

Regular Meeting
Recreation Commission
Borough of Rumson
March 15, 2023
7PM Borough Hall Courtroom
Minutes

Present Were:

Commissioner, DellBeneHall, Whitehouse, Cecil, Levine, Walz, and Cavise. Also present was Councilman Conklin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner DellBeneHall and seconded by Commissioner Whitehouse.

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. The intended plan is to suspend League Apps transactions on April 1. There will be no transactions for a period of about a week in which we will not have any transactions. Then, about a week later, Civic Rec will go live with a small sample group, followed by a total rollout. League Apps will remain live internally and externally for historical data, tax records, prior communications, etc.

The advantages to Civic Rec are a better customer experience, better mobile applications and cleaner performance. Commissioner Whitehouse asked about the new system's ability to post schedules, RSVP, have surveys, etc. – all of which the new system can do.

A summer camp update was also shared. Sports camps are showing similar numbers as past years. Marine Science sessions have been filled. Sports broadcasting and chess are a little lower than expected. Commissioner Whitehouse asked for more details about sports broadcasting, suggesting utilizing an existing sports camp to do interviews and other broadcasting techniques.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was not an Executive Session period.

NEW BUSINESS

Charlie Hoffmann shared an update on Winter Rowing. He noted that we had a 7th and 8th grade program for the first time in a while, which had 12 participants. Ergs were moved from Fair Haven Fields to Bingham Hall.

The Spring registration numbers are showing higher than last year based in the Jevin HS system. Billing will be sent in two (50%) parts, with the first bill due soon and a second bill due in mid to

late April. The spring cost is \$1080 for the season, which is comprised of the cost for equipment, insurance and salaries. The positive news is that many of the athletes are freshmen and sophomores, which trends well for the future. Commissioner DellBene Hall inquired about us hosting an event and Commissioner Whitehouse provided some history regarding past NCAA meets in Rumson.

Commissioners Levine and Walz shared an update on Winter Rec basketball. Commissioner Levine had a positive assessment of the season. He stressed the importance of having the 3rd and 4th graders play a 4 vs 4 format next year. This would provide better spacing and open up the passing lanes. He suggested the “no double team” rule be removed. Commissioner Cavise noted that the rule was intended to keep balance. Switching to 4 vs 4 would help this dilemma. One parent had a really good suggestion; We would keep the same number of kids per team, but we would make the games longer. This would keep the same number of teams but with less players playing at a time, each player would get more playing time. Commissioner Cavise and Commissioner Whitehouse noted that having 2 halves would serve the league and organization well. Commissioner Cavise noted his preference to keep the “no double team” rule to low players to progress.

It was suggested that 7th and 8th grade play straight, meaning they have the option to play zone or man. Commissioner Levine said that referees need to be improved upon. Specifically that some were good and some lacked energy and barely moved.

One issue that came up was the behavior of the 7th and 8th boys’ basketball spectators acting out. To address the situation, we sent a note to the age level to ask the parents to address the issue. All kids were required to sign in. Issue have subsided; one parent was called to address behavior which was immediately rectified.

Commissioner Levine also praised the 7th and 8th grade girls and March Madness as a whole. It was also noted that having a time gap between basketball ending and spring sports starting has been well received. One additional takeaway was to have Paul Keating come to a Commission meeting in November to iron out the best plan for next year (which may vary via age group).

Baseball, Softball and T-Ball is in its final stages of planning. The coaches meeting occurred last week. The Rutgers class is upcoming. The TRLL Baseball and Softball meetings are schedule for next week. We have the same number of teams as last year. Opening day is April 17 with T Ball having a small kickoff event on April 22nd. Commissioner Walz noted the positive news that we seem to have ample coaches, which is a step forward compared to other years and other sports. Some teams will be starting this coming weekend to get some practices times in before Spring Break.

Lacrosse numbers are shaping up well. 1st and 2nd Grade clinic numbers are a little light but those numbers may rise. The season is slated to start on the week of April 17.

Commissioner Cavise suggested we have another Travel Coaches roundtable meeting. He pointed out that it was valuable last year to communicate and stay organized. For community school programs, we just wrapped up acting class with Drama Kids International. They will also be doing a 2nd spring session and a Summer Camp with us. Memorial Day will once again have the parade and ceremony, with the parade starting at 10. We are looking for a charismatic speaker if anyone has any suggestions.

PARKS AND FIELDS

Field lining and dragging has started for the spring season.

OLD BUSINESS

The Rec travel sports policy document was reviewed. Commissioner Whitehouse suggested we remove pages 7 to 10 be removed as it's focused on travel sports. She suggested us red line things to be discussed in the future. She brought up the verbiage "The Rec Commission had the authority to consult and recommend". She also noted that everyone has an equal vote except the chair. Perhaps "Once voted, the Rec Director has the final authority" should be added. Councilman Conklin shared that this group has always been collaborative and that the group's feedback and thoughts certainly matter. We operate in an advisory capacity, similar to other organizations in the Borough such as the Environmental Commission. Commissioner Whitehouse noted that the group agreed on the mission statement. She pointed out that language regarding the preferred partnerships needs to be added and clarified. She also highlighted some other verbiage and applicable policy changes that are more applicable. One point in particular concerned language regarding refunds, to which we refund when we cancel something or for injuries, but do not refund if a player is no longer interested.

The group discussed waiving or discounting registration fees for volunteer coaches. Charlie Hoffmann noted that this would be difficult to manage. A better incentive may be to reward coach's families with experience such as tossing out the ceremonial first pitch at the t ball event. Commissioner Whitehouse noted that any efforts including non-financial measures would be well-received to show appreciation to coaches. Perhaps hats and shirts for coaches is a nice way to show them.

COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Conklin noted the Police event upcoming on March 28th to swear in new officers and acknowledge promotions. A new Zoning Officer is expected to be hired in the coming weeks. A paving contract was recently awarded at the last Council meeting.

MISC

The Commissioner adjourned to close session to discuss personnel.

In closing, Commissioner Whitehouse and the group took a moment to commend Commissioner Mike Cecil on his 10 + years of service, professionalism and dedication to the Borough. She highlighted that he has been an incredible mentor. He always added tremendous value to our group and will be sorely missed. Commissioner Cavise credited the success of the basketball program to Mike as well. And several others applauded Mike Cecil as well.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36.