

**Harrington Park Recreation Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

Chairman DeGruccio called the meeting to order at 8:05pm.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman’s Announcement

In compliance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of the scheduled meeting was made. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center. Copies have been mailed to the BERGEN RECORD, SUBURBANITE, and THE NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS. A copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk, and copies have been mailed to individuals requesting the same.

2. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
(CD) Charles DeGruccio (chairman)	X	
(PB) Paul Baly (vice-chairman)		X
(LC) Lynne Cappelmann		X
(TD) Thomas Donnelly	X	
(PK) Patrick (Kelly) Kramer	X (8:06)	
(AP) Ashely Plescia	X	
(LT) Lara Toomin	X	

ALSO PRESENT:

Joon Chung, Council Liaison (JC) (on the phone)
Carolyn Lee, Secretary (CL)

3. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

No one from the public attended the meeting.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes (February 20, 2019)

Motion: CD

Second: TD

All in favor said “Aye”. None opposed.

5. UPDATES

a. Finance and Budget

Recreation received a grant. JC provided the good news that Recreation received the full grant for \$101, 925. Recreation will need to submit a letter to accept the grant. Construction was less than \$200,000, but addition of engineering and permit (construction close to the stream) costs increased the amount. Previously, permits and engineering costs were not included in the grant. This time the grant will cover half the cost of the permits and 13% towards professional services. This is good news. The

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project must be completed in 2 years. Recreation can modify the project. The main project is the pavilion, but any extra funds can be put towards another potential project to enhance the field. JC proposed TD, CD and the baseball commissioner meet to discuss dugout issues. Greg Polyniak suggested suggested costs ranges from \$5,000-\$20,000 for a dugout, but a \$10,000 dugout would be very good. TD and Peter Toomin can come up with a prioritized list to work on over the years. TD would like field 4 to have a dugout because it is in the sun while the other fields have some shade. CD asked if the money could be spent on a grass catcher. JC said that Open Space could be used. Other areas that could be considered are repairs to the field house (field 3) or removing the moss from the hut roof. JC mentioned that the urgent projects should be addressed first and it would be possible to modify the scope of the project. By this effort, the baseball/softball/t-ball coaches can see that Recreation is trying their best to address these issues. Neglia is the town engineer and will supervise the construction. The construction will be bid out. TD asked if the funds could be used for an AED at the field house or at the hut? JC presented it to the council in the last meeting. The Board of Health had tried to get one and it is costly. JC said if it something we must have, we should get one and find funding for it. The Open Space grant cannot be used for an AED.

b. Field Requests

A. CCHP – Easter Dawn Service (Field Request and COI provided)

CD approved the request and has emailed them.

B. Wild Things – received COI (Lynne)

CD approved the request and will email them.

C. LACROSSE

CD approved the field request and will notify him.

D. Field Coordination

Upper Highland is scheduled by Chris Apostle. If there are games with older girls, field 4 and field 5 cannot be used at the same time.

CD is in contact with Rob and Chris to work out the field use.

The school uses Pondsides. Friday afternoons and nights are available to offer Bergen Catholic.

Lacrosse uses Pondsides after baseball on Tuesdays, Thursdays and a couple of Saturdays.

c. School Coordination

A field request for the school fields must be filed with the school. Lynne coordinates the school field requests.

Charles will confirm if NVSC has filed a request with the school.

d. Sports Coordination

A. Baseball/Softball/T-ball

i. Insurance

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JC spoke to Brian Eifert and confirmed that the town covered insurance for baseball/softball/t-ball. The insurance coverage for directors, officers and coaches is extended another year for the baseball and softball association. Once baseball is part of the town, then everyone is covered.

ii. Transition from the Baseball Association

TD talked to Mike Rutigliano about the remaining balance. The remaining balance was used to pay the umpires for last season. The umpire would prefer to be paid half the amount before and half after.

iii. Website

TD received a call from NBC sports engine sales about a creating a website for free. The annual fee is \$700. There was discussion comparing features of Dick's and NBC sports. At this time Recreation does not want to change providers.

iv. Registration

- AP said that some towns have a cap for families. Signing up multiple kids in one family gets very expensive. With the number of registrations, the fee can be reduced next year. The fees were based on previous year's fees. If the uniforms could be used for many years, the cost of registration could be lowered.

