

Recreation Commission Minutes - FINAL
May 21, 2014

Chairman Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Attendance:

Chairman John Lembeck, Commissioners: Mr. Dan Bavuso, Mr. Mike Cecil, Ms. Kerry Chandler, Mr. Jim Dengler, Ms. Sharon Greener, Mr. Bob McGinty were in attendance; Councilman Ben Day was absent.

Recreation Director Ms. Sarah Orsay was also present.

Public comment portion:

There were no members of the public present but Chris Champeau, Coach of the GU12 Girls travel soccer team asked if he could open his team to one Tinton Falls resident, an RFH teacher's child. The Commission discussed but did not vote on the issue as it did not meet the criteria for a vote on opening up the team to an out of town resident.

Chairman's Announcements - None

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Lembeck called for a vote to approve the April 2014 recreation commission minutes. Mr. Bavuso suggested several changes. Mr. Dengler raised the motion to approve the minutes with the changes, Mr. Bavuso seconded the motion with his amendments, and the motion was approved.

Directors Report

Parks

Ms. Orsay reported on the Spring field allocation. One innovation in allocation was to double up on allocated fields, placing two teams at one field and sharing infield/outfield, allowing more teams to practice at the same time and allowing coaches to back each other and do drills together. Going forward, it was discussed to take this model to soccer putting 3 or 4 teams on one field, as recommended by professional soccer trainers. This would prevent wear and tear in front of the goals, encourage more player touch time being in a smaller space, and allow more field time per team. There were numerous cancellations due to inclement weather. Ms. Orsay also had scheduled "Open fields" to allow for make ups, which helped facilitate make up games and practices in a rainy spring.

Ms Orsay also reported that we had trouble keeping implements in dugout boxes — rakes disappearing.

Forrestdale – Precise took soil samples of the field, which came back normal. The sprinkler controls will be moved to the outside so DPW can control – feel overwatering and subsequent runoff has been a contributing problem.

Permit Violations – In an effort to reduce unauthorized use of fields by teams and private trainers and so ensure the fields are available to Borough users, Ms. Orsay put up additional signs at Meadow Ridge indicating: "Permit Required for All Organized Sports and Trainers." This seems to be raising awareness and have reduced unauthorized use. Ms. Orsay has received positive feedback on residents.

Meadow Ridge Center – Rob Anderson of DPW indicated that in order to effectively rehabilitate the field it must closed in September. Ms. Orsay will apply to Fair Haven for Sunday regulation game time, Oceanport for use of Blackberry Field on Sunday for regulation games, Maria Gatta for additional weekday practice space and also apply to use Turf every other Sunday afternoon, switching off with AYF.

Recreation Commission Minutes - FINAL
May 21, 2014

Ms. Orsay followed up with DPW on installing wheel kits, but we have been short-handed and unfortunately this has not made priority list yet.

West Park Cleanup – John Lembeck highlighted the West Park clean up done by Rumson Girl Scout troop led by Liz Amendola. The girls removed garbage and debris and so DPW was then able to cut back the reeds, greatly improving the site. Mr. Lembeck noted that Commissioner Sharon Greener and her daughter also participated in the clean up and it was a job well done by all and much appreciated. The Scouts will be recognized for their work at a future Council meeting (targeting late June).

Programs

Baseball/ Tball — Ms. Orsay noted that many games were rained out, but coaches were doing their best to reschedule.

New this year, Little League (“LL”) All Star team tryouts. LL All Star baseball eligibility and commitment forms from interested and eligible coaches and players were due May 15. Rumson had 2-10 participants for each division and one coach volunteer for each division except 14U. There will be All Star tryouts run by independent evaluators for the Rumson-Fair Haven teams in early June with the tournaments in July. Each town is allotted a minimum of two participants per team.

Softball - Originally the town softball coordinators had agreed not to field Softball All-Star teams this season because the cutoff date for Little League Softball age divisions is 12/31, splitting traditional Rec grade-based divisions – each town had registered their participants by grade, not the 12/31 cutoff date. Memone Crystian, TRLL Coordinator for Softball and Red Bank Recreation Director, is trying to put teams together if enough interest.

Lacrosse and Tournament Team Lacrosse Ms. Chandler gave an update on the RFH Girls Lax Tournament teams. The process did not go well from an Administrative standpoint this year, with many girls signing up for Tournament team and also Rec (it was mandatory to register for Rec) and then not showing up for the Rec games. This made it much less enjoyable for the Rec coaches and participants, who often did not have enough players, and so reduced the quality of the Rec program. Also, there were administrative difficulties with the tournament teams, so the Commission will reevaluate whether or not RFH Girls Lacrosse will sponsor Tournament teams in 2015.

