



Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014

Present: Mike Chipowsky, Brian Ross, Burt Sutker, Kurt Vollherbst, Todd Brant – Liaison, and Judy Niederer, Director.

Absent: Mike Markulec, Cathy Sing

Call to Order/Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Mike Chipowsky, Chair. The meeting minutes of Tuesday February 18, 2014 were approved with a motion from Burt and a second from Kurt.

Welcome new member – Brian Ross

The group welcomed new member Brian Ross to the Recreation Advisory Committee. Brian recently moved into the area with his wife who is a teacher in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District for 13 years and their three daughters. They are currently involved in a number of township activities including basketball, lacrosse, dance and gymnastics. Brian is interested in Recreation and becoming involved in the community. Brian was given a very brief overview of some of the recreation activities within the township.

HT Committee Liaison Report – Todd Brandt

Todd reported that the Resolution honoring Chris Geddis was approved at a previous Township Committee meeting.

Director's Report – Judy Niederer

- **Past Events** - 3/26 “Bridges of Madison County” on Broadway was sold out, 4/3 Bally’s Atlantic City, 4/23 “Les Miserables” on Broadway, 4/30 QVC Studio Tour, 5/6 Oheka Castle Tour & Lunch
- **Upcoming Events** – 5/20 to 22 overnight Community Trip to Newport, RI and Block Island, 5/30 Phillies vs. Mets at CB Park, 6/3 River Lady Cruise on the Toms River
- **Ongoing Programs** – Golf lessons at Stony Brook Golf Course – working with the Pro Matt Callahan.
- **New for 2014** – Gymnastics Camp, working with Motion Gymnastics

Unfinished Business

- **Membership** – Todd is still announcing the openings for the RAC at the township committee meetings and we did bring on our newest member; Brian Ross.
- **Review of Fees** – Judy is working on a comparison of other municipal recreation department fees for the use of fields. Have received info from Lawrence and

Montgomery but nothing for turf fields. Will reach out to Hun, Lawrenceville Prep and Stuart to find out what they charge. Had a discussion on the electric at Twin Pines. The cost is really in the delivery of electric to the sight. Total cost for 2013 was \$24,000, income for lights only was \$6,000. This does not take into account any payment that may have come from Lawrence Twp. Their irrigation system works on the same meter. Todd to find out if Hopewell Township has entered into any agreement with Lawrence Township yet.

New Business

- “Run for Dad” Resolution – was read into the record and a motion was made by Burt and seconded by Kurt and passed unanimously to forward this Resolution to the Township Committee to approve at their meeting of June 9th.
- CapturePoint – Judy provided the committee with an overview of what this new online service will provide along with the costs of approximately \$2,499/year. These costs would be programming costs and would be paid through the Recreation Trust.
- Park Rules & Regulations – we were asked to look at the rules to include a provision for snow shoveling on the turf field. There is already a provision in the township ordinance that governs the use of parks and facilities regarding “no trespassing” when facilities are marked closed. Proper signage will be posted at Twin Pines next winter regarding closure of field and parking lot.
- Twin Pine Bleachers – the RAC was informed that a group was interested in purchasing bleachers for the turf field at Twin Pines. The sticking point is who becomes the “owner” of the bleachers and in turn who is liable. Kurt reminded the group that the township was going to provide the basics and the groups were going to be responsible for the amenities. There was consensus that if the group wants to purchase bleachers, they would become the township’s property and there would be no credits for any free play involved.

Comments for the Good of the Order

Kurt had four items for the comments section. The first was the Rutgers Safety Clinic that was held – there were 35 attendees and it was suggested that another clinic be held in the fall. There was also some discussion as to whether the township should require all coaches to complete this safety training. Judy will ask all of the youth sport organizations what their current safety and training requirements are. The next item was asked of Todd about any discussions in the budget meeting regarding Recreation. If there was any concern about the Recreation program in budget meetings, the RAC should be notified so they could take part in any budget discussions that concerned Recreation. Third, Kurt mentioned about a Community Center and that the RAC should also be involved in any of these discussions. Lastly, Kurt talked about the Else property which is designated for active recreation. Hang-up is access. Is there any way we can press for access to this property?

Mike mentioned about the Memorial Day soccer tournament this weekend. He also mentioned that there is a Memorial Day Ceremony at Alliger Park at 11am this Saturday and the Hopewell Parade is Sunday at 1pm and the Pennington Parade is Monday at 11am. The Fireworks event will take place on Sunday June 29th with the Army Band Concert at 7:30pm with fireworks to follow.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm with a motion by Kurt and a second by Burt.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the RAC will be **Monday, June 16 at 7pm.**