

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2009**

ROLL CALL: Chairman Jerry O'Brien, Vice Chairman Naomi McDermott, Tony Favorito, Robert Sabatino, Tim Roetman, Tom Swift, Rich Rodriguez, Susan Van Poznak, Council Liaison Nadia LaMastra, Alpine Liaison Jim Schwartz

ABSENT: Peter Fidler, Board of Education Liaison Mark Aronson

MINUTES: Mr. Rodriguez motions to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2009 meeting. Mrs. McDermott seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

AUDIENCE:

Andrew Katz, 16 Howard Park Drive and Nima Zahedi, 22 Leslie Place is in attendance. Mr. Katz explains both he and Nima grew up in Tenaflly and played soccer throughout their high school years. They are both currently in college and seeking to start a summer soccer league. They have spoken to Mr. Favorito and have prepared a letter outlining their league proposal. Their biggest obstacles at the present time are finding field space and obtaining insurance. Mr. Favorito recommends this league can be handled in one of two ways, either they can be co-sponsored by Tenaflly Junior Soccer (TJSL) or they can be directly sponsored by the Recreation Department. Jeff Toonkel, co-President of Tenaflly Travel Soccer is in the audience and states TJSL has not reviewed their request. Mr. Katz explains he has spoken to Tenaflly High School Athletic Director Ed Craumer about field space behind Tenaflly High School. He is waiting to hear back from Mr. Craumer regarding availability since their proposed league may interfere with summer baseball activities. Mr. Schwartz offers use of the Alpine Field as a possible solution. Mr. O'Brien states he is in favor of accommodating this league and would like Mr. Katz to work out the details with Mr. Favorito. Mrs. McDermott motions to support an organized adult soccer league either sponsored or co-sponsored by the Recreation Department. Mr. Rodriguez seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

Mrs. Barbara Guerra, a resident of Cresskill is in attendance regarding her daughter Jessica, who has been employed with the Tenaflly Recreation Department the past three summers. She would like to know the status of her daughter's employment for this summer. Mr. O'Brien states he asked Borough Administrator Joe DiGiacomo to clarify the hiring policy for him. Mr. DiGiacomo informed Mr. O'Brien workers with prior experience, regardless of their residency are given first priority. When it comes to new hires, Tenaflly residents are always given priority. Mrs. McDermott recognizes the fact that there has been a lot of confusion on this topic. The Commission will re-visit this policy under New Business.

Mr. Ron Roman, 35 Royden Road is in attendance. Mr. Roman has replaced the lock on the soccer goals at the Municipal Field twice and the chain once. The locks have been broken, assumingly by vandalism overnight. Mr. Roman would like to help the situation; he offers to purchase a heavier lock and chain. He will provide keys to Tenaflly Junior Soccer and the Recreation Office. Mayor Peter Rustin is in attendance also regarding the recent vandalism at the Municipal Field. Mayor Rustin suggests the

Commission should look into motion detecting lights to be placed around the perimeter of the Municipal Field. Mayor Rustin also suggests the Recreation Commission send a letter to the Borough Administrator asking for increased police patrols through the Municipal complex around the field. The Mayor also requests the Recreation Commission consider hiring a second site supervisor to monitor the fields after dark. Mr. O'Brien recognizes the Mayor's concerns including the vandalism and potential deterrents as well as other issues such as litter and damage to the fences. Mr. O'Brien suggests locking the gates at dark is another possible solution. Mr. Favorito suggests the field could be regulated by permit only with non-authorized groups removed. The Mayor recommends the field should remain open under the current system, but the Site Supervisor should be present to watch and make sure the field is used properly. If users don't listen to the Site Supervisor, the Police should be called. If the Site Supervisor can not be present at the hours needed, a second person should be hired to do the work. Mr. O'Brien thanks Mayor Rustin for his input. The Commission will consider their options later under New Business.

