Harrington Park Recreation Commission Meeting

March 13, 2024

Mr. Howe called the meeting to order at 8:04pm.

Call Meeting to Order

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.

Roll Call

COMMISSION Members	**PRESENT**	**ABSENT**
Steve Howe (SH)	X	
Lauren Pribila (LP)	X	
Mahdad Parsi (MP)		X
Barry McAuley (BMc)	X (arrived 8:07pm)	
Ashley Plescia (AMP)	X	
Matthew Saland (MS)	X	
Rob Hwang (RH)		X
Councilwoman Chung (JC)	X	
Lara Toomin, Recreation Director (LT)	X (arrived 8:36pm)	

Approval of minutes of February 2024

Board members said that they had the February 2024 minutes and did not have to be carried to April.

Motion: SH Second: MS

Vote: In favor, all said “aye”. None opposed.

Highland Field basketball/pickleball project (MS)

There are 3 parts of the project which are lining, paving and hoops. 3 quotes are needed with identical specifications for comparison. MS has a company to line the pickleball and basketball courts. MS received a quote for paving. Even though the hoops will be donated, the cost is part of the project. JC will get clarification on the donation of equipment vs funds regarding the hoops. There was discussion on who could install the permanent pickleball posts.

A grant was applied for Highland Field fencing. Fencing is $80/linear foot for the baseball dugout. It is a county contract for fencing. Dugout includes fencing, cost to replace slab, batter warm-up area. The backstops are remaining. Additional fencing was not included. The estimated cost for a backstop would be about $25,000-$30,000 per backstop. There was discussion about the high costs.

MS explained that he spoke to DPW and Finance regarding putting a line for power washing and will be tying with the sprinkler system to Lower Highland fields. They will not run line to field 1. The cost is about $3,000. Upper Highland may already have a line for a water fountain, but it was closed by the water company. Ask Gabriel to wash because it will take time to install lines and purchase equipment. 3 or 4 parents will volunteer as well. As DPW to clear weeds and overhangs from bleachers and batting cage areas.
Quotes should to be sent to the CFO.

Baseball applying for Little League (MS)

This will probably not happen. This was attempted a couple of years ago with NVOT towns. Closter wanted to form a little league charter. There are too many residents in the towns. NVOT towns and NVD towns felt like they did not have enough pool of kids to join. There was discussion on the cost and fundraising required. Summer baseball is an alternate option to Little League.

Peter Toomin - Opening Day is April 27th. There is no rain date. The games will start the Monday after spring break. There are 4 peewee teams (Grade 1 & 2).

7-8th grade use Pondside and are asking to start April 18th. No home game until April 22nd. Fields are not ready, but they can practice. SH asked when field would be ready. There should be black out date for field maintenance. PT has volunteers to paint, but the field house needs to be power washed first. There is a lot of garbage such as old helmets, etc. in field 3 storage. Reach out to Gabriel to power wash. PT wanted DPW to put a dumpster by the field house to clear out the garbage.

NVSC is not permitted to practice in the spring on field 1&2. The fields need a break from soccer. Check with MP.

Speed Soccer - JC asked the attorney whether Speed Soccer goes through the recreation process or a contract. He sugged it go through Lara with the recreation process. Lara has the new waivers from the attorney. There was discussion on why Recreation was allowing groups to use the field during the time when Recreation is getting the fields ready for the new season. Money is used to get the fields ready.

Lara arrived. (8:36pm). Field 3 is available for NVSC.

Summer basketball has been set. MS will coordinate. Grades and sports are staggered with PT.

There was discussion about locking the soccer goals. Because Lisa is away this week, Lara will confirm with KJ if the locks were ordered.

There are soccer goals dumped in the woods. Recreation will need to identify to DPW the equipment that could be collected and recycled.

PT - A parent asked what can be done to get the batting cages fixed? They are replacing the netting on top of Field 4-5. Field 3 batting cage was hit by a tree and the netting is sagging. Would there be a grant to replace it? JC will do the research. People are willing to fundraise.

Summer basketball - Starts June 11
Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays
3-4 boys at 6:30pm
5-6 Girls at 7:30pm
7-8 boys at 8:30pm
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
3-4 girls at 6:30pm
5-6 boys at 7:30pm
7-8 girls at 8:30pm

After the lower court with pickleball court is completed, then the upper court can be improved.

Nat lined the fields once a week as described in the specs. There were various discussions about when the ideal time to line the fields. There was discussion about cutting the grass lower.

PT- getting construction boxes for equipment for fields 1 & 3. No members had an issue with the boxes. PT plans to have them delivered to the DPW.

Recreation will be asking parents to be commissioners.

Basketball/Softball with other towns are going smoothly. Other towns had administrative changes and registration started late. Their registration is down. Other towns are having issues getting parent volunteers. HP is collaborating with other towns. There was discussion about the number of kids in each group and town for teams. There are certain age groups where registration is down.

Park Monitoring (Prior to Meeting Each Month to Allow for Reporting at Meeting)

Pondside

Muggeo Baseball will be renting. Bergen Catholic will rent for rugby.

Highland Field

There is debris in the woods that should be cleaned out. Power wash the shed before painting(blue). This should be done before opening day.

George Street

JC walked through George Street playground with engineer. The mulch needs to be built up 12 inches. DPW is aware. Mayor and Council approved service for $5,000 installation for a smaller area. 2 pieces are being removed and 1 piece to be installed. The grant is for this year and the project must be completed this year.

Tennis court painting will be done when it is 65F for 10 days consecutively. DPW will pull the posts out every winter.

Beechwood

Good. The water should recede. The trees are fine.

Don Horsey

Good. Nothing to report.

Columbus

Nothing to report.

Grants/Budgets

HP applied for the Local Recreation grant is ($20,000 to $100,000). HP would receive a lower amount because it is considered an affluent town and HP is a smaller community.

Other Items/Updates

Norwood Raiders

- There was discussion about the Norwood Raiders. JC suggested Norwood to send a proposal to the HP Mayor and Council regarding Norwood Raiders. Taxpayer funds cannot be allocated to support independent organizations.

Fishing Derby (SH)

- Scheduled for the day before Father's Day. SH will start coordinating.

Tennis Court Security

- HP Recreation will need to determine a process. There is no wifi or electricity, it is difficult to use access codes. Access codes are easily spread to too many people. There is electricity on the street that the courts may be able to access.

Adjourn

Motion: MS Second: AP
In favor, all said "aye". None opposed.
Meeting adjourned at 9:36pm.

NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is April 10, 2024