- There are still people registering after the last day. After Friday, there won't be enough uniforms if there are more kids registering late.

v. Rutgers/Concussion Training

The Rutgers course is important for immunity. LT noted that most if not all the volunteer coaches were certified or took the course last week for softball. LT has been reaching out to softball coaches. Closter and Westwood offers classes. CL has a 2015 list of Rutgers certified people in Harrington Park. Very few people have replied to her emails about the importance of Rutgers certification over the past 3 years. Recreation members believe that many have recently been certified. **LT suggested that coaches show their Rutgers card and Concussion certification when they get the uniforms.** After this, Recreation could request a current list from Rutgers. JC would like LT to send out a message to the coaches that the certification is protects them and they should take advantage of it. Proof of certification should be submitted or get a list and keep the file updated. It is strongly recommended that the coaches carry the card.

vi. Uniforms

LT is in the process of ordering the uniforms. A company is designing the logo. Baseball will have uniforms. The socks, belt, pants, shirt and hat costs less than the what the Northern Valley Knights paid for their shirts. Softball's uniform includes visor, shirt and shorts. T-ball includes a t-shirt and hat. Coaches get a hat and t-shirt. LT compared prices and has

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reduced the cost for uniforms compared to previous years while adding additional items to the uniforms. Recreation members applauded LT efforts.

vii. Equipment

Baseball has equipment. Softball may have equipment but needs bats. TD suggested that each team for each grade should have 2 bats. Many kids bring their own bats. Facemasks are strongly recommended for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade baseball. The chest plates are recommended as well.

viii. Opening Day (April 27, 2019 at 9am – no rain date)

- LT said that Shoprite offered to give 200 hamburgers, 250 hotdogs, 250 hotdog buns, 200 hamburger buns, 3 watermelons, 8 bottles of ketchup, 5 bottles of mustard, 10 boxes of foil, 500 napkins, 300 small water bottle, 300 snack size chips. Each kid could get a ticket for the food. Rob Debrino wants to be a sponsor. TD and Rob Debrino will organize something fun for the kids.

- LT suggested that the fire truck be part of the parade. CD said that the fire truck used to be part of the parade. LT will contact the first responders to be involved. LT suggested the high school or the HP band to be part of the parade. There was discussion about where the start of the parade should start. Concerns discussed were the train, parking, food, and bathrooms. The important part is the festivities for the kids. The members decided that the parade will start at the HP School and end a Highland Field.

e. Town Programs

Town Day – First Responders

JC explained that the first responders were hoping to merge with town day and celebrate together. One of the reasons is that National Night Out is in August and not many people are around. Last year, it rained. It would be a lot of fun to have a helicopter and other interesting activities. A portion of the parking lot will be used for the emergency vehicles and first responders. It would be an inconvenience to the residents. Because of the police presence, we are not allowed to sell alcohol. The alliance is for drug prevention provides support for the first responders.

Discussion:

- Activities in the parking lot close to the road was a safety concern for young children
- Drivers coming in and out of the parking lot seemed unsafe
- Parking will be difficult
- Suggested not partnering, but inviting the first responders
- Involvement helps kids and responders connect and makes them approachable
- Trailers could be parked in the basketball court or along the walkway
- Have 2 separate events. It is taking away an event for families

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- Main purpose is town day, but honoring our first responders
- Suggestion to have something on Memorial Day for the first responders
- About 750 attend for National Night Out
- Some members feel that town day's target audience is little kids
- The feel of town day will be changed. Town Day is relaxing
- People like town day the way it is
- Town Day is changed each year to try something different
- People enjoy the beer and may not attend if there is no beer is available
- This is a celebration of Harrington Park's 115th anniversary

Members feel that they do not want to combine town day with first responder activities.

f. Park & Playground Maintenance

i. Field Maintenance

- KK and TD will work together to review the schedule from FieldPro.
- LT talked to Mark Kiernan to provide a weekly schedule for the games.
- There was discussion about a grass catcher for the mower. KJ was looking for funds.
- There are hornets in the fields every year. Does DPW remediate it? In the past the coaches would spray.
- The county will drop pellets in the fields and puddled areas to reduce the mosquitoes.
- The batting cage in Highland Field 4 is cleaned out.

ii. Pondside

Pondside exercise equipment in the back is deteriorating. The wood for the balance beam is not attached to the ground and the pull-up station is not stable.

Vote: To remove the equipment that is deteriorated.

Motion: CD

Second: TD

All in favor said "Aye".

6. PROJECTS

a. Grant Update

See Finance/ Budget section.

7. OTHER ITEMS

a. Softball – Old Tappan resident

A boy wants to play softball in Harrington Park. This is a legal issue and needs to be researched. JC will speak with the Borough attorney. If the child is not an HP resident, the child may not be under the town insurance.

b. Advertising Signs

TD looked at the signs in the field house. Most are in good condition. CD would put the signs up in the fields every year. TD will review and take inventory of the banners and

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write letters to the advertisers. He believes there are about 50 banners that could be placed in the fields in town.

c. Recreation Director

Recreation is eager to have someone in the Recreation Director position. There are some steps to be approved before someone is hired. Members should keep in mind people who may be a match for the job.

d. JIF

Lynne went to the quarterly meeting. CL provides the field and playground checklists that are filled out each quarter. Anything that DPW can fix, CL will email to Mark.

e. Northern Valley Greenway Meeting (Paul)

No one attended the meeting.

8. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is April 17, 2019 at 8pm.