Jacki Saltzman and Suzanne Schwartz are in attendance representing PASET. Ms. Saltzman and Ms. Schwartz would like the Recreation Commission to pursue more activities for children with disabilities. Ms. Saltzman explains there are a number of children in town with a variety of developmental and physical disabilities. Ms. Schwartz informs the Commission she has been in contact with a gym teacher at Maugham School who would be willing to run an athletic-based program for a special needs group. Ms. Schwartz suggests the program should be set up as a one-on-one program with parents in attendance to work with their children. Mr. Favorito and Mr. O'Brien request they draw up an outline of who, what, where and when. Mrs. McDermott offers to assist with designing a framework for the proposed program. Mayor Rustin suggests that is a good idea since the parents from PASET are the most capable of telling the Recreation Commission what they are looking for. Mr. Swift suggests picking up a brochure and basing a program description off one of the other programs. Mr. O'Brien thanks Ms. Saltzman and Ms. Schwartz for attending the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Memo from Tenafly Little League regarding the suspension of an umpire for the duration of the season is read and acknowledged.
2. Mr. Favorito had sent a memo to the Mayor and Council requesting use of Sunnyside Park for Coed and Men's Softball games. Councilwoman LaMastra reports the Council approved use of Sunnyside Park for Coed games but not Men's League games. Mr. Favorito reports he has rearranged the schedule to move the Men's League rain dates to the high school field which has forced more games for the coed league to Sunnyside Park.
3. Mr. Rodriguez had sent an email to Mr. Favorito disputing the rule of exposed/unexposed jewelry during a softball game. At this time Mr. Rodriguez states the rule has been clarified and he is withdrawing his dispute.
4. Email from Mayor Rustin regarding burns on the turf field started to be discussed earlier. Mr. O'Brien again recommends the gates be locked on the field when not in use after dark. Mrs. McDermott points out since there isn't a high fence the field would still be easily accessible. Motion detecting lighting would probably be

appropriate. Mayor Rustin again requests the Site Supervisor be assigned the duties to patrol at night. If the current Site Supervisor can not do it, a second person should be hired to fill the additional hours. Mayor Rustin further recommends the Commission send a letter to the Borough Administrator requesting the Police Department patrol the fields more frequently.

5. Email from Safe at Home Tournament participants thanking Mr. Favorito and the Recreation Staff for organizing and running the tournament is read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Alpine Recreation – No Report.
2. Board of Education – No Report from Mr. Aronson. Mrs. McDermott reports the 5K race was this past weekend. There were an estimated 1,400 runners and 4,000 spectators.
3. Youth Services – No Report.
4. Joint Use – No Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. The Mayor has made several requests regarding the Municipal Field. Councilwoman LaMastra suggests inviting Chief Bruno to the next Commission meeting to discuss the issues with him. Mr. Swift makes a motion to lock the Municipal Field at night and to send a memo to Chief Bruno requesting additional patrols of the Municipal complex after dark. Mr. O'Brien seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried. Mr. Rodriguez makes a second motion to send a memo to Mr. DiGiacomo requesting permission to hire a second site supervisor to work during the hours Lou Smaragdakis is not working. Duties would include locking the fields and checking the facilities for vandalism and debris. Mr. O'Brien again seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.
2. Brian Eifert from Eifert French Insurance Co. has sent a letter to the attention of Mr. Roetman regarding the use of the Skate Park. In the letter, Mr. Eifert explains the Borough would be at a greater risk of exposure if it were to allow non-residents to register for use of the park. With regard to guest badges, Mr. Eifert recommends guests register the same way as residents, making the guest badges non-transferable. Councilwoman LaMastra suggests only residents should be allowed to apply for a guest badge and their name would be on the badge, not the guest user. This would be an additional source of revenue for the Commission as well. Mrs. McDermott would like the Department to respond to Eifert French requesting residents only may purchase guest badges.
3. The annual Independence Day Celebration will be held on Friday, July 3 in the Roosevelt Common from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. Fireworks will follow later in the evening behind Tenafly High School.
4. A light cost estimate for users of the Municipal Field has been prepared by Mr. Roetman. The memo outlines how much the light on the field cost per hour in 2008 as well as number of hours used and who used it. The cost per hour was \$11.42 in 2008. Mr. Roetman's recommendation calls for a \$15.00 per game charge to TJSJL and TLL as well as a recommendation for the Commission to decide whether to bill Tenafly High School for their use. Mr. Favorito states he is in favor of rounding the

