

Regular Meeting
Recreation Commission
Borough of Rumson
April 19, 2023
7:30 PM Bingham Hall
Minutes

Present Were:

Commissioners Chandler, Whitehouse, Levine, Walz, Roberto and Cavise. Also present was Councilman Conklin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03.

INTRODUCTION OF MIKE ROBERTO

New Commissioner Mike Roberto was welcomed. He shared a little bit about his background. He noted that he has 3 children and has been involved with flag football, basketball and now T Ball. He is the RFH Touchdown Club President and helps out with the Varsity football team as well. He appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to learning and getting further involved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Whitehouse and seconded by Commissioner Whitehouse who noted one grammatical change.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments by the public.

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR

Charlie Hoffmann shared an update on the transition from League Apps to Civic Rec. We are officially live on both systems with all registrations now go through Civic Rec. For this summer, the Rec Dept. will be using both lists for our summer programs. For the fall registrations and moving forward, we will only use Civic Rec. The point of emphasis is to get more families signed up on Civic Rec and we will transition the weekly e-blast to Civic Rec on or about June 1.

Commissioner Whitehouse asked about using the town-wide bulletin to invite everyone to sign up on the new system, which Eric Paone-Hurd mentioned could be done. Commissioner Chandler asked about our methods to reach seniors for things like senior fitness class. Charlie Hoffmann answered that we went to 2 senior meetings to promote the program and we have utilized the marquee.

A summer camp update was also shared. Sports camps are showing similar numbers as past years. Field hockey camp has been added since RFH has a new coach. All camps (except girls lacrosse) is at the HS which is helpful since we have the athletic trainers there, turf and the potential to go inside if needed.

Victory Park counselor interviews were conducted today. The staff is promising, but there is an imbalance of boy counselors to girl counselors, which we are still recruiting for. Commissioner Whitehouse inquired about trying the post camp option for an afternoon session. Charlie Hoffmann noted that the girl scout-led camp would be a good option for the post camp option.

Marine Science camp has been filled and registration is being managed by the Marine Science camp organization which has been a time saver for the Dept. That program is now filled with only a few spots left in the teen weeks.

Charlie Hoffmann noted that a new mandatory meeting will be set for new parents in September. The goal is to discuss our values, code of conduct, time lines and stress the importance of volunteering as well as what is involved and required to coach. Commissioner Cavise noted the newcomer's club could help spread the spread and that having a social aspect to incentivize parents to come.

Memorial Day was discussed noting that the parade and ceremony will be observed on Monday, May 29. Councilman Conklin mentioned that if anyone has a suggestion for a guest speaker to please reach out. We like to have a veteran that is local and charismatic. Charlie Hoffmann noted that we will have singers from the school and the PTO will be raffling off the opportunity to officially start the parade. Commissioner Levine suggested a student he knows who may be available to sing for the ceremony as well. It was pointed out that participating students should be dressed more formally and that messaging will be included in the correspondence.

Charlie Hoffmann shared an update on Rowing. He noted that Spring Break was a bit of an issue since it was mandatory for athletes to participate and there was choppy water, so they mostly had to practice inside. In the future, the coaches need to broadcast those Spring Break expectations more clearly and earlier. Ergs were moved from Fair Haven Fields to Bingham Hall. Billing was set in two installments of \$540. The HS coaches lead the program. Councilman Conklin pointed out that the crew program encompasses children from Fair Haven and Rumson yet Rumson manages the workload, facilities and time.

Regarding basketball, the referees were brought up again. It was noted that they need to call more fouls. It was also suggested that we bring Paul Kenney, the referee coordinator, to our Rec Commission meeting to discuss expectations and rules prior to the season. It was also mentioned to add younger HS refs to co-work with the experienced refs. Commissioner Whitehouse mentioned doing more highlight videos as they seem to be well received. The basketball surveys were discussed. Overall, they were positive. One change for the future would be to keep standings for the older divisions. We discussed doing an end of year event for grades 3 and 4. Commissioner Levine noted that older younger players know that older siblings have an end of the year tournament that is beloved, so adding that next year would be well-received. We will also switch the younger grades to 4 vs 4 with 32-40 minute games. Commissioner Walz suggested scheduling the younger teams at 6 PM and the older grades at 7 or 8. Commissioner Whitehouse mentioned that rec practice was often held at RCDS in the past utilizing the 4 courts. The 2nd grade parents indicated adding grades. Commissioner Whitehouse suggested ending with a combine style event as well.

Commissioners Levine and Walz shared an update on spring baseball and softball. Commissioner Levine had a positive assessment of the early part of the season. Charlie Hoffmann noted that some teams were able to get 3 or 4 practices in before the start of the season. Commissioner Walz questioned the schedule; this year TRLL has a shorter window of times due to late Spring Break and wanting to finish before Memorial Day. The parade is scheduled for April 22nd at 3pm.

Commissioner Chandler shared an update on lacrosse. Grades 3/4 has 6 teams of 10. Grades 5/6 just started with good numbers and grades 7/8 only had 1 player, which may be combined with the 5/6. Grades 1 and 2 have enough coaches are slated to start on April 22nd.

Regarding Senior Citizens, the new fitness class is underway with Kim Cugini serving as the instructor. There will be 3 complimentary classes in the spring and we will look to resume it in the fall with a small fee. We also implemented the "Taste of Ireland" event which had 40 attendees.

Commissioner Whitehouse suggested doing a bingo event for adults, perhaps in the fall. Commissioner Walz suggested adding a survey for seniors to gauge interest in future programming.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was not an Executive Session period.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Cavise gave a summary of the travel organization roundtable meeting. He noted the group discussed schedules, timelines and issues. It was productive to have all groups present. The cheerleading organization was present and may be looking to add boys cheerleading to the program.

The topic of an added donation option was discussed. With the new software, we have the option to add a line item for donations. The idea is to obtain more revenue for each of the programs individually. After lengthy discussion, it was suggested not to implement this option. The feedback was to keep as it is to ensure the programs are fairly balanced. We would be better served through better pre-season planning. We will share the budgets for the upcoming season at our meetings, so we could better game-plan.

Regarding flag football, Charlie Hoffmann wanted to have a pre-season meeting to review the rules. Some rules are difficult to enforce and some rules could be updated for a better experience.

PARKS AND FIELDS

Field lining and dragging has started for the spring season.

OLD BUSINESS

The Rec travel sports policy document was discussed. Commissioner Whitehouse suggested we share the new document and red line for further review at the next meeting. Much of the document speaks to travel and can be removed. Eric Paone-Hurd will share the document with Commissioner Whitehouse.

COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Conklin shared an update. He noted that the senior fitness class was mentioned at the most recent council meeting. He also shared an update regarding the bridge project. He also informed the group about the road paving in the area of Riverside and Wardell. He noted that the Police Department recently conducted the promotional ceremony at Borough Hall. The Borough has a new Zoning Officer slated to start soon.

MISC

Commissioner: Whitehouse noted that the RFH Media Center has recently been completed and a grand opening will be scheduled soon.

Charlie Hoffmann also commended the Rowing coaches for their heroic efforts in saving a swimmer and a dog.

Commissioner Chandler asked for an update on the tennis court improvement project timeline.

ADJOURNMENT

The June meeting is slated for June 21st. We will be skipping the July meeting as normal. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27.