



Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015

Present: Todd Brant – Liaison, Mike Chipowsky, Mark Shreve, Burt Sutker, Kurt Vollherbst (via phone), and Judy Niederer, Director.

Absent: Mike Markulec, Brian Ross, Cathy Sing,

Call to Order/Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Mike Chipowsky, Chairman. The meeting minutes of Monday, November 17, 2014 were approved with a motion from Burt and a second from Kurt.

Welcome new Member – Mark Shreve

Mark introduced himself to the committee members – has a consulting practice and has been involved in youth sports for 25 years. Was recently elected to serve as President of the HVBSA and this is his first appointed position in the township. He is looking forward to serving on the board and would like to help in any way possible.

Welcome back liaison – Todd Brant

Todd was re-appointed to served as the RAC Liaison for 2015.

Election of Officers

A nomination was made by Kurt Vollherbst and seconded by Burt Sutker to elect Mike Chipowsky as Chairman for 2015. A unanimous vote in favor of the nomination was made.

A nomination was made by Mike Chipowsky and seconded by Kurt Vollherbst to elect Burt Sutker as Vice-Chairman for 2015. A unanimous vote in favor of the nomination was made.

HT Committee Liaison Report – Todd Brandt

Todd reported that the township has closed on the two remaining parcels at Twin Pines and they are working out the details of the shared agreement with Lawrence Township. Burt asked if any remediation was done on the property and Todd said that all of that was taken care of prior to closing. The committee viewed some photos that Mike Chipowsky had provided. The consensus seemed to be that the old building should be demolished. Todd mentioned that a small portion may be saved as a “museum” to the aviation history of the site. It was suggested that this would be a good location for some type of storage building that could be shared by various youth sport organizations and also have a portion of the structure serve as a shelter.

2015 Meeting Schedule - This was reviewed for the benefit of the new member. Regular monthly meeting of the RAC are held on the third Monday of the month. In the event of a Monday Holiday, the meeting would be held on Tuesday.

Director's Report – Judy Niederer

- **Past Events** - Judy reported that the 12/2 Cape May Victorian Christmas was a sold out trip, 12/6 Annual NYC Shopping Trip had lower attendance, but the 12/9 Radio City Christmas Spectacular had a second bus added to accommodate more participants. The 12/8 Community Tree Lighting Ceremony had approximately 150 people in attendance and Todd did a great job as the MC. There was some discussion on the decrease in some of the summer camp enrollments from 2014 and it was mentioned that the demographics in Hopewell Township and changing and the school age population is declining.
- **Upcoming Events** – 1/27 Sand's Casino Bethlehem, 2/18 Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Jukebox Heroes", 3/5 Philadelphia International Flower Show, 3/25 "King and I" on Broadway (already sold out).
- **Upcoming Youth/Teen Events** - 2/16 & 17 Baseball Pre-season Mini Camp, 2/17 Teen Ski & Snowboard Trip to Shawnee Mt.
- **Ongoing Programs** - Winter Sticks Field Hockey is meeting for five Sundays in the CHS gym, Speed & Agility Training is underway for 16 sessions on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons, Jr. Bulldog Wrestling just completed their second home Meet on Sunday with the "Ice Dogs" winning 70% of their matches.

Unfinished Business

- **Twin Pines** - Todd gave the update under his Liaison report. There was additional discussion regarding the placement of a Senior Center at this location. The conclusion is that there are two senior "clubhouses" located very close to this site; one at Four Seasons and one at Wellington Manor but they are really considered private and for the members of their communities only. It was also stated that there is no water or sewer service to this location which would place restrictions on building.
- **Skate Park Lights** - The discussion regarding lights at the Skate Park continued. After checking in with MEL/JIF the first order of business is to replace the missing sections of fencing at the Skate Park. There must be a way to close off the Skate Park when weather conditions deem this to be necessary. Although this does not answer the question regarding lights, this must be done first. It was suggested that any new fencing have a 2"x12" kickboard in place around the entire bottom of the fencing.
- **Youth Coaches Safety Training** – Mark was able to provide information about the requirements for coaching for the HVBSA. Cal Ripkin (league) requires all coaches to have a coaching certificate but not for the Rutgers SAFETY Clinic. All coaches are also required to have the background check done as per township requirements. A lot of the baseball coaches are also Pop Warner coaches and therefore have taken the SAFETY course. The coaches with the HVBSA are all given a Player Development Manual and they now have a paid Director of Coaching to enhance their level of coaching.

It seemed as though most of the RAC Members thought it would be a good idea to make the Rutgers SAFETY course a requirement of all coaches in the youth sport leagues. It would also be a good idea to have some level of requirement to take a concussion course (offered online).

Judy will prepare a Draft Policy that would require coaches of the youth sport organizations that utilize township fields to have some type of safety training course. It will be disseminated via email prior to the next RAC meeting.

New Business

- **2015 Spring/Summer Program Fees** - The program fees for the 2015 Summer programs are similar to 2014. There has been no increase in any of the camps with the exception of the Skate Camp which will be slightly higher to bring it closer in line with the other camps. Because Community Trips are scheduled throughout the year, a price range is used so that when other trips are added, there doesn't have to be continual Resolutions passed for the fees. The Program Fee will be 15% higher than the Hopewell Township Resident fee on Community Trips. A motion was made by Burt and seconded by Kurt to recommend to the Township Committee to approve the Resolution for the 2015 Spring/Summer Program Fees. Todd will be present at the HTC Meeting to answer any questions the HTC members may have.
- **2015 Goals** – As in years past, the RAC established goals they would like to accomplish for the coming year. In no particular order:
 - 1) Skate Park Fencing replaced
 - 2) Go forward with the next phase at Twin Pines – possibly the demolition of the old hangar
 - 3) Establish a policy for Youth Sport Coaches Safety Training
 - 4) Further discussion on a Community Center

Comments for the Good of the Order

Burt mentioned that most (if not all) of the Senior Centers in Mercer County are free-standing senior centers rather than a combination of Senior/Community Center. He would like to know what other municipalities have a combined Senior/Community center. Judy will work with Abigail to find some answers.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm with a motion by Burt and a second by Mark.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the RAC is Tuesday, February 17 at 7pm.