

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

ROLL CALL: Chairman Jerry O'Brien, Vice-Chairman Naomi McDermott, Peter Fidler, Tom Swift, Rich Rodriguez, Robert Sabatino, Tony Favorito, Tim Roetman, Council Liaison Nadia LaMastra.

ABSENT: Susan VanPoznak, Alpine Liaison Jeff Schwartz, Board of Education Liaison Mark Aronson

MINUTES: Mr. Rodriguez motions to approve January 14, 2008 minutes. Mr. Fidler seconds the motion and the motion is carried.

AUDIENCE: Mr. Ron Roman, 35 Royden Road, is representing Tenafly Adult Soccer. In addition to the permit request for a two hour block of time on a weekend, Mr. Roman is also requesting a week-night time slot during the spring for adult soccer on the Municipal Field. Mr. Roman notes there are more residents joining their club and they are looking to allow for more playing time. The Commission will decide on this request later in the meeting.

Mr. Roy Huepler, 52 N. Lyle Avenue, is in attendance. Mr. Favorito explains Mr. Huepler has been a Jr. Football coach and league representative for the past seven years. During that time, Mr. Huepler has represented Tenafly at Bergen County Jr. Football League meetings and has been a great help to the program. Mrs. McDermott presents a plaque to Mr. Huepler and thanks him for his time, dedication and effort in being a great role model for all volunteers in the community.

Mr. Scott Smilen, 42 Knoll Road, is the Co-President of Tenafly Youth Basketball and is also the 8th grade girls travel basketball coach. Mr. Smilen reports his 8th grade travel team has suffered two season ending injuries in the last two weeks. He has been approached by a family with a daughter who plays basketball in her town, but does not have a travel team to play on. Mr. Smilen further explains he would like to hold tryouts again for two other players who were initially cut from the team and possibly add the two along with a third player. Mr. Smilen would like the approval of the Recreation Commission to make this change. Mr. O'Brien explains he does not think adding these players are the appropriate steps to take this late in the season. Mr. Sabatino questions how many players are currently on the team. Mr. Smilen replies twelve including the two injured players. Mr. Sabatino believes with ten, the girls who are at the end of the rotation already do not see much playing time, and most likely would see a further decrease if new players were added. Mrs. McDermott motions to turn down the request based on the timing being so late in the year. Mr. Rodriguez seconds and the motion is carried unanimously.

Mark Slawson, Youth Services Director is in attendance. See **Correspondence Item #2.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter to Councilwoman LaMastra regarding an end to the dispute between two Jr. Football coaches. Mr. Favorito reports he believes everyone is ready to move on. Mr. Ratty has been notified in writing he may resume coaching but will be monitored in the upcoming season.
2. Memo to Mark Slawson, Youth Services Director, regarding Municipal Field use during summer camp and a response. Mr. Slawson is requesting use of the Municipal Field for the Teen Day Camp for an 8 week period from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Mrs. LaMastra reports there are an average of 90-100 campers who register for this program and the field is used at various times throughout the day to support the camp's activities. Mr. Slawson reports he can not give more specific field usage times since his camp trips and activities have not received Mayor and Council budget approval as of yet. As of now, there may be conflicts in time usage if FDU Soccer is allowed to use the field at the same time. Mr. Rodriguez suggests speaking to Seth Roland, Director of the FDU Soccer Camp about using Sunnyside Park. Mr. Sabatino motions to permit the FDU Soccer Camp to use Sunnyside Park during the week of August 4-8. Mr. Rodriguez seconds the motion and it is carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Alpine Recreation – No Report
2. Board of Education – Mr. Favorito reports Tenafly Recreation is now able to use the new gym at Tenafly Middle School. There is a new payment procedure as well. Currently, the Board of Education charges for custodians on duty for one gym and will charge an extra \$60.00 for use of the second gym unless the parties using the gyms simultaneously can vacate one at least ½ hour prior to their scheduled end time. This policy is still new and may change.
3. Youth Services – No Report
4. Joint Use – No Reports

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Permit requests: The Commission has heard Mr. Ron Roman from Tenafly Adult Soccer request field time. Mr. Favorito explains Sundays in the spring will be split between Junior Soccer and Tenafly Little League. Saturday will be available in the late afternoons once the girls softball schedule is in place. Mr. Fidler motions to approve two hours on Saturdays only during the spring. Mr. O'Brien would like the Adult Soccer Club notified they will only be permitted during this time. Mr. Sabatino seconds Mr. Fidler's motion and it is carried unanimously. Mr. O'Brien would like Mr. Favorito to direct Louis Smaragdakis, Site Supervisor to monitor the field usage on Sundays and report activity back to Mr. Favorito.

The Elisabeth Morrow School has requested use of Sunnyside Park for their spring sports practices. Mr. Favorito reports they have been a good neighbor, allowing Tenafly Youth Basketball gym usage at their school on a regular basis. There is one date they will not be able to use due to Recreation use. Mrs. McDermott motions to approve their request. Mr. Swift seconds the motion, Mr. Sabatino votes nay, all others aye, the motion is carried.

