

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES – March 13, 2006**

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

**Absent:** Ron Dersovitz, Alpine Liaison Ann Shaner

**MINUTES:** Motion was made to approve February 13, 2006. Minutes approved.

**AUDIENCE:** Kevin Mallon, Mayor Peter Rustin and Andy Escala – Mayor Rustin would like to see the Recreation Commission approve the use of fields and facilities by Elizabeth Morrow School. The Mayor suggests TRC should share as long as there is not a negative impact on the town's recreational activities. Andy Escala has approximately 60 students spread out across four sports: baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse. He would like to use Sunnyside Park for practices after school from 2:30-3:45 p.m. According to Chairman O'Brien, this permit request was originally denied by the Recreation Commission because it was presented poorly and looked as if kids would be unsupervised at the fields. Mr. Escala assures the Recreation Commission these would be organized practices. Mrs. McDermott is concerned with parking a large bus near the field. The Commission decides it will ask Elizabeth Morrow to drop off its students and return later to pick them up. Mrs. Walsh motions to allow Elizabeth Morrow field use as long as it does not conflict with TRC programs, Mr. Fidler seconds the motion, and the field use permit is approved by the Commission. Before the Mayor leaves, Chairman O'Brien asks about Men's Softball at Sunnyside Park. The men's softball league may be moved this year due to field repair at the high school. The Mayor believes it is dangerous with men hitting the ball into the adjacent playground. If the men play facing away from the playground they will be hitting into trees. Mr. Sabatino suggests adjusting the rules to suit the facilities. For example, if a ball strikes a tree on the fly it is an automatic double. Mr. Aronson will check with the Board of Education to find out exactly when the fields will no longer be available for use at the high school.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Letter from Mr. Clifford regarding his daughter playing Little League baseball and travel softball is acknowledged by the Commission. Mr. Favorito does not see a problem with Mr. Clifford's daughter doing both. The Commission agrees.
2. Letter from Carol Goldberg denouncing the Circus is acknowledged. Mrs. McDermott does not agree with Ms. Goldberg's opinion. Tim Roetman states the circus trip on Sunday March 12 was a success, everyone in attendance enjoyed it.
3. Letter to Mayor and Council from Mr. Favorito about Men's Softball at Sunnyside Park has been previously discussed this evening. Co-ed Softball may have to be moved to Smith School or the high school freshman field. Mr. Aronson believes the new school Superintendent Mort Sherman may help us in opening up more gym space or delaying the work on the school fields until after the Recreation softball season ends. Mr. Aronson will invite Dr. Sherman to the next Recreation Commission meeting.
4. Thank you letter from Mr. Favorito to Mayor Rustin for hosting a proclamation ceremony for the senior football team is acknowledged by the Commission.

5. Open Space / Recreation Plan letter from Joe DiGiacomo. The Commission likes the proposal for the grant application. Mr. Sabatino motions for its approval, Mr. Swift seconds, and the Commission approves it.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Alpine Recreation – No Report
2. Youth Services – Mark Slawson is aware the field will be used by Tenafly Junior Soccer League Aug. 7-11, and the U.S. Sports Institute Aug. 14-18.
3. Board of Education – No Report
4. Joint Use – No Report

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. There is a Girls Softball viewing clinic scheduled for Saturday March 18, 9:30 am. It will be held at the Mackay School.
2. NJRPA annual conference in Atlantic City is March 20-22. Mr. Favorito and Mr. Roetman will attend.
3. The most recent district-wide recreation meeting was held at the brand new Fort Lee Community Center. They have a beautiful new facility.
4. Winter basketball is winding down. The boys still have the Morton Tournament and the Hillsdale Hoops tournament.
5. J. Henderson will coordinate the summer basketball league this year. Mr. Henderson is experienced and should help improve the program.
6. The proclamation for the senior football team was held on February 28 at the Mayor and Council meeting. Karl Foley, a senior player, gave an excellent speech.
7. U.S. Sports Institute will hold a week long camp August 14-18 at the Municipal Field. This will be their second year working with Tenafly Recreation.
8. Basketball end of season awards dinner will be held April 6.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Chairman O'Brien will speak to Mayor Rustin about drafting a by-law for the Recreation Commission that would require Commission members to attend a minimum number of meetings per year.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mr. Sabatino would like to come up with some form of draft for Girls Softball in which each team would get at least one pitcher and catcher. Mrs. Walsh states there is difficulty in finding girls who want to pitch and catch among the younger girls. Mr. Favorito believes there is no one way to ensure balance to the league by adopting a rule forcing girls to pitch.
2. The Recreation Commission thanks Kevin Mallon for his time serving as a Commission member. He is presented with a plaque in recognition of his services.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman

Asst. Director