

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2007**

ROLL CALL: Chairman Jerry O'Brien, Tony Favorito, Rich Rodriguez, Pam Walsh, Tom Swift, Robert Sabatino, Peter Fidler, Board of Education Liaison Mark Aronson, Councilman Robert Thompson, Tim Roetman

ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Naomi McDermott, Alpine Liaison Ann Shaner

MINUTES: Mr. Rodriguez motions to accept January 8, 2007 minutes, Mrs. Walsh seconds, minutes approved.

AUDIENCE: Gus Orenstein, 272 W. 107th Street, New York, NY. Mr. Orenstein grew up in Tenafly, went on to play college football at Notre Dame and professionally in the NFL and Canadian Football League. He currently is running the Parisi Speed School in Closter. Last year he started the GO QB football camp for quarterbacks, held in Closter. He is seeking to use Tenafly's Municipal Field this year to run two three-day camps for quarterbacks. The camp would be Wednesday – Friday two consecutive weeks in August. Dates are flexible. He is incorporated as his own business and can provide his own insurance. The Commission will decide later in the meeting to accept or decline this proposal.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from Andy Siegel, 25 Depeyster Ave. regarding condition of the tennis courts. Mr. Siegel's letter notes the courts at the Roosevelt Commons are in need of repair. Mr. Favorito has made a capital request in this year's budget for resurfacing. The Mayor and Council will consider this item.
2. Email from Mayor Rustin to Mr. Favorito regarding the lighting on the Municipal Basketball Courts. The Mayor would like to see the lights turned on during the winter months if the weather is suitable. Mr. O'Brien acknowledges the weather was nice for two weeks in January, but also notes there is a policy of no field and park use after dusk. The Commission decides not to change this policy.
3. Letter from the Parsells Agency requesting a letter acknowledging coaches certification. A response has been sent.
4. Letter from Andrea Slowikowski, 44 Glenwood Ave., Demarest, requesting a refund for a class she withdrew her son from. Mr. Sabatino motions to approve a prorated credit granted to Mrs. Slowikowski. Mr. Rodriguez seconds. Motion is carried unanimously.
5. Minutes from Tuesday, December 12 Council meeting. Mr. Soo of Somerset Road would like to see a ban on drums, horns, bells and whistles on the Municipal Field if lighting were installed. Comments are acknowledged by the Commission.
6. Letter from Mr. DiGiacomo to Kerry Miller regarding the 2006 Smart Growth Planning Grant Project. Mr. Favorito notes he and Mr. Roetman have recently attended an Open Space meeting with Mr. DiGiacomo, Bob Buetel, and David Hals, the Borough Engineer. A resident survey is currently being conducted to find out what people believe is important in relation to open space. The possibility of a Recreation Center is one item that came up during discussion. Mr. O'Brien would like to revisit the plans Mr. DiGiacomo had acquired a few years ago.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Alpine Recreation – No Report
2. Board of Education – Mr. Aronson reports Dr. Sherman, the school's Superintendent, has been invited to the February 20 meeting of the Mayor and Council to discuss the Board of Education's request for a new track. Mr. Aronson notes that bids have come in for the new track surface. Bids range from \$160,000 to \$350,000. Mr. Thompson would like to see a higher quality surface installed to prolong the life of the track.
3. Youth Services – No Report. Mr. O'Brien suggests Mr. Favorito send a letter to the Youth Services Department informing them a liaison will no longer be attending their meetings. If necessary, they should forward any business to a Recreation Commission meeting.
4. Joint Use – No Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Permit requests: THS Softball is requesting use of the Municipal Field for multiple dates in March from 3:30-5:30 pm for Girls Softball practice. These dates do not conflict with Recreation activities and are granted approval. THS Tennis is requesting use of the Roosevelt Commons tennis courts for their spring season. This request is approved.

Elisabeth Morrow School is requesting Sunnyside Park and/or the Municipal Field on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from March 13 – May 31, 2:30-3:45 pm for baseball, softball and lacrosse practices. Mr. O'Brien offers to allow them use of Sunnyside Park again. The Commission unanimously agrees to allow use of Sunnyside Park. The request will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council.

Jenna's Rainbow requests use of the Roosevelt Commons on May 20, request is approved.

