



Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, Feb. 5, 2018

Present: Mike Chipowsky, Theresa Dolhon, Tom Finn, Paul Kinney, Kristin McLaughlin, Liaison, and Judy Niederer - Director. Kurt Vollherbst via phone.

Absent: Brian Ross, Mark Shreve, Burt Sutker

Call to Order/Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Mike Chipowsky. The meeting minutes of Monday, November 20, 2017 were unanimously approved with a motion from Paul and a second from Theresa.

Public Comment Section - There was a member of the public present; Mr. Peter Myers. He wanted to voice his concern regarding the make-up of the travel baseball teams sponsored by the HVBSA. It was brought to the committee's attention that try-outs were held for the 2018 travel baseball teams and there seemed to be many Ewing players present at the try-out along with Ewing Coaches. According to Mr. Myers, many of the Ewing players now make-up the HVBSA 10 and under travel team and some of the Hopewell players that were previously on the team, are no longer on the team. He felt that there was an increase in activity at try-outs due to the impending merger of the HVBSA Cal Ripkin League with the Ewing LL. This merger did not take place. He feels that as a tax-payer who supports the facilities provided to our residents, our kids should have an opportunity to play on the travel teams.

Judy will ask HVBSA for their most recently approved by-laws so we could review them as well as review the HVBSA Contract to see how this situation should be handled. It was suggested that this item be placed on the agenda for the March meeting of the RAC for further discussion.

Liaison Report - See unfinished business section below; Mercer At Play Grant

Director's Report - Judy Niederer

- **Past Events** - 11/30 Baltimore Inner Harbor Christkindlmarkt, 12/2 Annual NYC Holiday Shopping Trip, 12/5 Longwood Gardens & Yuletide Buffet, 12/19 American Music Theatre 2017 Christmas Show
 - **Upcoming Events** - 2/27 Doolan's Spring Lake Mardi Gras, 3/8 Philadelphia Flower Show
 - **On-going programs** - Judy reported that both the Winter Sticks indoor field hockey league and the Speed and Agility Program are not running. Both programs have seen a decline in participation over the years and will not be offered. The only time these programs can get any indoor gym time is Sunday afternoons which is a big reason that the participation has fallen off.
- **Unfinished Business**

- **Mercer At Play** - Kristin reported that the township committee is moving forward with the education process of looking at various community centers/health clubs so they can learn what is already available and see how a community center could fit in Hopewell Township. They are looking at various business models and will be meeting with senior groups to learn more about their needs. They will also meet with recreation groups to learn more from them. They are still in the information gathering stage of this process. She reported that the township committee would like to place \$10,000 in the operating budget for 2018 that would be considered funds for project design.

New Business

- **2017 Parks & Rec. Dept. Annual Report** - Judy talked briefly about the annual report and how it is a review and a testament to the positive role that the Recreation Department plays in the community. All members received a hard copy of the report.
- **2018 RAC Member List Update** - all members reviewed the list for any inaccuracies and some revisions were made. It was also sadly noted that one of our members; Susan Ewart passed away on Friday.
- **2018 Revised Meeting Schedule** - Judy reported that the governing body had made a review of all the various township committees, boards, and commissions and decided that the meeting schedule could be reduced throughout the year for these groups. The new schedule for the Recreation Advisory Committee will have six meeting dates on the schedule. This will not preclude the committee from adding any meetings they feel are necessary but they must be properly noticed if an additional meeting is scheduled.
- **Proposed Program Fees 2018** - Judy presented the members with a Resolution to Approve Program Fees for 2018. She stated that the Community Trips will remain within a range of \$30 to \$180 with 15% higher fee being charged to non-residents. She also stated that all summer camp programs will increase by \$5 per camper. This is due to the increased cost in supplies, t-shirts, transportation, admissions, etc. The last time there was an increase was 2013. The members thought this was very fair. A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Paul and unanimously approved to recommend this Program Fee Schedule to the township committee for their approval.
- **Field Use Fees** - Judy reported that the administrator had asked if there was another field use fee increase proposed for 2018 which was something the RAC has previously discussed. A Field Use fee increase did go into effect on September 1, 2016 but no further increase was approved at that time because an Ordinance can only be approved for a current fee increase and not a future increase. Judy told the RAC members that she will find out how much other similar turf fields are charging groups for use and report back at the March meeting.

Comments for the Good of the Order - Tom mentioned that the group should be careful regarding members of the public bringing certain issues to the RAC. Although we should be aware of certain concerns of the public, it is not the duty of the RAC to solve disputes between parents and youth sport organizations. In the future, we can limit the public to 3 to 5 minutes of comment, listen to their concerns and after looking into a certain matter, get back to them with answers.

Meeting Open to the Public - No members of the public were present at the conclusion of the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm with a motion by Tom and a second by Paul.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 19 at 7pm.