

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – October 16, 2006**

ROLL CALL: Chairman Jerry O'Brien, Vice-Chairman Naomi McDermott, Tony Favorito, Rich Rodriguez, Pam Walsh, Peter Fidler, Robert Sabatino, Tom Swift, Councilman Robert Thompson, Tim Roetman

ABSENT: Alpine Liaison Ann Shaner, Board of Education Liaison Mark Aronson

MINUTES: Motion by Mr. Rodriguez to accept September 11 and September 25 minutes, motion seconded by Mrs. McDermott, minutes approved.

AUDIENCE: Tom Giordano, 12 George St., feels the lights on the Municipal Field are necessary and is happy to see the project moving forward. He also believes the use of the field should continue to adhere to the in-season policy. The Recreation Commission shares these same feelings and thanks Mr. Giordano for his support.

Ron Roman, 35 Royden Road, Ray Murphy 48 Downey Drive, Avi Sacajiu 66 Berkeley Drive, Steve Goldstein 34 White Place, Michael Barr 57 Surrey Lane, and Simon Milou 38 Glenwood Road, all part of the Tenaflly Adult Soccer League are in attendance to get a clarification on the status of their permit application. Mr. O'Brien states at the Recreation Commission meeting on September 11 they Commission advised the soccer players to obtain a permit application from the Recreation Office and file the permit with proof of insurance. At that time their permit would be approved. Mr. Roetman states since that time, the Mayor and Council have changed the permit issuance policy on the use of the Municipal Field. Once the permit is approved by the Recreation Commission it must go to Mayor and Council for final approval. The Recreation Commission will issue the Adult Soccer group a permit for field use. They will discuss their concerns about the Mayor and Council having to approve the permits later in the meeting. The soccer group will be informed by the Recreation Department of the final decision as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Memo from Mr. DiGiacomo to Chief Bruno regarding enforcement of the rules of the skate park. Mr. Favorito explains the memo re-iterates the resolution that was passed by the Commission requiring the enforcement of the rules and regulations.
2. Memo from Mr. DiGiacomo to Mayor and Council regarding policy on hiring and paying Recreation program instructors. Mr. Favorito explains under the current policy the instructors are put on payroll and taxes are deducted from their pay just like regular employees. Mrs. McDermott believes there are two issues here. One, the instructors should not be paid by payroll or be able to collect unemployment. Second, the instructors should be carrying their own insurance. One possible option is to pay the instructors through voucher where they would be given a 1099 form and subject to taxes on their own. Another option would be to pay them as sub-contractors. Mrs. McDermott motions to forward to the Borough Administrator a recommendation to change the payroll status of program instructors, Mr. Rodriguez seconds the motion, it is unanimously approved.
3. Memo from Mr. DiGiacomo to Mayor and Council regarding bond ordinance for Municipal Field lighting is read and acknowledged.
4. Letter from Mr. DiGiacomo to David Hals, Borough Engineer, regarding the Municipal Field lighting project is acknowledged.

5. Memo from Mr. DiGiacomo to Public Works and Recreation Departments regarding the maintenance of synthetic turf is read. Mr. Favorito comments that two patches of the turf field will need to be cut out and replaced. This is normal maintenance on heavy use spots like a pitchers mound. Regarding maintenance, Mr. Rodriguez would like to forward a complaint to the Board of Education regarding their fields, particularly the softball field at Stillman School. The infield is in disrepair.
6. Anti-Nepotism ordinance has been amended by the Mayor and Council. The children and other relatives of Commission members are now capable of being hired for seasonal employment.
7. Memo from Mr. DiGiacomo to Recreation Department regarding policy on use of the Municipal Field is acknowledged.
8. Letter from Lorraine Kapakjian to Mayor Rustin is acknowledged.
9. Letter from New York Giants to Tenafly Recreation is acknowledged.
10. Memo from Mr. J. Robert Beutel, Director of Public Works, to Mr. DiGiacomo regarding Field Turf maintenance plan is acknowledged.
11. Memo from Mr. DiGiacomo to Mayor and Council of draft rules and regulations of use of the Municipal Field. Mrs. McDermott would like to see the words “by permit only” added to the line of intent on the draft. Mr. Fidler and Mr. O’Brien both would like to see Tenafly Little League added to Class B of the user section. The rest of the Commission agrees. In priority of users the Recreation Commission’s previously established in-season policy will take precedent over usage. Mr. Favorito would like to add the High School Girls Softball Team to the list of Board of Education users. The Commission agrees. Mrs. McDermott would like to see Rosh Hashanah added to the list of holidays when the lights would be off. The original proposed turn off times were 9:00 pm on Monday – Thursday and 10:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. The Recreation Commission doesn’t think 9:00 pm during the week would enable a softball double header during the spring and summer. The Commission agrees to amend the proposed time to 10:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 10:30 pm on Friday and Saturday. Naomi would like the line about noise changed to include the words “the unauthorized use” of amplification equipment will not be permitted. Also, a line of notice of cooperation among groups should be included to promote active use of the field.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Alpine Recreation – No report.
2. Board of Education – No report.
3. Youth Services – Mrs. Walsh reports the Teen Center is looking into setting up an online registration system to allow greater access to services. Also, they are conducting a survey to target High School age children and their wants for extracurricular activity. The goal is to draw kids away from hanging out downtown in an unsupervised environment.
4. Joint use – No report.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

