



**Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, September 23, 2019**

**Present:** Mike Chipowsky, Kevin Kuchinski, Brian Ross, Tom Finn, Kurt Vollherbst, Burt Sutker, Karin Poveromo – Director, and Leslie Conant - Secretary

**Absent:** Theresa Dolhon, Rob Marino, Tom Reinhart, Paul Kinney

**Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Mike Chipowsky.

**Minutes Approval** - The meeting minutes of Tuesday, May 28, 2019 were not approved because the adjournment motion from the last meeting was incorrect, since Tom Finn was not in attendance. The correction was made to the prior minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

**Liaison Report** – Kevin reported that the township committee is currently working with Mercer County on getting in their application in for the Mercer At Play Grant. He asked that the RAC members think about coming up with a plan B when considering other future amenities that this grant could cover. There was also a discussion on how to best approach the concept of building a second turf field.

**Director's First Report**

- Karin introduced herself to the Committee Members and went through her Director's Report
- 2019-2020 Fall/Winter Program Guide was handed out
- Reviewed all of her Community Outreach connections she has made since June
- Went over feedback from Township surveys and conveyed most popular items
- Meetings with various community groups: senior residential communities, church groups and Capital Health
- Update on all of our Field, Parks, and Tennis Courts usage and restoration
- Summer Camps offered and attendance. Mike inquired about camp attendance, Karin answered that it was very comparable to last summer, with sell outs in Teen Travel and Soccer. Softball was canceled due to low attendance, will revisit clinic type camp next summer which was successful in 2018
- Community Trips overview: past, present and future

**Unfinished Business**

- Mercer At Play Grant – What we want to do concerning additional recreation facilities in the Township, to “bring the kids back”. Additional Turf Space at Twin Pines (full field or partial field), Batting Cages, “Turfing” a full field over at Independence Park. Need to look into the financial parameters of both ventures. Would like to see multiple teams’ use of said facility. Would like to reach out to leagues and organizations in Hopewell to get feedback and ideas. Input at a future Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting is warranted (October 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting). Possibly involve Pennington and Hopewell Borough for a combined effort. New corporations will be coming into the area in 2020. Will want to reach out to them to maybe fund some of our Recreation Ideas for the future recreation needs of the Township.
- Field Use Policy review – Opening evening use of the Upper Field at Independence Park this fall to HVSA and NLSA, as they will be supplying their own lights and generator to run night practices. Karin mentioned the idea of charging a small fee for the use of the grass

fields at Independence Park. At one time, the field up keep was done by volunteers of the sport using the field, but in the past couple of years, more of the maintaining has fallen upon the Public Works Department. A minimal fee for the grass field use would help sustain the fields and not have the Recreation Department carry the financial burden of the field use; mowing, fertilizing, and lining. Will contact George Snyder for yearly field maintenance estimate and other surrounding townships field fees. Karin would like to have the teams pay per hour of use, and use the same procedure and payment protocol that has been followed with use of Twin Pines.

#### **New Business –**

- Twin Pines – Karin brought up the need for some type of shelter for the children that use Twin Pines, being that of a safety issue during thunderstorms throughout the spring and summer months. It would be ideal to do some type of structure that might include bathrooms as well. The Green Acres Program limitations were brought up, noting that nothing permanent can be on protected land. The possibility of a port-a-jon trailer came up. Pricing of said structures will have to be explored.
- Christmas Tree Lighting 2019 – Date was set for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, to occur right before the Township Committee Meeting. Discussions were held concerning where the ceremony will occur and what tree will be used. Karin suggested getting a tree from across the street and replanting it on the corner of Scotch and Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, so that it will be most visible, easily decorated, access to electrical supply and close to an indoor facility for small celebratory reception afterwards. Possible singing groups and tree lightning guest(s) of honor.

**Comments for the Good of the Order** – None.

**Meeting Open to the Public** – none present

**Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm with a motion by Mike Chipowsky and a second by Kurt Vollherbst.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28 at 7pm.