



Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

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

Absent: Mike Markulec, Cathy Sing, Burt Sutker

Call to Order/Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Mike Chipowsky, Chairman. The meeting minutes of Monday, July 21, 2014 were approved with a motion from Kurt and a second from Brian.

HT Committee Liaison Report – Todd Brandt

Todd reported that the settlement with the remaining parcels of Twin Pines is eminent and the township is still waiting on documents to be signed and some of the financial components of the transaction to be completed. He also reported that he had a discussion with Paul regarding the placement of the Senior Center at Twin Pines and the thought was that it would be duplicative at this location because both Four Seasons and Wellington Manor have Senior Centers nearby. In addition, when a parcel of land is purchased with Green Acres money, an enclosed structure cannot be built on the open space land.

Director's Report – Judy Niederer

- **Past Events** - Judy reported that the most recent trips were sold out events including the 9/2 trip for "A Chorus Line" at the Surflight Theatre in LBI and the 9/11 Baltimore Inner Harbor Tall Ships Trip.
- **Upcoming Events** – 10/1 Kitchen Kettle Village, Lancaster, 10/15 "Fiddler on the Roof" New Candlelight Theatre, Wilmington DE, 10/28 Bally's AC, 11/6 American Treasure Tour, 11/15 Christiana Mall Shopping Trip, 12/2 Cape May Victorian Christmas, 12/6 Annual NYC Shopping Trip, 12/9 Radio City Christmas Spectacular
- **Summer Camp updates** – it was reported that many of the summer camp registrations are down from the past couple of years. This is due in part to the school enrollment numbers decreasing and the possibility that more families are traveling more and taking more vacations.
- **Capturepoint Update** - it was reported that Judy and Jacci will begin training for the new online registration system on Wednesday, 9/17. Because of this transition to online registration, the Fall/Winter Program Guide is not being printed. A press release will be sent to the Hopewell Valley News outlining our new online registration and the department will continue to do some direct mailing. The savings of not printing the program guide will more than cover the cost of the annual fee for the online registration.

Unfinished Business

- **Review of Fees** – Judy provided the committee members with a comparison sheet that showed the field use fees for other municipalities including Lawrence Twp., Montgomery Twp., South Brunswick, and the turf field fees at Hopewell Valley CHS and MCCC. After some discussion on the fees it was noted that we are lower than some municipalities and higher than others. The committee recommended that the fees charged for the use of our fields was adequate and should be maintained for 2015. It was also discussed that the committee would look to increase fees for 2016 and would have a meeting in 2015 with this as the topic and invite all of the youth sport organizations to that meeting to be a part of that discussion. It was felt that the organizations should be notified now of the impending field use fee increase for 2016 so they could make any necessary changes to their registration fees for 2016.

The committee is interested in seeing a breakdown of the field use by organization and the revenue being collected from all of the groups using our fields. Judy will prepare this for the October meeting. The committee is also interested in knowing the electric costs for Twin Pines and this will be presented at the October meeting as well.

New Business

- **Annual Community Tree Lighting** – This item is on the agenda to begin the discussion of this year's event. Todd will confer with the governing body to see if they would still like to hold this event on the second Monday of December, prior to the regularly scheduled HTC meeting. We will have further discussion about a possible "guest of honor(s)" at the annual Community Tree lighting.
- **Shed at Twin Pines** – Judy mentioned that two other youth sport groups have asked to put a shed at Twin Pines to store items necessary for their practices and games. The committee does not want to have a group of sheds at this location as they want uniformity with whatever storage facility will be located here. Judy will check with Paul as to the limitations and/or guidelines of having a storage facility. Perhaps the township could build a storage facility and "rent" out spaces to the groups. There was some discussion about the bleachers and Todd indicated that this could be discussed again once we are in possession of the additional acreage at Twin Pines.
- **Fall/Winter Program Fees** – Judy provided the committee members with a listing of some upcoming Community Trips and programs for pricing consideration. She also asked the committee to consider approving a "range" of prices for the community trips from \$30 to \$160 with an additional 15% added to non-residents. Because the Fall/Winter program guide is not being printed, additional community trips will be added sometimes on a monthly basis and this would eliminate the need for a new Resolution every time a new trip was set up. The committee agreed that approving a range of pricing would be acceptable in this manner because each and every trip is priced differently according to the trip costs and that as long as the non-resident rate was consistently 15% higher, the director could set the pricing for the individual

trips. A motion was made by Kurt, seconded by Brian and unanimously approved by the committee to recommend that the Township Committee approve the Fall/Winter fees as set in the attached Resolution.

Comments for the Good of the Order

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm with a motion by Kurt and a second by Brian.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the RAC is scheduled for **Monday, October 20 at 7pm.**