cost charged to users up to \$12.00, charging the High School for their use and would like to see each user group cover their own costs including the Girls' Softball and Men's Softball programs. Mrs. McDermott thinks there should be an overhead cost for the administrative work that coincides with the billing and collection. Mr. Swift suggests a minimum 10% be added to the \$11.42 cost to collect from users. Mrs. McDermott motions to collect fees from users beginning September 1, 2009 at a rate of \$13.00 per hour. Mr. Swift seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.

5. Mr. Favorito wants to discuss Mr. Roetman's hiring memo under new business. Mr. Roetman reports there were 280 children registered for Recky's Camp as of June 1. Mr. Roetman estimates there will most likely be around 325 children registered for Recky's Camp this summer. Mr. Roetman further reports over 100 applications have been received. Out of those only about one quarter will be hired given the number of staff positions available. The vast majority of applicants are Tenaflly residents.
6. Mr. Favorito has provided a listing of program dates. The in-town softball Commissioner's Cup and BBQ is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9. Finals games and an end of year travel team awards dinner have also been scheduled for the softball program. The Men's and Coed Softball leagues will begin on June 15.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. O'Brien would like to table discussion on the Municipal field light extension until after the Council passes the Recreation Board Ordinance.
2. Mrs. McDermott reports the first scholarship applicant awarded a scholarship for summer camp expressed her appreciation and thanks.
3. Mr. Rodriguez asks if the permit box requested for the Municipal Field is complete. Mr. Roetman informs the Commission the box is complete and has been placed at the entrance to the field.
4. Mr. O'Brien asks Mr. Roetman if fence quotes have been obtained for repairs at the Municipal Field. Mr. Roetman informs the Commission two estimates have been done by two contractors, but quotes have not been sent in yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Favorito would like to clarify the policy regarding hiring for Recky's Day Camp. Mr. Favorito also requests any questions about hiring be inquired directly within the Recreation Office. Mr. Roetman explains the past few years the policy has been the people who worked in the past year, regardless of residency, were given first priority to work this year. With any new hires, Tenaflly residents are given priority over non-residents. Mr. O'Brien would like the policy to be clearly defined and motions to give first priority in hiring to persons with experience from the previous year, regardless of residency. With new hires, Tenaflly residents still get first priority. Mr. Rodriguez seconds the motion. All in favor and the motion is carried.
2. Permit applications have been received from the Elisabeth Morrow School and Tenaflly Adult Soccer League. Elisabeth Morrow is requesting use in the fall after school at Sunnyside Park. Mr. Swift motions to approve the permit. Mrs. McDermott seconds the motion. All in favor and the motion is carried. The Adult Soccer League is looking to continue play throughout the summer. Mr. O'Brien

motions to approve their permit. Mrs. McDermott seconds. All in favor and the motion is carried.

3. Mrs. McDermott motions to approve the college-age adult soccer league. Mr. Swift seconds the motion. All in favor and the motion is carried.
4. Mr. Swift endorses the special needs program and would like the Commission to assist in any way possible. Mr. Sabatino agrees and would like to see a program established. Mrs. McDermott believes there are ways some of the kids with special needs can begin to be mainstreamed with proper instruction.
5. Mr. Sabatino would like to discuss a playoff softball game that occurred earlier this evening in which the game expired due to a time restriction. Mr. Sabatino suggests the playoff games should be scheduled on different days. Mr. Rodriguez suggests in future years, extended light use could resolve this situation. For this year, the coaches could be asked to schedule a make-up to complete the game. Mr. O'Brien suggests the game could be completed prior to the final. Mr. Sabatino suggests the game should be left the way it is. Mr. Rodriguez looks at it from both teams' perspectives and suggests as upset as one team may be, the other could be if the game goes the other way. Mr. Sabatino points out each team got equal at-bats and had an equal chance. Moving forward, Mr. O'Brien would like in future years, games have to be played to completion, in one night or on multiple nights.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned, 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman