

RUMSON RECREATION COMMISSION

Nov 20, 2013

Minutes

Attendance

John Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following members were present: Chairman Lembeck, Bavuso, Chandler, Dengler, McGinty, and Shanley.

Also Present: Sarah Orsay, Director of Recreation

Public Comment Portion

There were members of the public present to speak about two topics: Flag Football Coach Code of Conduct violations and the proposed move to Little League Baseball and Softball.

Mr. Lembeck began by welcoming the public and laying out the ground rules for the Flag Football comments: each sanctioned coach would be allowed 10 minutes to speak and each parent would be allowed 5 minutes. Mr. Lembeck informed the audience that on the advice of the Borough attorney the Commission members would have no response to the comments because the two coaches present had threatened to sue the Borough, the Commission members and several individuals. The Coaches and parents were also informed that by speaking in the public portion of the meeting, all comments would become a part of the public record.

Mrs. Marie McCarty of 5 North Ward read an email of support for Mr. Adam Levy and Mr. Dan Cashion she had sent to Mr. Lembeck, Ms. Orsay and members of the Rec Commission. Mr. Levy and Mr. Cashion were volunteer coaches of her son's 7/8 year old Rumson Recreation Flag Football team who had been sanctioned by the Commission for Code of Conduct violations. [The coaches themselves had informed Ms. McCarty and other parents that they had been sanctioned by the Commission and asked the parents to write letters of support and attend this meeting on their behalf.] Ms. McCarty also expressed concern that sanctioning volunteer coaches for Code of Conduct violations "without a balanced view" would discourage people from volunteering in the future.

Mr. Dan Cashion of 2 Oyster Bay Drive spoke and said he had been sanctioned by the Recreation Commission for Code of Conduct Violations as a Flag Football coach of a 7&8 year old team and he expressed his objection to receiving the written sanction and how the process was handled.

Mrs. Mary Ann Baret of 7 Park Avenue spoke on behalf of Mr. Cashion and Mr. Levy as coaches of her son's team. She indicated that "emotions ran high" this year, but nonetheless expressed support for coaches Cashion and Levy and expressed concern that these violations might reflect negatively on Rumson Recreation.

Mr. Adam Levy of 2 Avenue of Two Rivers South spoke and expressed objection to being sanctioned by the Commission for Code of Conduct violations as a Flag Football coach of a 7/8 year old team and denied any wrongdoing. He cited that he had suffered embarrassment over the situation and called for an independent committee to review the situation.

Mr. Lembeck reminded Mr. Levy that an independent committee, the Recreation Commission, had reviewed the complaints in detail and concluded that the sanctions were appropriate.

The next topic of discussion was an update on Little League baseball from the Rumson representatives on the Two River Little League baseball board, Mr. John Caruso and Mr. Bob Oakes. There were numerous Rumson Rec and Travel baseball coaches present. Mr. Caruso and Mr. Oakes gave an update on potential changes instituted by the Two River Little League Board that might impact the public baseball program. In addition, the Commission and Board members sought input from those present on the potentially more contentious issues surrounding post-season eligibility and team / coach selection. The group also gave suggestions for improving the K-2 Little League feeder programs to heighten the interest of both players and parents.

Several travel coaches requested permanent mounds on some of the fields and temporary fences.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Lembeck called for approval of the October 2013 Minutes. Mr. Bavuso made motion to approve, Ms. Chandler seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks

General Field Status – Aeration and seeding were complete and turf blankets will be laid down this week.

Forrestdale – Ms. Orsay and senior representatives* from the Department of Public Works and Forrestdale School Maintenance Staff, evaluated Forrestdale Field with the Borough Architect David Marks. They discussed the relatively poor condition of the field and examined run-off and drainage patterns. Mr. Marks said he would follow up with Prestige to see what steps could be taken to improve the field's condition.

