



**Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 15 2015**

**Present:** Todd Brant – Liaison, Mike Chipowsky, Tom Finn, Brian Ross, Mark Shreve, Burt Sutker, Kurt Vollherbst, and Judy Niederer, Director.      **Absent:** Tom Hare, Mike Markulec

Also Present: Harvey Lester – HT Mayor, Brian Barr – President of HV Soccer Association

**Call to Order/Minutes Approval**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mike Chipowsky, Chairman. The meeting minutes of Monday, May 18, 2015 were approved with a motion from Burt and a second from Kurt.

**HT Committee Liaison report – Todd Brant**

Todd reported that a bid was accepted for the demolition of the hangars at Twin Pine and is on the HTC agenda of 6/22 to be awarded. Judy will reach out to Paul to see when this work will be scheduled.

**Director's Report – Judy Niederer**

- **Past Events** – 5/27 Overnight trip to Cape Cod & Martha's Vineyard- this trip was attended by 50 people who all had a great time. Brought together classmates, friends, neighbors, and family for a trip that many could otherwise not go on. All appreciated the planning that went into this event and are anxious for next year's trip. 6/1 Stony Brook Health Fair- Judy attended this event to help promote summer camp activities, 6/3 "An American in Paris" on Broadway was a sold out trip.
- **Upcoming Events** –6/22 Yankees vs. Phillies Baseball Game (sold out) and 7/15 River Belle Paddlewheel Luncheon Cruise on the Manasquan River (sold out).
- **Summer Camps and TTC updates** – Registrations are still being taken for all summer camps. There is good sign-up for the new Junior Travel Camp for the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders with 22 attending. Perfect number for the first year of this new camp. The Teen Travel camp registration is going very well with three of the weeks full.

**Unfinished Business**

- **Youth Coaches Safety Training** – The DRAFT Resolution regarding the Youth Coaches Safety Training was sent out to all RAC Members and to representatives of the youth sport organizations for their review prior to tonight's meeting. All youth sport representative were invited to attend the meeting to discuss the proposed Resolution and to provide ideas and/or concerns regarding the new policy that may be put in place.

Brian Barr was present to represent the HVSA. A representative from Pop Warner had called to say their Board was meeting at the same time and they would be discussing the proposed Resolution as well.

**Comments regarding the proposed Resolution:**

- HVSA requires all travel soccer coaches to have an "F" License in order to coach a travel soccer team. This is a nine hour course that consists of a combination of on-line and on-field

training and includes all elements of the “Little League Law”. All soccer coaches also have to have a Concussion Certification and fill out a Kid-Safe Form that HVSA keeps on file for all coaches.

- Some of the concerns were that there is always a time constraint to comply with all of the coaching requirements. The other concern was that this would add to the cost of becoming a volunteer coach.
  - There was discussion as to how long coaches should have to comply with any requirement of taking a safety course. The consensus was that the period of time should not be too long because the season could be over before they even take the course. It was suggested that coaches be given 30 days from the time that the sport’s registration process ends.
  - It was suggested that in order to be more pro-active with this requirement there should be at least two safety courses offered within the year with the most appropriate time to be decided. The consensus of this discussion was that there should be a class offered in early spring (March) and again in late summer (September). It was also suggested that all coaches from the youth sport organizations be made aware of other safety courses that were being offered in other municipalities to give them more options.
  - There was also discussion as to whether this new requirement should be in the form of a Resolution or a Township Ordinance. If it were to be in the form of an Ordinance, it would become part of the Rules & Regulations governing Parks and would have more effectiveness. Judy would discuss with the township clerk and administer regarding this concern.
  - There will be cost involved in hosting a youth coach’s safety training course. This is approximately \$250 per session. The RAC felt that they could make a grant request of the Recreation Foundation to cover the cost of the class. The administration of the class could be handled by the Recreation Department or the youth sport organizations could take turns hosting these classes.
  - It was discussed that the 5-6 learning objectives of the coach’s safety training be spelled out in the Resolution and the wording should be consistent throughout.
  - Another revised copy will be prepared with all of the above concerns in mind and will be sent out to all RAC members and the youth sport organizations for another review.
- **Part-time Recreation Program Assistant** - Judy prepared a job description for this position to replace the full-time Executive Secretary position. Once approved, the job will be posted and advertised. Other staff members will be picking up some of the responsibilities of the position until there is adequate coverage in the Recreation Department.

### **New Business**

- Sports related concussion protocol document. Judy just wanted the RAC members to be aware that the Recreation Department was in receipt of a “Model Resolution Adopting a Sports Related Concussion Protocol” that was distributed by the NJ Safety Institute. The NJRPA was not involved in the drafting of this sample resolution nor do they endorse it. They will be working with the NJ Brain Injury Association to develop a Model Policy that would be specific to Recreation Departments. You will be kept posted.

### **Comments for the Good of the Order**

- Kurt mentioned that the property adjacent to the Else Tract on Rt. 31 near the 581 spur is still for sale and he wanted to make the Mayor aware of that. This piece of property could be the access that is needed for the Else Tract because the access from Rt. 31 is not available. The property is approximately 7-8 acres.

- Burt mentioned that the Run for Dad will be held in Mercer County Park on Sunday, June 21 at 8:30am.
- Mike mentioned the Annual Fireworks event will be taking place on Sunday, June 28. The car show begins at 6pm, the concert at 7:30pm and fireworks at 9:15pm.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm with a motion by Burt and a second by Tom Finn.

### **Next Meeting**

There is no RAC meeting in July. **The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17 at 7pm.**