

Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014

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

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

Also attending: Brian Barr, Michael Cane and Nathan Lautermilch from HVSA; Deb Howlett, President of HVLAX; Rob Marino from NLSA, Scott Markulec from Pennington United Soccer and Chuck Turi, resident.

Call to Order/Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Mike Chipowsky, Chairman. The meeting minutes of Monday, October 15, 2014 were approved with a motion from Brian and a second from Kurt.

HT Committee Liaison Report – Todd Brandt

Todd was unable to attend the meeting due to the re-scheduled Township Committee meeting being held at the same time.

Director's Report – Judy Niederer

- **Past Events** - Judy reported that the 10/28 Bally's AC trip and the 11/6 American Treasure Tour were both sold out events. The 11/15 Christiana Mall Shopping Trip was cancelled.
- **Upcoming Events** – 12/2 Cape May Victorian Christmas (sold out), 12/6 Annual NYC Shopping Trip, 12/9 Radio City Christmas Spectacular a second bus was added to accommodate more participants.
- **Capturepoint Update** - Judy and Jacci are continuing to input participants into the new online registration system. The new system has generic reports but they will be trained on building reports that are more specific to our programming.

Unfinished Business

- **Skate Park Lights** - The discussion regarding lights at the Skate Park continued. There is no conduit that was ever put in place for lights when the skate park was constructed. Chuck Turi was in attendance and thanked the committee for continuing the discussion and being in favor of pursuing this idea. Judy reported that looking at skate parks throughout the state of NJ, there are a couple with lights; two of them being indoor skate parks and the other two being located near the shore. Most of the skate parks listed in the directory did not have lights. Judy will reach out to the MEL/JIF to see what the township's insurance carrier's thoughts are on lighting the skate park on a trial basis. Mike Chipowsky will look into the possibility of having portable lights donated on a trial basis.

- **Youth Coaches Safety Training** – Representatives from the various youth sport organizations were invited to attend this meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a requirement for all coaches to have the Rutgers SAFETY training or a course comparable to this one if they use township facilities. The RAC wanted to get input from these groups to see first of all what they required of their coaches and secondly, would this additional requirement be a burden on recruiting new coaches. Here are the highlights from the discussion:
 - ◇ Scott took the Rutgers course and found it to be helpful and would recommend other coaches take it as well. Pennington United required their coaches to have a coaching license which covers very similar material as that taught in the Rutgers course. There is value in taking the class but it could be a detriment to recruiting coaches if another training requirement is placed upon them. If it is required, it would be better if we could offer it here so coaches wouldn't have to travel to take the course.
 - ◇ HVSA commented that all of their travel coaches are required to have the F license for coaching soccer which they feel is comparable to the Rutgers SAFETY course. This license requires 4 hours of classroom time and an additional 5 hours of time on the field for a total of 9 hours of training to obtain this coaching license. They encourage all of their recreational soccer coaches to obtain this license but it is not required. In addition they require all coaches to obtain a Concussion certificate which is an online course. Lastly, NJ Youth Soccer requires all coaches to fill out a Kid Safe Form which is done annually and it asks for personal information about the coach, how many years they have been working with youth, how many years coaching soccer and signed by each volunteer coach. This is kept on file by HVSA. All of this adds to the time commitment of the volunteer coaches.
 - ◇ It was mentioned that liability for the coaches is lessened by taking these courses.
 - ◇ At one time all baseball coaches had to have the Rutgers SAFETY training unless you also had the F license from being a soccer coach then you would be exempt. There was no feedback from HVBSA at this meeting.
 - ◇ Deb Howlett from HV Lacrosse stated that all of their coaches for girls lacrosse hold a level 1 license which is an on-line training course plus a 7 hour in person, on field clinic. This course includes a section on positive coaching, first aid and an NCSI background check. It covers a lot of what the Rutgers training covers. Girls lacrosse – has to have level 1 license and they encourage the assistant coaches to have the license. Boys – not a requirement but they encourage it. All select team coaches have to have the level 1 license. US Lacrosse has two separate requirements because the games and the rules governing the sport are different.
 - ◇ Do you think this requirement is unreasonable? It was thought that it would be a good idea that every coach should have some type of training but unsure as to whether or not it should be mandatory.

- ◇ It was pointed that out that parents/coaches of the younger kids (ages 5 & 6) should not have to have the extended training for D1 level.
- ◇ There are about 20 coaches in D2 and D3 soccer so if this was required, the first year there could be 20 coaches that would have to have the course.
- ◇ State of NJ requires an F license for all travel soccer coaches. There is also a requirement for a concussion certification – all coaches must take this as a requirement from NJ Youth Soccer.
- ◇ Judy to make a list of the organizations stating what they require and then send that out to the organizations to fill in the blanks.
- ◇ It was suggested that a form asking for this information be made up and sent to all of the youth sport organizations that asks specifically what they require of their coaches. This way, everyone is supplying the same information.
- ◇ Also, see if there is a level of interest to see if there are additional coaches that want to take the Rutgers SAFETY training and if so, we could host the next training course.
- ◇ Could the Recreation Foundation pick up the fee to host the training course? Kurt suggested that after this year's Fall Ball, the Recreation Foundation will be giving out grants to organizations for special projects. This would be a great grant request. Perhaps we could ask for enough to send 2-3 coaches from each organization to the training course.

While the representatives from the youth sport organizations were present, these items were discussed as well:

- **Storage Shed** - Because all of the soccer organizations were in attendance, they asked about the possibility of adding more sheds to store their equipment. Mike suggested that we should have one building that could be shared by multiple organizations. Ideally, if we could have a building for storage and also a roof for safety to get the kids off the field in case of inclement weather. This would benefit all the users of the facility. If they would like to get together to come up with something on a temporary basis, the groups should present their ideas/request to Judy.
- **RAC Members** – Judy suggested that all of the groups consider having a representative become a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee.
- **Annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony** – The Hopewell Valley Arts Council is excited to have been asked to be the guests of honor at this year's Community Tree Lighting. They will be reaching out to the artists to let them know about the invitation. The singing group Con Brio from the high school and the Treble Makers from Bear Tavern will perform some music. The boy scouts have been asked to assist in the event. Refreshments will be served.

New Business

- None

Comments for the Good of the Order

Kurt mentioned that he had been talking with Paul about the formation of a trails committee. He suggested that this should be a sub-committee of the RAC and asked Brian to consider being a member. It was suggested that if a committee was formed, they should meet after the RAC meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm with a motion by Kurt and a second by Brian.

Next Meeting

There is no December meeting of the RAC. Instead, members are encouraged to attend the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, December 8th at 6pm.