



Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, February 18, 2014

Present: Mike Chipowsky, Cathy Sing, Burt Sutker, Todd Brant – Liaison, and Judy Niederer, Director. Kurt Vollherbst was present via conference call.

Absent: Mike Markulec

Call to Order/Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Mike Chipowsky, Chair. The meeting minutes of Monday September 16, 2013 were approved with a motion from Kurt and a second from Burt.

Welcome new liaison – Todd Brant

The group welcomed Hopewell Township Committee Member Todd Brant to the Recreation Advisory Committee. He will serve as the liaison to the HTC and keep the RAC informed of news that relates to recreation and likewise report our business to the township committee. He is a voting member of the RAC.

Election of Officers

A nomination was made by Kurt Vollherbst and seconded by Burt Sutker to elect Mike Chipowsky as Chairman for 2014. A unanimous vote in favor of the nomination was made.

A nomination was made by Mike Chipowsky and seconded by Cathy Sing to elect Burt Sutker as Vice-Chairman for 2014. A unanimous vote in favor of the nomination was made.

Director's Report – Judy Niederer

- **Past Events** - Annual NY City Shopping Express, “White Christmas at the Surflight Theatre on LBI, Community Tree Lighting Ceremony, American Music Theatre 2013 Christmas Show & Shady Maple, 2/11 Doolan’s Shore Club in Spring Lake – Mardi Gras, 2/17 & 18 Teen 2-day Baseball Pre-season Clinic at CHS, 2/18 Teen Ski and Snowboard Trip to Shawnee Mt.
- **Upcoming Events** – 3/6 Philadelphia International Flower Show “ARTiculture”, 3/15 Philly Pops tribute to Marvin Hamlisch, 3/26 “Bridges of Madison County” on Broadway, 4/3 Bally’s Atlantic City, NJRPA Conference March 2-5 “Inspiring Communities” Mind, Body & Soul
- **Ongoing Programs** - Speed & Agility Training – 56 participants this year, Jr. Bulldog Wrestling – 32 participants this year. More participants due to the success of the high school wrestling program. The varsity and jr wrestlers are helping with instruction of the junior wrestlers.

- **2013 Annual Report** - All members received a copy of the report. It was suggested that somewhere in the report it should be documented to show how the youth programs are acting like a “farm system” in that our high school sport programs are very successful and part of that success is because our youth are receiving quality instruction by a great coaching staff and there is continuity in the instruction from an early age. The youth programs do have an impact on the quality of programs at the junior high and high school level. Cathy suggested that the same is happening with the arts as the summer Art in the Park Program provides excellent programming for youth with an interest in the arts. In looking at the Revenue report section, Kurt suggested that we look at the actual cost of electric at Twin Pines and look at what the revenue is providing to offset that expense. Judy mentioned that although the revenue helps to offset the expense the cost to just bring electric to the site is significant even when the lights are not in use. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **New for 2014** – Judy reviewed some of the initiatives that are being developed by the Recreation Department. They include:
 - On-line registration – still a work in progress but a needed change due to outdated software. Presently getting comparisons with 1-2 other providers but Capture Point’s Community Pass registration system is being considered.
 - Developing relationships with community businesses to expand the programs that we offer by utilizing partners within our community. Will be working with Motion Gymnastics and reaching out to other businesses to become partners. A simple agreement has been drafted and will be reviewed by the township attorney.
 - USTA 10 & under tennis program – perfect timing as we hope to get capital funding to re-surface the tennis courts and can add blended lines to the existing court surfaces. This would allow up to four courts on one existing tennis court for the 10 and under program.
 - Family trips – want to introduce new, younger families to the programming of the Recreation Department by establishing community trips for families. Two this year; Cape May Zoo and Dutch Apple Theatre for a children’s show.
 - High School Travel – this program would expand upon the popular Teen Travel Camp. Judy will be working with the Youth Advisory Board at the high school to get their input and ideas to develop this new program.

Unfinished Business

Membership – Judy provided a sample press release to notify the community that the RAC is looking for interested residents to become members. She also presented a sample letter addressed to the Youth Sport Organizations asking the same. Todd will

let the HTC members know that the RAC is actively reaching out to the community to increase membership in the RAC. It was suggested that the press release also go out to the Hopewell Sun and the Hopewell Express as well as the Hopewell Valley News.

New Business

- 2014 Spring/Summer Program Fees – the group was presented with a Resolution that will establish the fees for all of the spring/summer programs and camps. Judy mentioned that as per the request of the township committee, the program fee for non-residents is approximately 15% higher than the fee for township residents who receive a discount on all program fees and camp registrations. The summer camp registration fees will be \$20 higher per participant for all non-residents. This averages to a 15% difference. A motion was made by Burt to approve the recommended program fees with a second by Cathy. All members were in favor.
- A motion was made by Kurt and seconded by Cathy to approve a Resolution that recognizes Chris Geddis; a long-time community volunteer with the Hopewell Valley Soccer Association. This will be on the next HTC meeting agenda for approval.
- 2014 RAC Goals - the group thought that some of the goals for 2014 for the RAC would be as follows:
 - Fill empty position on RAC
 - Expand the programming of the Recreation Department to include some of the local businesses and utilize their services and skills to provide more opportunities for programming. Kurt suggested that we also look at businesses to partner with that would provide opportunities for adults. Judy will work with Stony Brook Golf to pursue this further.
 - Look at the possibilities of an adult school.
- Review of Field Use fees – will be placed under unfinished business to be discussed at March meeting. Judy will bring information on the electric costs at Twin Pines. Judy will also look into other turf fields and what they are currently charging for comparative purposes.
- HVBSA Signage for MAC Site – the group reviewed the new signage that the HVBSA wants in place at the MAC site. These signs would provide direction for residents that may want to utilize the facilities. Proper contacts are on the signs. There were several recommendations that were offered and Judy will make these changes and forward to the township attorney and the insurance provider for review and approval.

Comments for the Good of the Order

Mike mentioned that the HV Veteran's Group will once again sponsor the annual Fireworks display. This event will be held the last Sunday evening in June.

Burt mentioned the annual "Run for Dad" will be held on Father's Day at Veteran's Park in Hamilton Township. He wanted to know how we could promote this event and it was suggested that a Resolution in support of the organization and event be drafted for

discussion and approval at the next meeting so it could be presented to the Township Committee for approval.

Kurt mentioned that the Hopewell Valley Recreation Foundation was working on the possibility of bringing a Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. clinic to the valley. They are also discussing the Criminal Background check process and sexual abuse education. Judy said she will re-send the township's Criminal Background Check FAQ sheet and copy of the ordinance pertaining to the requirement to obtain criminal background checks to all the youth sport organizations and remind them of this requirement. This will be a good time of the year for the volunteer coaches to get this done, prior to the seasons starting. This will go out to HVLAX, HVBSA, HVSA, HV Pop Warner, Penn U, and Next Level Soccer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm with a motion by Burt and a second by Cathy.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the RAC will be **Monday, March 17 at 7pm.**