1. A request has been made to the Elizabeth Morrow School for one night a week of open gym play for High School age children to play basketball. There has not been an answer yet.
2. A new Facility Inspection Form has been designed by Mr. Favorito. He would like the Site Supervisor to submit this back to him along with his time sheet.
3. New permit procedure as earlier mentioned set up by Mayor and Council. The Recreation Commission reviews the permit requests for the Municipal Field, and then the requests need to be submitted for further approval by Mayor and Council. Mr. Swift motions to allow adult soccer use of the field. Mr. Rodriguez seconds and the motion is unanimously passed. The Recreation Commission objects to the Mayor and Council taking power away from the Recreation Commission. Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. McDermott both voice their concerns over this and would like Councilman Thompson to bring their concerns back to the next session of the Mayor and Council. Mrs. McDermott motions for Mr. Thompson to address these concerns, Mr. Swift seconds and the motion is unanimously approved. Mr. Favorito has also received a permit application from the Tenafly High School Flag Football club. They have asked for use of the field from 9:30 – 1:00 on Sunday mornings over the winter. Not to conflict with adult soccer, Mrs. McDermott motions to allow them use from 10:00 – 1:00, Mrs. Walsh seconds and the motion is unanimously carried.
4. Mr. Favorito presents a "Kids for Cancer" flyer designed by the Jr. Football Senior Team. The kids would like to run a football clinic day and donate proceeds to the Tommorow's Children Fund. The Commission is in favor of this idea.
5. At the last Department Head meeting, information was given that the Mayor and Council have approved the use of the Recreation Administrative Fee toward funding facility improvements.
6. The Recreation Department is currently seeking a 7th grade girls basketball coach as well as an 8th grade boys basketball coach for its upcoming traveling basketball season.
7. Policy on lighting for the Municipal Field has been previously discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A follow up on background checks has been done by Mr. Roetman. Mr. Roetman discusses several options including checks run through the State Police and through internet websites. There is also a grant foundation that will assist in paying for State Police background checks. It is up to the Commission to decide who it would like to include in a check if anyone. The Commission would like feedback from the co-sponsored groups and will table the discussion until the next meeting.
2. Fee justification will be discussed at the next meeting after learning more about the payroll situation with the program instructors.
3. Mr. Sabatino would like to know if any more discussion has taken place about lightning detectors. Mr. Roetman states the Bergen, Passaic, Hudson Recreation Association (BPHRA) will be hosting a meeting regarding lightning sensors this coming November. Mr. Roetman encourages Mr. Sabatino and any other Commission members to attend.

4. Mr. O'Brien would like the Site Supervisor to patrol the Municipal Field on Sunday afternoon from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Mr. O'Brien believes there may be a group on the field without a permit.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Favorito would like the Recreation Commission's support for the use of Fuel Fitness in the upcoming season. When he met with the Mayor and Council at last year's budget hearing it was his understanding that the increased fees for programs were to include Fuel Fitness conditioning. The Recreation Commission supports the use of Fuel Fitness in the programs and feels if the money is in the trust account there should not be a problem incorporating it into the program.
2. Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Roetman attended a Open Space and Recreation planning meeting this past month. The Borough has been granted money to conduct a survey on potential open space planning for the future. The Recreation Commission is being asked to prepare a wish list of items it may want in the future if open space became available. The Commission's greatest wants are a new Rec Center and possibly turf on other existing fields. In addition, they would like to add a restroom facility at the Municipal Field.
3. Mr. Rodriguez raises concerns about the Board of Education facilities, as previously mentioned the Stillman school field is in disrepair. Mr. O'Brien also mentions the track that is damaged and needs resurfacing. He thinks it is disgraceful that the track teams do not have a home meet this year due to the poor condition. He also adds in the recently passed bond referendum for 30 million dollars, the Board of Education should have spent money on maintaining their athletic facilities.
4. Mrs. Walsh would like to see the addition of CPR training for volunteer coaches. Mr. Roetman mentions that he and Mrs. Roux of the Recreation Department have been working on establishing a class. It would be a small fee for a one day workshop on CPR training. Mr. Sabatino would like to see it offered for coaches.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman
Asst. Recreation Director