

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2007**

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

**ABSENT:** Robert Sabatino, Rich Rodriguez, Alpine Liaison Ann Shaner

**MINUTES:** Mr. Fidler motions to approve May 14 minutes, Mr. Swift seconds, and minutes are approved.

**AUDIENCE:** Avi Sacajiu, Ron Roman and Ray Murphy of the Tenafly Adult Soccer Club. They have filed a permit request for use of the Municipal Field on behalf of the soccer club and would like to be granted additional playing time over the summer months. In addition to the written request for play on Saturdays, Mr. Sacajiu verbally requests time on Thursday evenings during scheduled activities. Mr. Fidler suggests the field should continue to be used by permit only, in a responsible fashion, especially around young children. Mr. O'Brien comments on a recent situation in which soccer was being played during a girl's softball game. Mr. O'Brien does not believe adult games should be played in the background when a youth sport is in progress. It is distracting to the children and could become a safety concern. As a whole, the Recreation Commission does not see a problem with granting the Adult Soccer Club additional Saturday dates as long as it does not interfere with youth programs.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Letter from Borough Administrator Joe DiGiacomo to residents around Sunnyside Park. Mr. Favorito states there will be a need for more softball games at Sunnyside Park if and when the Municipal Field is shut down for construction. Several adult softball games will be scheduled at Sunnyside Park. The residents have been informed of the Mayor and Council's decision to permit this activity.
2. Email from Ridgewood softball coach Jim Scibetta thanking Tenafly Recreation for hosting the Safe @ Home Softball Tournament.
3. Tenafly Swim Club has denied Recreation's request for free swim time at the club during summer camp. Mr. Favorito has written a letter to Tenafly Swim Club requesting an explanation. The Swim Club has not yet responded.
4. Letter from David Hals, Borough Engineer, informing the Recreation Department that the installation of a sun shade at Stillman Elementary School will not be possible.
5. Preconstruction meeting notes from Engineer's office are acknowledged. The notes cover the process of field lighting installation.
6. The Ridgefield Boro Athletic Organization has requested a refund for withdrawing from the Safe @ Home Softball Tournament. Mr. Favorito explains the team withdrew less than ten days prior to the tournament. Shirts and other supplies were previously ordered. Changes had to be made to the schedule as well. The rules also specifically state no refunds will be granted unless there is a team waiting to enter the tournament. Mr. Fidler motions to deny a refund. Mrs. Walsh seconds, a refund is unanimously denied.
7. A letter has been sent from the Recreation Department to the co-sponsored youth sports groups requesting league information be forwarded for the town's file. The

request includes budget information and registration numbers as well as other logistics.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Alpine Recreation – No Report
2. Board of Education – Mr. Aronson reports the new track surface has been installed. Lines are going to be painted on Friday of this week. The Tenafly 5K Run was a huge success which generated a record turnout.
3. Youth Services – No Report
4. Joint Use – No Report

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

1. Two permit requests have been submitted for the Municipal Field. The first is from the Adult Soccer Club. Mr. Swift motions to allow the club to play on Saturdays from 5:00-7:00 pm starting on June 30, 2007 and ending on September 1, 2007. Further dates will be coordinated around the fall youth soccer and football schedules. Mr. Fidler seconds the motion and it is unanimously passed. A permit request has been submitted by Joy Christian Fellowship of Tenafly. They would like to use the Municipal Field on seven dates, Saturday mornings, 10:00-12:00 am for softball games. Mrs. Walsh motions to allow use beginning on June 23, 2007 and ending on July 28, 2007 with exceptions noted on the permit request by Mr. Favorito. Mr. Swift seconds and the motion is unanimously carried.
2. A meeting was held with the new presidents of the Tenafly Jr. Soccer travel program. The meeting went well. They requested a representative from Little League attend the next meeting to coordinate soccer and baseball schedules.
3. Work on the Municipal Field Lighting project has begun. The possible effects are a relocation of a few games to Sunnyside Park or THS fields. Mr. O'Brien voices a concern that the contractor working on the project is dumping excess concrete near the Tenakill brook and is afraid it may run off.
4. Refund request from Ridgefield has been decided upon.
5. Englewood Cliffs has approximately four children who want to play Jr. Football in Tenafly. The Bergen County Junior Football League unanimously voted to deny this request since Englewood Cliffs is districted to play in Englewood. Mrs. McDermott does not believe it is in the best interest of the Tenafly Recreation Commission to pursue this request on behalf of the Englewood Cliffs residents.
6. Gross Sports in Englewood has offered a 10% discount on sporting goods to all youth who participate in Tenafly Recreation sponsored athletics. They have also offered to donate 5% of their proceeds from these sales back to Tenafly athletic programs. Mr. Swift motions to accept this offer, Mrs. McDermott seconds and the motion is unanimously carried.
7. Commissioner's Cup and 4<sup>th</sup> of July flyers have been designed and enclosed.
8. Open discussion regarding Municipal Field usage. Mr. O'Brien believes the field and more specifically the fencing is being damaged by non-permitted play. If more requests for usage come in, the field may need to be shut down to non-scheduled play at some point in the future.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Last month Mr. Rodriguez brought to light a law passed by the State of New Jersey requiring sport safety goggles be worn by youth participants. Eifert French, the Borough's insurance carrier has suggested the new law should be posted by the Recreation Department to inform parents. Mrs. McDermott agrees and suggests the Recreation Department should post the new law in its seasonal brochures and in the office.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

No New Business

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman

Assistant Recreation Director