Harrington Park Recreation Commission Meeting
May 8, 2024 Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

RH opened the meeting at 8:02 pm with the following 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.

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

Approval of minutes of April 2024 RH moved to approve, second SH. All in favor. Carried.

RH moved to open to the public, second SH. All in favor. Carried.

Rob Trainor (resident) spoke about his concern with adolescent cell phone use and social media. He wants to start a movement to give kids real experiences and delay cell phone use. He wants to engage the Rec Commission and will also speak to Junior Women, the School Superintendent, and Mayor and Council.

Cricket O'Neil (resident) said that the Scouts would like to have a rocket derby in either Highland Field or Pondside. There will be about 30 Scouts for 4 hours. They

have insurance and have also asked the School. JC will check with the insurance company. Cricket will contact the emergency services.

Bruce Marshall (resident) spoke about the lightning detection system. LT said that the alert system is being worked on because it is not working right now. Bruce then asked if the Police were notified about Opening Day and said that there should be a presence at town events. He also asked about pickleball. JC spoke about a new grant request: wifi at parks, aerator at pondside. A grant may be sought for a dog park. Also, the walkway needs to be improved. As for pickleball, the Recreation Commission has a sketch and we are trying to come to an agreement with the paving company, but there are questions for the engineer.

RH moved to close the meeting to the public, second SH. All in favor. Carried.

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

The DPW has put up signs at baseball and softball fields.

Pondside

Highland Field

George Street JC reported that the estimate came in about $500 below $65,000. That money can be used to fix one piece of equipment. JC will ask the DPW to look at and order.

Beechwood

Don Horsey

Columbus No update has been received from the water company.

Grants/Budgets

Other Items/Updates

The final inspection was done at the tennis court. The Council would like to only charge professionals for court time. They also want to look into a scheduling app. RH wondered if scheduling could be tied into the Borough website. Courts will be open 8:00-8:00. The question is how to keep the professionals from using the courts without paying.

Mel DiGiacomo passed away. Some residents would like to name a tennis court for him or name his corner. The Mayor and Council will decide.

The Dugout project: Will start end of July and take about 8 weeks. We should be able to get 3 this year. Specifications will go out for bid next week. The dugouts can be finished next year with a recreational facility grant.

Basketball/pickleball court: The engineer has concerns about the aesthetics with only one court and wants to be very sure this is what we want. JC, SH, engineer, and RH will meet and then move forward. RH asked that the engineer send a sketch first.

Fishing Derby: Maybe the Metropolitan Ice Cream Truck will be able to come; maybe everyone who registers will get a ticket for one free ice cream; SH and Krista Milano are working on a flyer.

Town Day Committee: RH, AP, BMc, LP. They will meet 5/16 8:30 via Zoom.

Field Pro lines fields once a week. They gave a price for lining a second time. Parent volunteers will do this.

Adjourn RH moved to adjourn, second SH. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 8, 2024