Travel Soccer– Mr. McGinty updated the Commission that RSC travel soccer tryouts were on-going and that no coach for the BU9 team had yet been identified, but was confident one of the parents would step up after tryouts. A total of 225 signed up for tryouts. Mr. McGinty also mentioned that Coach Shanley’s U15 team would be disbanding as the athletes have too many other commitments. It was suggested that the high school level kids could form a U18 club team and Ms. Chandler said that Red Bank offered teams for high schoolers and some RFH students participated. It was agreed to direct interested parties to these sources.

Ms. Orsay mentioned that the NJ Wildcats Spring Get-Ready-for-Travel-Tryouts Clinic had been a success and maxed out at 55 participants and there was positive feedback on the program. To meet the demand from travel teams for local travel level camps, Wildcats will be offering a late afternoon Travel level clinic (open to all Rumson residents) the week of August 11, which will include Goalie training.

Summer Camps – Ms. Orsay reported that summer registration was on-going with the open registration deadline May 31. Ms. Orsay gave an update of current registration numbers by camp. One camp was several participants short of viability and it was discussed whether these camps should be open to non-RFH residents after the deadline in order to make them viable. Mr. Bavuso raised the motion that when the numbers are small but close to viability, we should open it to non-residents after the deadline (and so non-residents will also be subject to a late fee, thus incurring a higher fee than residents who registered on time). Ms. Chandler seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

Recreation Commission Minutes - FINAL
May 21, 2014

Summer Playground—Ms. Orsay reported that the counselors had been selected and notified and gave an update on registrants.

Soccer and Flag Football—Ms. Orsay reported that open registration for these fall programs takes place May 1 through May 31 and gave an update on numbers so far v 2013 registrations.

Rumson resident Robert Butters approached Ms. Orsay with a plan to revamp the Kindergarten Soccer Clinic and Grade 1&2 Pee Wee program, offering to be the volunteer coordinator for these. His ideas were well received.

Ms Orsay proctored the Rumson Rec hosted Soccer Ref Course on May 16 (??), in which 25 residents received their grade 9 (??) Ref certification for Rec soccer. Ms. Orsay and Ms. Greener altered the Ref structure to closer mirror the single whistle system of travel games, which is in accordance with US Soccer. This will give more kids the opportunity to ref (one center ref and two linesman at the older games), plus better prepare them for travel soccer refereeing.

Committee reports

Travel Basketball—Mr. Cecil reported that Mid-Monmouth travel basketball tryouts will be in early June and gave an update on registrations. The youngest boys' age group (first and second graders) had a particularly high interest level.

Crew—Mr. Lembeck reported that there will be a meeting between Mayors Ekdahl and Lucarelli and RFH Superintendent Righi to finalize the crew contract.

Other – Ms. Orsay was invited to provide an update on Recreation to the Council Working Group on 4/29/14. Ms. Orsay provided an update on all of the Rec sponsored programs, the 18% increase in registrations over the past 4 seasons (total registrations of 3850), and the success of the on-line registration system and electronic communication systems. In addition, Ms. Orsay updated the Council on the status of the crew negotiations with the High School.

Special Events

Memorial Day Parade – Ms. Orsay reported that the Memorial Day parade was well attended and a fun community event, with Rec participating along with veterans, community groups, school bands, and others. The parade ended with a ceremony at the Victory Park gazebo.

Summer events – Ms. Orsay reported that Borough Administrator Rogers was open to all the Rec Commission suggestions, such as Art in Park, Movies in Park, and Laser Tag. Ms. Orsay will work to implement these ideas this summer.

Projects

PRTP – Ms. Orsay updated the Council Working Group on the project in late April. The next step is to go before Council Finance Committee.

Field and facility fees- Tom mentioned to Council that we are suggesting Fees for Resident Un-Affiliated and Non-Residents, and he will officially bring before the Council for a vote later this year.

Administrative

Recreation Commission Minutes - FINAL
May 21, 2014

Ms. Orsay proposed easing Summer season Late Fees to \$10 due to the last minute nature of summer camp enrollment and the high number of possibilities - \$25 per program would be a disincentive to enroll in numerous programs.

Rutgers SAFETY course will be offered in early September for our Fall Coaches - already announced and have 10 sign ups. Ms. Orsay has already put Fall Coaches' meeting on the calendar for early August in order to maximize participation.

E-Distribution through public schools e-blast system was approved by the BOE. This will be a significant cost savings as well as more efficient means of communication and beneficial to the environment.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Orsay reviewed the Treasurer's Report, including two new line items: Field Fees, Coach Certifications/Continuing Education. In addition, she updated the RC on Camp Admin Fees, a portion of which will be used to pay Alex Stein, a professional Athletic Trainer, to cover Rumson Rec's summer camps, as well as Administrative expenses incurred in processing the registrations.

Old business

Ms. Chandler mentioned that the paths at Meadow Ridge Park were uneven and rock hard. Mr. Dengler again suggested putting stone dust or some other cost effective covering to alleviate this. Ms. Orsay will follow up with DPW when Rob Anderson returns from leave.

New business

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jun 18 at 7 PM at the Charles S Callman courtroom.

The meeting adjourned at 8.42 PM.