

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2009**

ROLL CALL: Chairman Jerry O'Brien, Vice Chairman Naomi McDermott, Tony Favorito, Peter Fidler, Robert Sabatino, Tim Roetman, Tom Swift, Rich Rodriguez, Susan Van Poznak, Council Liaison Nadia LaMastra, Board of Education Liaison Mark Aronson

ABSENT: Alpine Liaison Sapna Jain

MINUTES: Mr. Fidler motions to approve the February 9, 2009 minutes. Mrs. McDermott seconds the motion, all in favor and the minutes are approved.

AUDIENCE: Seth Roland, Head Coach FDU Soccer. Mr. Roland has been hosting a soccer camp in Tenaflly the past four summers. Mr. Roland explains the first three years the camp was held at the Municipal Field and had over 100 children in attendance each year. This past year the camp was held at Sunnyside Park and only 40 children attended. Mr. Roland asks the Commission for use of either facility, but preferably the Municipal Field to host camp again this year. The dates would be August 10-14. Camp would allow children ages 5 - 17 years of age and would cost \$275 for one week of full days, or \$185 for one week of half days. Mr. Swift asks Mr. Roland if the program is the same each day. Mr. Roland states the premise of drills such as shooting, dribbling and heading are the same, but the techniques become more advanced day to day. Mr. O'Brien thanks Mr. Roland for attending the meeting and notifies him there will be a decision later this evening.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Email from Joe DiGiacomo stating the Mayor and Council have granted the Recreation Commission and Youth Services Advisory Board permission to handle scholarship requests on a case by case basis. Mrs. McDermott volunteers to meet confidentially with Mr. Favorito and anyone requesting a scholarship to determine need. She recommends establishing a profile and having the Commission make the final decisions based on the profile. Mr. Sabatino and Mr. Fidler both suggest a limit on the number of applicants. Mr. Fidler asks Mr. Roetman to prepare an estimated budget for summer camp which will help determine how much cost can be offset. Mrs. McDermott further states any scholarship request should be limited to Tenaflly residents only. All the Commissioners agree. Mr. O'Brien motions for a subcommittee of Mrs. McDermott and Mr. Favorito to work with scholarship applicants. Mr. Rodriguez seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

2. Email from Joe DiGiacomo requesting more information on the proposed flag football program. Mr. Favorito reports the flag football program would be an extension of the Jr. Football program aimed at younger participants. Mr. O'Brien asks Mr. Favorito about the personnel questions asked by Mr. DiGiacomo. Mr. Favorito reports he will not be coaching the team and has responded to the questions. Mr. Rodriguez suggests once the Commission's duties and powers have been formalized in ordinance these questions about individual programs should work themselves out.

3. Email from Joe DiGiacomo authorizing the Commission to proceed with the bleacher and restroom projects is read. Mr. O'Brien asks Mr. Favorito to contact the Borough Engineer to go ahead with the first phase of the restroom facilities. Mr. O'Brien also reports he and Mr. Rodriguez met with Mr. Favorito and then Mr. DiGiacomo. They have opted to purchase two smaller sets of bleachers instead of one grandstand. The cost savings will allow the Commission to proceed with other projects planned. Mr. O'Brien would like to see the fencing upgraded at the field in several locations. Mr. Rodriguez motions to proceed with fencing upgrades at the Municipal Field. Mrs. McDermott seconds. Mr. Fidler asks to revise Mr. Rodriguez' statement by repairing the fencing. Councilwoman LaMastra asks if the junior soccer program would be willing to donate money toward the new bleachers. Mr. O'Brien states they can be contacted and asked. All vote in favor of Mr. Rodriguez' motion as amended by Mr. Fidler, the motion is carried.

4. Email from Scott Smilen regarding basketball issues is read. Mr. Sabatino requests more information should be presented. He asks that a representative from TYB be invited to the next meeting to discuss the two coaches that were suspended. Mr. O'Brien states the two coaches names should be documented and kept on file in the Recreation Office since they will most likely seek to coach again in the future.

5. Letters from TYB to two youth basketball families are read. Two players were suspended from league activities after vandalism by the two players was reported at the Tenafly Middle School.