*Attendees: DPW Superintendent Wellner, Deputy Super Leonard, and DPW Parks Supervisor Anderson; FD Maintenance Supervisor O'Brien and two others from FD

Programs

Basketball – Registration was complete October 31. As of Nov 20 there were 515 children registered, K-8, with 34 teams in Grades 3-8. The Clinic breakdown is K:55, First: 65, Second: 65. New this year: moved the Grades 1 & 2 clinics to RCDS, which allowed room to run a Kindergarten clinic at Deane-Porter for the first time. In fact, there are 3 sessions for the K Clinic so as not to overcrowd the gym, with about 20 on the waitlist for the popular 9am session. Ms.Orsay is also considering purchasing actual jerseys for the Grades 3-8 at a cost of approximately \$5 more than the tees and that the participants could keep. The Commission also discussed team names and Ms. Chandler suggested using college teams, which all were enthusiastic about. Finally, Ms. Orsay said she would like to organize a season-end March Madness tournament and the Commission discussed a "one-and-done" versus "double elimination."

Given the issues with Flag Football coaching violations in the Fall, Mr. McGinty proposed that all volunteer coaches should be approved by the Rec Commission. Ms. Orsay passed around the list of parents who had volunteered and

after some discussion Ms. Chandler raised the motion that these coaches be approved, Mr. Dengler seconded and all were approved.

Soccer – The Soccer season ended on 11/2 with a Tournament of Champions between the Rumson Town Tournament champions in each age division. The Tournament was a huge success. It was hosted by FH and they elected to donate all Concession stand proceeds to Friends of Molly Richards Fund. Molly is a young FH resident with an inoperable brain tumor and the funds will go to offset her medical bills. The tournament raised several thousand dollars for the family, with generous contributions from both Rumson and Fair Haven families. Rumson resident Ms. Gail Tobias organized a children's craft table, which raised several hundred dollars and Ms. Tobias matched 2x over the funds raised from the craft table.

Flag Football – The Flag Football season ended Saturday, Nov 2. With the exception of the Code of Conduct violations discussed in the public session, Ms. Orsay received many positive comments from the parents about the program.

RFH Rowing – Ms. Orsay gave a brief update on RFH High School sponsoring the Spring season. The parents would be responsible for raising all of the funds as RFHRHS cannot contribute any money and is not allow to charge a fee. The parents are considering doing a car raffle with an approximate date of Feb 1 as a "pull" date. There has been a new Committee established with representatives from both legacy teams: Wallhauser, Hughes, Condon, Eskwitt, Hallisey, Cushing. So far the discussions seem to be going well as "one" team.

RFH Rowing Winter Conditioning – The rowing coaches proposed doing a program of weight training, using the facilities at Cooper Rehab, and the erg portion in the RFHRHS Fitness Center. Ms. Orsay would like to offer Winter Conditioning for both High School students as well as 7th & 8th graders, starting in mid-January. Ms. Orsay is looking into the Cooper Rehab option, but concerned with the potential liability, and is putting in a facility request for the Fitness Center. Ms. Orsay proposes doing a Masters level conditioning in April/May prior to the summer rowing season.

Travel Soccer – The season ended Sunday, Nov 17, 2013. Many of the coaches are organizing indoor training and competition for their teams, independent of Rumson Recreation.

Travel Basketball – The 6th, 7th and 8th grade season runs through yearend, with the 3rd-5th taking place January – March, 2014.

Committee Reports

Baseball – the baseball and softball programs were covered in the public portion, but Mr. McGinty inquired if we could consider a raised mound on one of the Riverside fields. He asked Ms. Orsay to look into the cost and the efficacy, as well as the cost of a temporary mound. How would permanent mounds affect Girls' and Men's softball?

Travel Basketball – Mr. Shanley confirmed that it is anticipated that Mr. Mike Cecil will take over as Travel Basketball Coordinator when he officially joins the Commission in December.

Girls Lacrosse – Ms. Chandler said that she had not heard from any select coaches wanting to run teams again this year, but that she needed confirmation by Jan 1 if we were going to sponsor select teams. Ms. Chandler noted that

Grades 5 -8 Coaches must be Level One certified. She also reminded the Committee that Grades 3-8 would need new uniforms this year and that she would likely choose reversible pinnies.

