



**Hopewell Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, March 19, 2018**

**Present:** Mike Chipowsky, Theresa Dolhon, Tom Finn, Brian Ross, Mark Shreve, Kristin McLaughlin, Liaison, and Judy Niederer - Director.

**Absent:** Paul Kinney, Burt Sutker, Kurt Vollherbst

**Call to Order/Minutes Approval**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Mike Chipowsky. The meeting minutes of Monday, February 5, 2018 were unanimously approved with a motion from Tom and a second from Theresa.

**Public Comment Section** - There was a member of the public present; Mary Elizabeth Myers. She read a prepared statement to the members regarding her concerns about the make-up of the travel baseball teams sponsored by the HVBSA. Judy asked Ms. Myers to email the statement to her so she could address any of those concerns and/or answer any of her questions. The HVBSA representative said they would also be able to answer any of the questions in the statement. Both parties confirmed that this issue had been resolved but she wanted to read her statement to the committee members as a matter of information.

A discussion ensued regarding the purview of the RAC and if they should in fact be the mediator in parent/league conflicts. All the sport leagues do have by-laws and policies that they follow because this is not something new. They all have avenues to address these issues and the members of the RAC agreed that they should not be the entity involved in these disputes. Judy mentioned that the RAC should become involved if in fact the issue is one of safety.

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

**Director's Report - Judy Niederer**

- **Past Events** - 2/27 Doolan's Spring Lake Mardi Gras, 3/8 Philadelphia Flower Show, 3/8 Philadelphia Flower Show
  - **Upcoming Events** - 4/11 "Showboat" Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, 4/25 "Carousel" on Broadway, 5/10 NY Botanical Gardens, 5/21 Overnight trip to Long Island and Hamptons. Judy also mentioned that the new Spring/Summer program guide would be delivered sometime this week.
  - **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual NJRPA Conference** - Judy reported that the conference was a great opportunity to once again attend continuing education sessions and interact with other recreation professionals throughout the state of NJ. Some of the sessions attended were regarding finances within recreation departments, connecting with nature, rebranding programs for today's "senior citizens", motivation to move, and recreation program development among others.
- **Unfinished Business**

- **Mercer At Play** - Kristin reported that the Mercer At Play grant is still ongoing on the township committee level. She said she received an email from Kurt regarding the community center and she replied that this was still alive. A question was asked about what the seniors would like to see in the way of physical space. They would like to have multiple rooms for various activities that could be taking place at the same time. They would also like to have a warm water pool. These are some of the “wish list” items. Judy asked about the township committee setting aside money for a feasibility study to learn more about how doable this project is and Kristin thought that could be a good idea. She mentioned all of the positive feedback from the community as well as a few concerned residents. Kristin mentioned that what is happening with affordable housing is a challenge that the committee is facing and perhaps the township can get a community center out of any future development within the township. Judy mentioned that the new trend is to take out the word senior when talking about these centers and instead use Community Resource Center or Center for Active Adults.
- A question was raised about the amount of funds available and it is capped per municipality. The members of the RAC may also want to pursue some other smaller projects that could be tagged to the Mercer At Play Grant. It was suggested that we do have a “Plan B” ready with some of those other smaller projects listed.
- **Field Use Fees** - a packet of information was supplied to the RAC members regarding increasing field use fees. When this was last discussed, it was agreed that the fees would increase in steps and because a township Ordinance can only address one increase the second increase has not yet occurred. A packet of information was supplied to the RAC members that included a Field Use Fee Comparison Chart, 2017 Field Use Revenue Report, and a projected revenue scenario with the increase in field use fees. A discussion was held regarding the fee increase and to also charge for the use of grass fields. It was agreed that the fee for the turf should increase and that charging for the grass fields should be considered. Judy will ask the youth sport representative to attend the next RAC meeting for their input. After that input, the RAC members would make a recommendation to the township committee and ask them to introduce an Ordinance reflecting the increase.

### New Business

- **None at this time.**

**Comments for the Good of the Order** - Judy mentioned that she met with the finance advisory committee and the township committee last week at their budget meeting and an additional 5 hours/week was approved for the program assistant for the remaining 6 months of the year. She will now have a 20 hour work week throughout the year. This will be a great help to the Recreation Department.

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

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm with a motion by Tom and a second by Brian.

### **Next Meeting**

It was agreed by the members that they should meet in April to continue the discussion on Field Fees because of the conflicts with the May meeting date. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 16 at 7pm.