2. Pee Wee Football light use – tabled until next meeting.
3. Mr. Favorito reports he has met with several high school students regarding the creation of a High School Basketball League. The league would meet in the new gym at the Middle School and would be for non-varsity high school students who wish to participate in recreational activity. Mr. Favorito has already spoken to Ed Craumer, the High School Athletic Director, who is also in favor of this league. The league would begin in late fall 2008.
4. A new copy of the Tenaflly Recreation Commission's Policies and Procedures has been distributed. Mr. Favorito reports it has not been edited, just re-typed.
5. Mr. Favorito reports Site Supervisor Lou Smaragdakis will groom all the ball fields in town including the Little League fields. He will be paid by Tenaflly Little League but will have to use the town's field groomer. Mr. Favorito would like the Commission's consent to allow Mr. Smaragdakis to assume this duty. Mr. Swift mentions Tenaflly Little League has hired a contractor in the past and was under the assumption they had paid for this service already this year. Mr. Favorito reports he has spoken with Mr. Steve Ratty, President of Tenaflly Little League and was assured they had not entered an agreement for this year, but asks Mr. Swift to double check. Mr. Sabatino motions to approve Mr. Favorito's request. Mr. Fidler seconds and the motion is carried unanimously.
6. The proposed Street Hockey League has been cancelled. Mr. Roetman reports only six participants enrolled despite making an appeal to the gym classes at the Middle School and at the Youth Center. The Recreation Department will attempt a little earlier in the year next year.
7. Program evaluations are enclosed. Mr. Favorito reports Mr. Roetman has observed several programs and notes the evaluation of Jr. Wrestling is not an evaluation of the coaching, but of the program in general. Mr. Roetman states for the record the wrestling coach Jeff Shaner is doing a terrific job with the kids.
8. Fall 2007 program budgets are enclosed for the Commission's review. Mrs. LaMastra reports the Council would like a fee schedule in place for how much instructors make and would also like the payroll moved to a 1099 voucher system. This would require instructors to obtain accident insurance as well. Mrs. LaMastra also asks if the Commission has reviewed the Recreation Trust balances and made appropriations towards funding capital projects. Mr. O'Brien explains the Commission has reviewed the instructor payroll periodically over the last couple years and does not believe the instructors are making an excessive amount of money and should be entitled to charge a reasonable fee. The Commission is not in favor of setting up a new fee structure. However, the Commission has discussed the 1099 voucher system and is in favor of it. Mr. Roetman reports he and Mr. Favorito have met with CFO Karen Palermo in the past to discuss changes and certainly would require the assistance of the Finance Department with the change. Mrs. McDermott motions to move toward a 1099 system. Mr. Rodriguez seconds and the motion is carried unanimously. About the trust account balances, Mr. Roetman reports there was a sum of \$68,400 re-allocated last year toward capital projects which hasn't been spent yet. \$30,000 was earmarked for a restroom facility at the Municipal Field and the balance for resurfacing the tennis courts. Since a private donation was given, the tennis court

money hasn't been used. In addition, the administrative fee account has accumulated a balance of more than \$26,000 in the past two years and the Recreation Department has collected another \$6,600 in field user fees. Added up, there is more than \$100,000 available for use. There are three projects requested in this year's capital budget plan. The first is \$34,000 toward creating a spectator area complete with bleachers at the Municipal Field. The second is color coating the Municipal Basketball Courts \$19,000 and finally creating a tree wall at Sunnyside Park \$5,500. Combined there is a \$58,500 project cost. Mr. Rodriguez motions to use these surplus trust funds toward the capital items. Mr. Swift seconds the motion. Mrs. McDermott would like the items prioritized with the restroom facility first, the bleachers second, the basketball courts third and the tree wall fourth. It is also suggested the Recreation Department contact Junior Soccer and Little League about possibly contributing to the tree wall project at Sunnyside Park. The Commissioners vote to approve with all in favor the motion is carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Sabatino has enclosed a newspaper article regarding Bergen County purchasing lightning detection equipment and believes Tenafly should look into this again. Mr. Roetman mentions according to the article Bergen County has brokered a deal with one company which has significantly reduced the price of the equipment. Mr. Favorito states the Recreation Department will investigate further.
2. Mr. Fidler asks if soccer and basketball have joined online registration. Mr. Favorito reports Tenafly Junior Soccer has reported they are on board and basketball is getting there soon.
3. Mr. O'Brien states he would like to see a gate added to the fencing at the Municipal Field by Froggy Park to allow entry to the opposite side of the field.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Favorito would like to set a deadline for correspondence and permit requests to make a Commission agenda. The Thursday prior to a meeting at 4:00 pm would be an acceptable deadline. Mr. Fidler motions to approve the deadline. Mr. Rodriguez seconds and the motion is carried unanimously.
2. Mr. Sabatino would like to see the Co-ed Softball League be re-vitalized in some capacity. Mr. Rodriguez suggests increased marketing and allowing teams from outside the town to enter the league. Mr. Favorito states the Recreation Department will do what they can to extend a greater invitation to join the league.
3. Mr. Fidler states there has been a large turn-over of board members in the co-sponsored groups over the last couple years. It may be a good idea to invite their boards to a Commission meeting prior to the start of their next seasons to review policies and procedures of co-sponsorship. Mr. Favorito agrees it would be a good idea and will send a memo to each league.
4. Mr. Roetman is requesting the Commission approve discontinuing the late Monday night hours after a registration period. Since online registration now

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- allows a greater amount of people to enroll there haven't been many people coming in. The Commission agrees to discontinue this practice.
5. Mr. Roetman announces the Spring/Summer 2008 Recreation Program Guide will be published in full color with black and orange colors.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned, 10:01 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman
Asst. Recreation Director