

Recreation and Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 19th, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Borough Hall

Roll was taken.

Roll Call

Present: Christine Christopoul, Lisa Valvano, Kathy Stack, Brian Winters, Sara Kelly, Bill Smith, Joe Kelly, Bob Thoma, John Ciurciu, and Peter Sacco

Approval of Minutes

No meeting minutes for January.

There was no recreation meeting for February.

Recreation & Parks Director's Report

Basketball:

The basketball season has wrapped up except the travel teams are still active. As always, it is a struggle to get coaches but the season went well. Some of the travel teams were upset with the amount of playing time for each child. It was stated that many other towns have very successful, equal playing policies during the season. However, others countered that only one other town, Ridgewood, had some type of minimum playing time rule – not “many other towns”. Also, it was stated that the travel league rules specifically reference that there are no minimum playing time rules. Further, it was stated that parents receive a letter in the beginning of the season, stating to the effect that not all children will receive equal playing time. The letter also puts all issues up front so parents know a head of time. This was a complaint brought up by the recreation committee; there were no complaints from parents.

Baseball/Softball (Girls and Boys):

April 28th is the estimated opening day for baseball. The rec. committee is working with the foundation to change the date and try to make it earlier. Both rec. and travel tryouts are completed. The girls' teams are a little light for both rec. and travel. Most girls are now planning Lacrosse and spring soccer bringing the numbers down for softball. Travel softball will be a 14U and 10U team. It was brought up that some of these other sports are costing more, so there is more commitment to attend practice. The numbers are down as much as losing a total team at each level. For boys travel baseball there will be an 8U, 9U, 10, 11 and 14. It is anticipated that there will many more late signups. All fields have been allocated for practice and games. Overall, the amount of children signed up is average. There have been issues with children playing 2 sports in the season and then quitting halfway through. There is a rule passed that is alright for children to be enrolled in 2 sports during the same season. It was discussed if there was a deficiency in the program and if school enrollment was climbing. The rec. department is down at least 200 children from five years ago.

Lacrosse:

Lacrosse is back to its regular schedule. The turf was divided between the girls and boys on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Boy's lacrosse now has enough coaches. There was a good connection with people at the Super Dome and will be providing clinics weekly. Lacrosse is being structured very much like football and the A and B teams seem to be working. The girl's teams are set and practicing. Boy's teams are still fluctuating with signups. There will be no select Lacrosse team, skill level is lacking.

List of lacrosse coaches was passed around

- Motion to approve coaches
- Brian seconded motion
- Motion passed

Municipal Project Update:

Currently waiting on word from the foundation, but money is going to be donated to the borough. \$10K is allocated in budget for field improvements.

There were a few options where money will be spent to benefit the town:

- Project of upgrading old hockey rink on Pulis to basketball court.
- Drive to Vichiconti Way to make a turn around and more parking at Pulis

Still tentative for approval:

- Money spent to improve the trails.
 - Behind the tennis courts crossing the railroad tracks
 - Money to make improvements by the reservoir to make 2 bridges and connect the trail together
 - Raise money within the town to rebuild the police department and add 2 public bathrooms to the back of the building

Community Center Update:

One of the trainers, Maria will be leaving. She has a substitute that will be taking over her classes. Community center refuses to pay more than \$50 per teacher. Melissa has dropped one of her yoga classes and has asked for a raise. It was discussed if the center should run more as a gym versus an in-town center. If it was run more as a gym there would need to be an expansion of services and equipment.

There would need to be community-wide desire before a community center expansion could even be considered, as opposed to doing upgrades and hoping that then there will be a greater turnout.

Next meeting will be April 16th.

Meeting adjourned.