Soccer: Ms. Orsay noted that Edward Young, VP of Hazlet Recreation Soccer, had invited Rumson Rec to participate in a Rec only tournament on May 31 & June 1 (no travel players allowed to participate). Ms. Orsay indicated that this would not work as our teams are disbanded in November, but would be interested in a Fall tournament. Ms. Orsay suggested that perhaps Rumson could organize. She did not seek a vote at this time, just discussion. Mr. McGinty referenced a Halloween Rec Tournament in Manalapan we could investigate.

Special Events

Halloween Parade – the Halloween Parade was Thursday, Oct 31, at Victory Park featuring Yosi as the musical entertainment. Members of the Senior Citizens Club helped distribute day glo bracelets and volunteers from Forrestdale dressed in costume and helped organize the marchers. Ms. Orsay suggested that next year they consider holding the event on the Sunday preceding Halloween, rather than the day itself.

Veteran's Day Ceremony – the Ceremony was held on Nov 11 at 11am at the Victory Park Memorial. Mr. Daniel Edwards was the Master of Ceremonies and Ms. DeVoe introduced our three honored guests, Mr. Don Blessie, Mr. **XX Cavanaugh**, and Mr. Brendan Duffy. Mr. Blessie's remarks were quite poignant and Mr. Cavanaugh's remarks were equally poignant, injected with humor. It was a moving ceremony.

Tree Lighting – the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will be on December 8th at 5pm. Tim McCloone will be the musical guest, Santa, Rudolph, Snowman will be there, and there will be cookies and cider.

Projects

P RTP – Ms. Orsay plans to continue work on this project in the new year

Administrative

Ms. Orsay purchased a **Team Manager** application for the on-line registration system that allows her to link coaches with participants, greatly facilitating the creation of rosters as well as allowing parent to look up Coaches' contact info easily.

Councilman Ben Day added a **Calendar of Events** to both the Borough's website and the Rumson Recreation web site. It is a terrific edition to the sites.

Treasurers Report

Ms. Orsay reported that Rumson Recreation received a \$2000 donation from the Kids Kelleher Triathlon. The only significant change to the balance sheet were basketball revenues – the addition of the Kindergarten Clinic and the move to the larger RCDS gym for the other clinics would bring in greater revenue this year. Ms Orsay anticipates that this income will be offset by increased expenses from basketball for the use of RCDS gym (new this year), door monitors at Forrestdale (implemented in late Jan of last year, not the entire season), and the nicer uniforms. In addition, many of our basketballs need to be replaced.

The Aeration was paid for out of the Parks budget, not Recreation and Forrestdale will reimburse the Borough for the Aeration and seeding done to the FD field.

Old Business

2014 Field & Facility Fees: Ms. Orsay working on a report for next meeting.

New Business

Volleyball – Ms. Orsay mentioned that she would like to add a Volleyball program to the Rec sports roster. The Commission was supportive and Ms. Orsay will investigate and report back a more concrete suggestion.

Open gym for high school age students - Ms. Chandler said she would like to see Rec sponsor an Open Gym program for high school students. No refs, just parent supervisors. We could charge a fee to cover the cost of the gym and ask kids to sign up in order to control the numbers. Ms. Orsay said that the issue would be finding available gym space in the winter. Assuming gym space could be found, Ms. Chandler raised that the motion be approved, Mr. Dengler seconded, and all were in favor.

Travel Soccer – There is a growing expression of interest from parents and coaches in adding Fair Haven to the Rumson Soccer Club program. Ms. Orsay suggested the Commission vote on this in January.

US Sports Institute seeking approval for Spring and summer programs. The Commission voted to approve assuming we have the facility space available. Mr. Bavuso raised the motion to approve, Mr. McGinty seconded, and all voted to approve.

Meeting Adjourned: 9.52pm.