reported the St. Patrick's Day Parade was again a success and significantly larger than last year -- it lasted almost 2 hours. The Rumson Rec float was a hit and the participants had a great time.

The **Baseball Opening Day Parade** will be on Saturday, April 5, at 8.45am at Piping Rock. The parade and activities will follow the traditional format, keeping it short and age appropriate, without any additional fanfare previously discussed. This is both due to a lack of time for planning but also due to the poor weather, so it is anticipated that many of the baseball teams would simply like to get started with their practices that day.

Planning is underway already for the **Memorial Day Parade**, which will take place on Memorial Day at 9.00am.

Ms. Orsay proposed that rather than the summer concert series we do a Rumson Day even with bouncy castles, food, games and possibly a movie at Victory Park. The Summer Concerts were not well attended last year relative to the cost and it seemed many of the participants were non-residents, thus this does not seem to be an event valued by many of our residents.

**Project**

Ms. Orsay said that the PRTP project discussed last year will be a high priority for her in 2014. The grant applications come out May 1 and are due in September. Ms Orsay explained the steps in the process necessary to accomplish this.

Ms. Orsay followed up with Mr. Rogers, Borough Administrator, on the Meadow Ridge bathroom and concession stand discussion from the February RC meeting. Mr. Rogers mentioned the concerns that a Concession stand will generate a significant amount of additional work for DPW (in the form of garbage & clean up), as well as Recreation, which will be responsible for staffing, etc. These are not insurmountable difficulties, but the funding for the conversion to a Concession stand will likely not be a priority in 2014.

Ms. Orsay mentioned that she has continued to receive high interest from the community on a place for non-sports activities such as board games selling and other kids activities. While Bingham Hall can serve some of these needs and is a wonderful location for many events, it is not set up as a fully stocked community center with comfortable seating, games, etc.

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**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Orsay reviewed the revenue and expenses from the Spring sports programs. There were no unusual items to report.

**Old Business**

**Field and facility fees** –As the Commission has agreed to charge commercial enterprises in 2014 for activities on Rumson fields, Ms. Orsay reported that Fair Haven charges \$500 a day for baseball tournaments on holiday weekends. Based on studies with other towns, this is in fact low relative to the usage. Currently, the Borough charge professional fitness instructors \$250 a year to use Meadow Ridge Park for their classes. This was considered appropriate.

It was agreed Mr. Champeau's D League summer basketball in Victory Park, which is a for-profit enterprise utilizing Borough equipment such as bleachers, sound system, and results in regular additional DPW effort at the site, should be charged \$10 a participant.

**New Business**– none

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 PM at the Charles S. Callman Court Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Orsay  
Director of Recreation