

Regular Meeting
Recreation Commission
Borough of Rumson
May 17, 2023
7:30 PM Bingham Hall
Minutes

Present Were:

Commissioners Chandler, Whitehouse, Levine, Roberto and Cavise.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments by the public. Prior to the meeting, we had an informal discussion with the Oakes family regarding pickleball.

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR

Charlie Hoffmann shared an update on the transition from League Apps to Civic Rec. We are officially live on Civic Rec. All weekly E-blasts will be sent through June 1 on League Apps and on Civic Rec only after June 1.

A summer camp update shared. Sports camps are showing similar numbers as past years. Late fees will start on May 20th. The late fee date has been extended for field hockey camp since the program was added later. Our rowing program took 1st place in the State HS meet in Atlantic City. High School rowing and Learn to Row Summer camps are now open for registration. We are finalizing staff for the summer program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was not an Executive Session period.

NEW BUSINESS

Charlie Hoffmann shared an update on baseball, softball and t ball. TRLL has nearly 500 tickets sold for the Blue Claws event which is slated for this coming Thursday.

The TRLL youth events at RFH vs RBR were well attended as well. Commissioner Roberto shared an update on the T Ball parade which was held on April 22nd. He added that it set a positive tone for the season, which is going well. Commissioner Cavise added that Councilman Conklin said a few nice remarks at the event. The event was attended more by the younger players, as expected. The final day of T-Ball will also feature the T-Ball Fest event which is similar to the opening day event. Rumson will be hosting district games at Piping Rock for softball and Riverside for baseball.

Commissioner Walz added a softball update, noting that the season is going well. She noted how positive the experience on the turf was for the young players. She further noted that some coaches are pithing their best pitcher for the max innings and other coaches do a better job rotating multiple pitchers-which would be a TRLL board issue. The topic of the softball age breakdown (of odd numbered grades) was brought up at the TRLL Softball meeting. Having the

same age groups as the other sports would help us allow more girls to play multiple sports. The topic will be discussed in the off season.

Commissioner Chandler shared an update on girl's lacrosse. Commissioner Cavise praised Commissioner Chandler (coach) Tammi Delaney and others, noting that his daughter is enjoying the program immensely.

Charlie Hoffmann provided an update on Summer Hoops. He said he did not expect to use Forrestdale courts. The registration numbers look similar to last year. He did not expect to change much, keeping with the more laid-back vibe. He did not that we are in need of more coaches. The older divisions would be pick-up/mini tournament format.

Charlie Hoffmann shared an update on the upcoming Memorial Day parade, noting that speakers, singers, organizations antique cars and special guests are all confirmed.

Commissioner Cavise suggested adding summer concerts with several movies and concerts throughout the summer season. Commissioner Whitehouse added that Wednesdays would be a good addition. Charlie Hoffmann asked for suggestions of local bands that could play. The final suggestion was to do 3 summer concerts, followed by 2 movies in September in October-the latter being a Halloween theme.

Our senior citizen fitness class has wrapped up after three sessions. We will be adding a small fee to the program when it resumes in the fall. The classes were led by Senior Fitness instructor Kim Cugini and took place at Bingham Hall. The seniors will be moving their meetings in the Fall to the Courtroom as well.

The group discussed the flag football budget at length. The takeaway was to keep the fees the same across the board. It was suggested to get nice mesh shirts for our uniforms and to do something as a giveaway for the final Super Bowl event(s). We also intend to have a rules meeting prior to the start of the season in hopes of simplifying it. The group suggested that grades 5-8 have a female only division to capitalize on the recent popularity and success of the high school program. It was also suggested that we address the grate on the RFH softball field and cover with a pad or take steps to avoid injury.

The fall rec soccer budget was also discussed at length. We compared our pricing to the neighboring towns. We are looking to have a ref supervisor who would assist in scheduling similar to flag football. Commissioner Cavise cautioned about raising the price-point too much because we do not want to lose kids to other sports or travel soccer. The compromise was a small increase, less than what was proposed. A point of emphasis was to enhance the World Cup day across the board.

Field Hockey is being planned for the fall. We will be meeting with Lauren DiPietro and Sean Bailey who will be leading the program for the fall. Kate Bavuso did a tremendous job last year but her daughter has aged out of the programming and new leadership will be taking place.

The Commission had a discussion with pickleball members prior to the meeting, due to lack of quorum at that time. The plan will be to line Piping Rock for pickleball with temporary lines. We also discussed amending the reservation times to match Fair Haven. They allow residents to register within 3 days of the date, non-residents to register within 6 days of the date.

The travel policy document was discussed. The language was changed regarding the quorum of 5 was amended to read “the majority”. Commissioner Whitehouse noted that she removed some verbiage related to travel that was no longer relevant. We also were going to change “League Apps” to read “Civic Rec”. The intent was to continue to amend the document regularly at upcoming meetings. Commissioner Cavise made a motion to approve the changes made, which was seconded by Commissioner Whitehouse.

Commissioner Chandler spoke with CFO Helen Graves as a follow up from a prior question. Monies eventually are turned into the general fund which is used for park projects and other rec projects.

PARKS AND FIELDS

Kerry spoke with the Engineer regarding resurfacing of the tennis and basketball courts. She will follow up with more specifics when available.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Cavise asked about the Recreation newcomers meeting. Charlie Hoffmann noted that we plan to have a meeting in September with new parents to speak about schedules, values, and the need to volunteer.

Commissioner Cavise asked about the control regarding the cost of travel sports. Commissioner Whitehouse pointed out that facility costs and trainers costs are continuing rising. The pricing is set by the individual organizations.

MISC

Commissioner: Whitehouse asked about the post camp option to follow Victory Park playground camp. Charlie Hoffmann shared that we are looking to do the Girl Scout camp as a post camp option later in the summer.

Commissioner Whitehouse suggested doing Bingo and other adult activities in the Fall as well.

ADJOURNMENT

The June meeting is slated for June 21st. We will be skipping the July meeting as normal. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cavise and seconded by Commissioner Roberto.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03.