6. New Borough ordinance regarding signs is acknowledged.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Alpine Recreation - No Report.
2. Board of Education - Mark Aronson reports a study has been done on the Geissinger Field bleachers to test the structure and compliance. Everything is ok.
3. Youth Services - No Report.
4. Joint Use - No Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Softball registration still ongoing, currently down a bit.
2. Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 11.
3. Permit requests have been submitted from multiple organizations.
Elisabeth Morrow School is requesting use of Sunnyside Park on weekdays. Mr. Favorito reports their practices will not interfere with recreational activities. Mrs. McDermott motions to allow the activity and forward the permit to Mayor and Council for final approval. Mr. Rodriguez seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

The JCC on the Palisades has submitted an application to use Sunnyside Park for one week to run a soccer camp in July. Mrs. McDermott suggests there should be some give and take, similar to the relationship with Elisabeth Morrow School. Mr. O'Brien questions whether the field would be harmed by soccer and baseball going on at the same time. Mr. Favorito reports the sport fencing for baseball will also be on the fields and soccer goals will not be present. Mr. O'Brien motions to decline this request based on

ongoing baseball and softball activities at the field. Mr. Swift seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

Permit request from Grace Chapel to use the Municipal Field dog-leg section the week of August 10-14. Their camp has co-existed with the Youth Center camp the past few years. Mrs. McDermott motions to approve the field use. Mr. Sabatino seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

Earlier Seth Roland attended to ask permission for the FDU Soccer camp to use the fields again this summer. Mr. O'Brien states he doesn't believe the decline in registration was due to the change of venue. Mr. Roetman suggests the attendance declined due to the Tenafly Junior Soccer camp marketing their camp better and coming in at a lower cost. Councilwoman LaMastra suggests the Municipal Field is a better location since some kids leave and can go to town or the teen center after camp ends. Mrs. McDermott suggests the Commission is not looking to give a private vendor better location if it disrupts the regular use. Mr. Roetman reminds the Commission they just approved Grace Chapel for use of the field during the same week Mr. Roland is requesting. Mr. O'Brien motions to approve the FDU Camp to use Sunnyside Park. Mrs. Van Poznak seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

4. Mr. Favorito reports he and Mr. Roetman attended the NJRPA Conference in Atlantic City this past week. Mr. Favorito reports the Little League's situation where they suspended a parent for hitting another was discussed at one of the sessions. Also, one good idea he picked up was the establishment of a volunteer group to act as "field marshals" who would monitor field use. Recreation was discussed as being a vital piece of each community and reminds Commissioners their roles are extremely important. Mr. Favorito also reports Mr. Roetman received the "Young Professional" award.

5. 40th Annual William J. Morton Basketball Tournament will begin this week.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. O'Brien states this is his last year on the Commission. He would like to make improvements to the Municipal Field his top priority.

2. Mr. Sabatino would like to table lightning detection equipment due to the cost associated on an annual basis. Also, Mr. Sabatino would like to further address soccer's claim to being a year-round sport. Councilwoman LaMastra suggests a resolution be done stating which sport has priority in each season. Mr. Sabatino motions for a resolution to be drafted outlining the NJSIAA criteria for in-season sports. Mrs. McDermott seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

3. Mrs. McDermott informs the Commission the TJSB board asked the soccer parents not to attend last month's meeting, they did so on their own volition.

4. Mrs. Van Poznak informs the Commission she is currently dealing with some things which have prohibited her from obtaining more information about turf at the Municipal Field.

5. Mr. Swift would like Mr. Roetman to list all items of old business on agenda prior to the meeting. Mr. Roetman acknowledges.

6. Councilwoman LaMastra asks how the Valentine's Dance went. Mr. Favorito reports there were over 130 participants and it went well.

7. Mr. Favorito and Mr. Fidler report the High School Basketball League finished this past week and was also a big success.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Sabatino was approached by an out of town resident seeking to use the Little League field for a baseball tournament. He will get more details and forward to Little League.

2. Mr. Rodriguez asks about the status of Co-ed Softball. Mr. Favorito reports a preseason meeting will be held in April and will be advertised soon.

3. Little League's preseason report is on the table for review.

4. Councilwoman LaMastra asks Mr. Favorito and Mr. Roetman if grants are available for the lightning detection equipment. They will check. She also asks for a follow up on the background checks and Walnut Park Playground project. Mr. Favorito reports background checks are in the works. Mr. Roetman reports the playground is on the Council's next agenda for authorization to go to bid.

5. Recreation Center information is on the table for review. Mr. O'Brien states he has worked on several attempts in the past. Money has always been an issue when it comes to purchasing land and constructing a facility. Councilwoman LaMastra suggests the Commission look at all Borough owned properties as possible sites for the Community Center. Mr. Swift suggests a study be done to find out if any one specific site is useable for a Community Center. Mr. Roetman will speak to the Borough Administrator about the possibilities of the Borough Engineer doing a study.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman
Asst. Recreation Director