The Tenafly Little League is requesting use of the Municipal Field on Sunday April 22, May 6, May 27 and June 3 from 1:30 pm to dark each day. These dates have been agreed upon by Junior Soccer and Little League. Easter Sunday will be denied. All other dates are acceptable. Mr. O'Brien would like to see a letter sent reminding teams sunflower seeds are not allowed on the synthetic field.

The FDU Soccer Camp, headed by Seth Roland has requested use of the Municipal Field again this summer. Mr. Favorito reports he will work with Mr. Roland to incorporate the Soccer Camp into Recky's Summer Camp schedule. This permit will be held until next meeting.

The U.S. Sports Institute has submitted a permit request for use of the Municipal Field from 9:00-1:00 Monday through Friday the third week of August. In the past they have hosted a multi-sports camp sponsored by Tenafly Recreation. Their permit is unanimously approved and will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Orenstein's pitch for a football camp is considered. Mr. Rodriguez motions to allow the camp, Mrs. Walsh seconds, all are in favor. Mr. Orenstein will be required to file a permit with specific dates and times.

2. Mr. Favorito would like to discuss the scheduling of Men's Softball League games if lights were in place on the Municipal Field. He suggests either a 6:00 pm or 6:15 pm start time. Mr. O'Brien suggests a 6:00 pm start would be

- acceptable with a second game beginning at 8:00 pm. If a rain makeup was scheduled and not necessary, the game scheduled for that evening could begin at 7:30 pm. The biggest concern would be the start time being too early. Mr. Fidler mentions many participants return home from New York City around 6:00 pm. Mr. O'Brien suggests the local teams like the Fire Department should be scheduled earlier if possible to alleviate this situation. This will be discussed at the organizational meeting in April.
3. Mr. Favorito reports Ken Riley; electrician has been notified about a problem with the D/C Relay and the override switch for the lights on the tennis courts.
 4. The Municipal Field lighting plans have been submitted. Mr. Favorito mentions the possible excavating that would be done would not interfere with the scheduling of recreation programs.
 5. Two new programs are being developed. Mr. Favorito would like the Commission's approval to move forward with a 10 & Under Girls Softball Travel Team. Mrs. Walsh motions to approve the team, Mr. Fidler seconds, and the motion is unanimously approved. Mr. Roetman has been working with Total Golf Adventures to establish a golf clinic for the spring. The clinic would be held indoors in a school's gym. Permission has been granted from Vincent Bennenatti at the Board of Education to pursue this activity.
 6. Mr. Favorito reports the Mayor and Council have suggested a fee increase in Summer Camp to \$400 for residents and \$550 for non-residents. He asks the Commission if an increase based on a percentage similar to the "fee and a half" policy imposed on other programs should be considered for summer camp. The Commission does not believe this policy should be considered for camp since it does attract many non-residents and could possibly turn people away.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A letter has been sent to all seasonal program instructors offering them employment from the beginning of the spring season through the end of the summer season. This will eliminate any unemployment time since instructors are offered a position to instruct classes continuously.
2. Spring and summer registrations have been combined to begin in the spring. This will save some money in printing. Also the main goal is to have people register early for the summer camp programs. This will enable the Recreation Department to hire staff earlier and allot more time for camp setup.
3. Mr. Swift asks Mr. Roetman if there has been any contact with Harvey Eisner, coordinator of emergency management regarding the lightning detection equipment. Mr. Roetman notes the lightning proposal was not submitted in this year's budget. He will contact Mr. Eisner prior to preparing the 2008 budget.
4. Mr. Sabatino would like to have a listing of Commissioner's service terms. Mr. Thompson will provide him with that information.
5. Mr. Fidler would like to know if Jr. Soccer has responded to the Commission's offer to join the online registration system. The Soccer Board has not responded to the offer. Little League has turned down the offer. Youth Basketball has not responded either.

NEW BUSINESS:

Minutes approved March 12, 2007

1. Mr. Rodriguez offers Resolution TRC #07-01 a change in the administrative fee on programs offered that are \$20 or less. Mr. Fidler seconds. Vote is unanimously in favor. Resolution TRC #07-01 is adopted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman
Asst. Recreation Director