



Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014

Present: Mike Chipowsky, Brian Ross, Kurt Vollherbst, , and Judy Niederer, Director.

Absent: Todd Brant – Liaison, Mike Markulec, Cathy Sing, Burt Sutker

Call to Order/Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Mike Chipowsky, Chairman. The meeting minutes of Monday, September 15, 2014 were approved with a motion from Kurt and a second from Brian.

HT Committee Liaison Report – Todd Brandt

Todd was unable to attend the meeting. He reported via email that the township is waiting to set a closing date on the remaining property at Twin Pines.

Director's Report – Judy Niederer

- **Past Events** - Judy reported that the 10/1 Kitchen Kettle Village trip to Lancaster was postponed to spring due to low enrollment. The 10/15 "Fiddler on the Roof" community trip to the New Candlelight Theatre in Wilmington DE was a sold-out trip and that everyone enjoyed this new venue and would like to return. It was easy to get to, the show was terrific and the food was very good. They mostly enjoyed the great atmosphere at this renovated barn turned into a theatre.
- **Upcoming Events** – 10/28 Bally's AC, 11/6 American Treasure Tour, 11/15 Christiana Mall Shopping Trip, 12/2 Cape May Victorian Christmas (sold out), 12/6 Annual NYC Shopping Trip, 12/9 Radio City Christmas Spectacular (sold out)
- **Capturepoint Update** - Judy and Jaci are continuing with their training on CapturePoint. They are adding new programs and tweaking the online registration forms. The beginning work is tedious but once the templates are in place, new programs will be able to be added with ease. They system is expected to launch by the beginning of December if not sooner.

Unfinished Business

- **Annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony** – A suggestion was made that we honor the artists that designed and painted the Oxen that have been placed throughout the valley. This "Stampede" has created a buzz throughout the valley. They have brought out many people to find and view the oxen, encouraged spending time with family and friends to search for the oxen, promoted good will and community spirit throughout the valley and they have prompted people to talk about the oxen and engage in conversations with other neighbors. Because of all of the positive reactions that were brought about by the "Stampede", the designers and artists will be invited to the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony to

help us “light up our community” by plugging in the lights to our Community Tree on the front lawn of the municipal building. It was suggested that perhaps a couple of oxen be placed on the front lawn for the ceremony. Members of the RAC agreed with the recommendation to have the artists be this year’s guests of honor. It was also mentioned that there are several sports teams that are doing extremely well this fall and they should be considered if warranted. Judy will reach out to the HV Arts Council to coordinate the event.

- Kurt wanted to continue a previous discussion the RAC had regarding coaches safety training. Judy had reached out to all of the youth sport organizations asking them what, if any requirements they placed on their volunteer coaches to coach in their organization. The response from Pop Warner was that they require all of their coaches to attend the Rutgers Safety Clinic and complete a USA Football Level 1 coaching course online. They also require at least one coach from each level to take an online concussion awareness course. PW National also mandates that coaches and board members submit a yearly background check form. The background checks are done through an online company (First Advantage). In addition, the township requires that all coaches have a fingerprint background check done. No other youth sport organizations responded to the request made by the Director. This includes HVBSA, HVSA, and HVLAX.
- It was suggested that the RAC invite representatives from the youth sport organizations to the November RAC meeting to discuss the possibility of the township requiring all youth sport volunteer coaches to take a coaching safety training course (much like the Rutgers course).

New Business

- **Approval of 2015 RAC Meeting Dates** – The RAC members agreed that the third Monday of the month was a good night to meet and agreed that this meeting night would continue into 2015. Judy will coordinate the dates with Kathy N. for the township calendar.
- **Skate Park Lights** - Judy reported that a resident had contacted her regarding having lights at the Skate Park. This is the first such request that has been made. The resident mentioned that there are a number of youth that would use the skate park at this time of year if there were lights. It gets dark very early and the weather is still nice (they actually skate year round). The members of the RAC asked if there was conduit in place when the skate park was built and Judy will find out. It was suggested that we find out how much it would be to rent lights for one night per week in the fall, check on any liability issues, and also check with Mercer County to see if they could supply lights to us at no cost. It was also asked that if there was enough interest, could the skaters and other friends of the skate park raise enough money to fund lights. Further discussion and answers at next meeting.

Comments for the Good of the Order

Kurt recently attended a meeting of the HV Recreation Foundation. It was mentioned that our turf price was cheaper than other turf fields. Some other items Kurt wanted to touch on were:

- The RAC should continue its discussion regarding a coaches safety training course.
- Question was asked about our background checks and who performs them. Judy reported that Morpho Trac is the State Police approved agency that conducts all of the fingerprinting and background checks at a cost of \$26 per volunteer coach.
- Storage Shed – we should look into having one facility for all groups. Can this be a 2015 Capital request and what if any are the Green Acres rules for allowing.
- It was suggested that there be more garbage cans at Twin Pines. Judy reported that the garbage cans at Twin Pines are on the Lawrence Twp. end of the property and they empty them. Like Independence Park, Twin Pines is a carry-in, carry-out facility. Garbage cans have been removed from our parks because they get filled with residential garbage and we do not have the personnel to dump the cans every day. The carry-in, carry-out policy works well for the most part and we are consistent with the policies of the county and state parks.
- Bleachers – can this item be requested in the 2015 capital budget
- The Recreation Fall Ball will be held on Saturday, November 22 at the Hopewell Valley Golf Club. This year, the Rec. Foundation does not have a big fund raising project and will be using funds to issue grants. The grant applications and criteria are being formed by the Rec. Foundation.

It was suggested that we bring the conceptual plan for Twin Pines to the next meeting. It was also suggested that we update our field inventory and take a look at the old Kinsey Report to see where we stand as a community in providing some of the suggested recreation facilities from that report and to update our list of what comes next.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm with a motion by Kurt and a second by Brian.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the RAC is scheduled for **Monday, November 17 at 7pm.**