



**Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 16 2015**

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

**Absent:** Mike Markulec, Brian Ross, Cathy Sing, Burt Sutker

**Call to Order/Minutes Approval**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mike Chipowsky, Chairman. The meeting minutes of Tuesday, January 20, 2015 were approved with a motion from Mark and a second from Kurt.

**Welcome new Member – Tom Hare**

Tom introduced himself to the committee members – has been a resident for 14 years and has a daughter in TMS and a son in CHS. He has been involved in youth sports for many years coaching both rec and travel baseball and basketball. He serves on the HVBSA Board and is looking forward to serving on the Recreation Advisory Board. Tom was welcomed by the committee members.

**HT Committee Liaison report – Todd Brant**

Todd reported on the status of the Bacon Field Capital request stating that it probably would not be approved for this year. However, he did report that tests would be done on Bacon field to determine the cause of the erosion so that we know more about what we are dealing with on this issue so that when repairs or reconstruction is approved, the work will be done correctly.

**Director's Report – Judy Niederer**

- **Past Events** - Judy reported that the Teen Ski Trip was held on the re-scheduled date of 2/28 due to the inclement weather on the day of the event. It was also reported that the 2/18 Hunterdon Hills Playhouse “Jukebox Heroes” trip was sold out and enjoyed by all attending. The 3/5 Philadelphia International Flower Show trip had to be cancelled due to the snowstorm on that date.
- **Upcoming Events** – 3/25 “King and I” on Broadway (sold out). The upcoming April trips include Bally’s Casino in Atlantic City and a trip to the American Music Theatre on 4/22 for a show and lunch. The first trip in May is 5/4, a trip to the Morris Arboretum.
- **NJRPA Conference** - Judy reported that she attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Parks & Recreation Conference that was held in Atlantic City last week. Some of the classes attended included “Increasing Revenue through Sponsorships,” Local Public Contracts Law and Regulations and their Application to the Operation & Mgt. of Recreation Facilities and Programs,” “Summer Camp Procedure Guidelines”, Best Practices in Youth Sports Injury Risk Management”, Youth Sports Concussion Risk Management” and “Time Management for Supervisors”.

- **Spring/Summer Program Guide** - The semi-annual Program Guide was mailed last week and people have begun to receive it. The phone calls have increased due to the program guide reaching the residents.

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Youth Coaches Safety Training** – Judy prepared an outline regarding the Youth Sports Coaches Safety Training and gave it to the RAC Members. (See attached). The outline was discussed by the members and Mark suggested that we add under research another point about the Detection of Child Abuse Situations and how we may want to make this a requirement as well. Kurt stated that it was a good idea to partner with the School District so that we could all be on the same page when it comes to Coaches Safety Training and what we may want to require.
- Judy reported that she posed a question to other Recreation Departments through the NJRPA channels and asked if they required volunteer coaches to take a Safety Training Course. Almost all directors who responded said yes they do and several sample Resolutions were sent as well. Judy will draft a Resolution that would fit our discussions on this topic and send to all the members for their review. It will be discussed again at the April meeting and hopefully we can finalize the Resolution to present to the governing body for action.
- There was also a discussion of having the Recreation Foundation be a partner in this process. They may have grant money available or find that this is a worthwhile endeavor to support financially so all of the volunteer coaches would not have to pay for any classes that we may require.
- **Field Use Policies** – Judy reported that the RAC will need to review the field use policies and make some revisions regarding priority of field use. It was suggested that there should be a maximum amount of hours or block of time that one group can reserve the turf field to make it available to other organizations in a fair manner. She will check to see if an actual Resolution was passed to approve the Field Use Policies that are in place or if they were approved and adopted by the RAC. Kurt suggested that Judy check with other municipalities that have turf fields to see what policies they have regarding priority of use.

### **New Business**

- **Concert/Fireworks Event** - The Hopewell Valley Veteran's Association along with the Recreation Department will once again host the annual Concert/Fireworks event on Sunday June 28, 2015. Resolutions to approve the event will be prepared and added to an upcoming HTC meeting agenda. The HVVA has asked the 63<sup>rd</sup> Army Band to once again perform and they also send out donation letters to area businesses who pay the cost of the fireworks.

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

Mike mentioned that the HV September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Committee will be hosting their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing at the Hopewell Valley Golf Course on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

A question was asked about the fire at the Public Works building and how this may affect the Recreation Department. Judy reported that the Recreation truck was parked outside the building that night and that most of the equipment used for Recreation; i.e. field lining machines, gator, were at the maintenance building at Independence Park.

Mark asked about the next steps in planning at Twin Pines as far as any kind of maintenance and/or pavilion built on site. The HVLAX organization has some funds, the HV Recreation Foundation may have some funds and can Hopewell and Lawrence add to this? Judy will work with Paul to facilitate a meeting of these groups to see what our next steps can be at Twin Pines.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm with a motion by Mark and a second by Kurt.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the RAC is Monday, April 20 at 7pm.