

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 2007**

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

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

MINUTES: Mr. Fidler motions to approve September 10, 2007 minutes, Mr. Swift seconds the motion, all in favor and minutes are approved.

AUDIENCE: Carol Roux of the Tenafly Recreation Department, 6 Mahan St., has submitted a written request to the Recreation Commission asking to change the annual Visit with Santa event to a tree lighting and menorah lighting ceremony to be held outside Borough Hall on Monday, December 3rd from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The event would combine a visit from Santa with a possible choral performance from either the Tenafly Middle School or High School chorus. Mr. Fidler motions to accept these changes. Mr. Swift seconds. All are in favor and the motion is carried. Request will be forwarded to Mayor and Council.

Boaz Givon, founder of The Hobby Quest is proposing to run a model airplane class with Tenafly Recreation. The class is geared towards two age groups K-2 and 3rd-5th grades. This program is geared toward teaching children how to read blue prints and design model aircraft. The cost of the program is \$116 for 8 weeks per child. Mr. Givon is currently running this program in three of the four elementary schools in Tenafly and is expanding to Mt. Carmel School in January. The Recreation Commission thanks Mr. Givon for his presentation and will decide on this program later.

Deborah Eichhorn, 29 Montvale Avenue, Montvale, NJ is representing PIE Valley PTO. Their permit request to use the Roosevelt Common on October 21st was approved by Mayor and Council. They would like to use the track to do the walk-a-thon. Mr. O'Brien explains the Board of Education controls the track and at this point in time they will not have a meeting before their date. Mr. O'Brien suggests an alternate route around the Little League field.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Excerpt from August 14, 2007 Mayor and Council minutes regarding new recreational vehicle and donation from Tenafly Racquet Club to resurface the four tennis courts at the Roosevelt Common is acknowledged.
2. Letter from Mayor of Leonia Laurence Cherchi, requesting use of the Borough's skate park. Mr. O'Brien expresses he is not in favor of this request. There is no benefit to Tenafly being offered. Mr. Rodriguez also notes if exception was made to Leonia, each town in the area would most likely make similar requests.
3. Email from Joe DiGiacomo, Borough Administrator regarding use of lights on the Municipal Field. The Mayor and Council denied a request to extend light use on Friday, September 28 for a Jr. Football game. Mr. O'Brien would like to see the Recreation Commission discuss changes in the light schedule with the Mayor and Council. After playing a weekend of Jr. Football at the Municipal Field on a Friday night the 10:00 pm shut off time does not allow for rain delays or injury timeouts. Mr. O'Brien Mrs. McDermott would like to table this motion until the next meeting so a full season of use will be completed. Afterwards the schedule

can be reviewed to see how many possible dates may have benefited from extended light use.

4. Letter from Carol Roux notifying the Commission all the Jr. Football coaches have been certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association.
5. Memo from Tony Favorito to Joe DiGiacomo regarding summer camp licensing is acknowledged.
6. Mayor and Council Resolution #R07-381 granting PIE Valley PTO access to the Roosevelt Common for an event is acknowledged.
7. Mayor and Council Ordinance #07-21 regarding dogs in children's play areas is acknowledged by the Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Alpine Recreation – No Report
2. Board of Education – Mr. Favorito reports the football practice field at the Tenafly Middle School is unlevel, may be a safety concern.
3. Youth Services – No Report
4. Joint Use – No Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Summer program budgets are enclosed for review. Mr. Rodriguez states he spoke to the Mayor regarding the budgets and got the sense the Mayor and Council would simply like oversight of the programs by the Recreation Commission. Mr. Roetman notes the summer camp turned a profit and fees would not need to increase next year. Also Mr. Roetman suggests some of the excess should be used for a temporary tent next season. Mrs. McDermott suggests using some of the money for a free ice cream day where campers could get ice cream off a truck.
2. 2007 Goals and Objectives update, Mr. Favorito reports three of the main goals for the Recreation Department have been completed. A CPR course was held for summer camp staff. Another course for coaches and instructors will be held on November 13th. The Recreation web site has been updated. The hiring process for summer camp counselor applicants has been moved up and is working efficiently.
3. Mr. Favorito reports coaches are in place for most of the winter sports teams. Jeff Shaner will be the head wrestling coach. Sean MacIsaac will be coaching 8th grade boys travel basketball. Mr. Favorito will be coaching 7th grade boys travel basketball. Ken Clifford will be coaching 7th grade girls travel basketball. There is currently an opening for an 8th grade girls' travel basketball coach.
4. Halloween Celebration is scheduled for October 27th a flyer is enclosed.
5. A new program is being proposed, a Pumpkin Float in the Roosevelt Common. Mr. Roetman explains there is a schedule in which children will have the opportunity to carve a pumpkin, sit for scary stories and float the pumpkins in the pond at night. The Recreation Staff will run this event. Mrs. McDermott motions to approve the Pumpkin Float, Mr. Rodriguez seconds and the motion is carried unanimously.
6. Mr. Favorito has been coordinating field use and lighting of the Municipal Field with Junior Soccer representatives Lori Leskin and Jaime Kraft. Everything has gone well so far.

7. In 2006 the Jr. Football program's senior team hosted an event "Tackle Cancer" at the Municipal Field. The senior players hosted a clinic for younger players. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Tomorrow's Children Fund. Mr. Favorito would like approval to encourage the players to set this event up again this season. Mr. Sabatino makes a motion to approve, Mr. Swift seconds and the motion passes unanimously.
8. Memo to Recreation Staff regarding permit procedure. Mr. Favorito explains the secretary will be solely responsible for accepting permits and informing applicants of decisions.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Sabatino asks if the adult soccer permit requests could be handled on a six month basis so a representative doesn't have to attend the Commission meetings. Mr. O'Brien explains a representative does not have to attend, but the requests are handled on a seasonal basis due to the lack of field space and the anticipated requests from the in-season groups.
2. Mr. Favorito reports there was an American Flag destroyed at the Municipal Field this past weekend. He would like to have a flag mounted to one of the light poles. Mrs. McDermott reminds everyone a flag must be lit if it is to fly on a 24 hour basis. Mr. Favorito will forward this request to the Mayor and Council.
3. Councilman Thompson reports the Tenaflly Public Library is currently displaying Yankees memorabilia available for viewing by the public.
4. Mr. O'Brien suggests a gate should be installed on the west end of the Municipal Field by the hill area so spectators can enter the far sidelines without having to cross the field. Also Mr. O'Brien would like to know the status of the stone wall that was proposed for the area near Froggy Park. Mr. Favorito reports the project was turned over to the Borough Engineer last he heard. Mr. Rodriguez mentions the current bleachers are inadequate and do not provide a good view of the playing field. A larger grandstand should be added.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tenaflly Junior Soccer League has enclosed a budget for review. It is acknowledged by the Commission.
2. Mr. Rodriguez was approached by a parent at a Junior Soccer game recently who was upset there were no ice packs available. Mr. Favorito will discuss this issue with Mr. Kraft of Junior Soccer. Medical kits should have been given to coaches at the beginning of the season. Mr. Swift brings up a separate issue with Junior Soccer. Again he has heard travel coaches are instructing their players not to attend in-town games. This goes against the co-sponsorship policy. Mr. Roetman suggests inviting the travel coaches to the next Recreation Commission meeting to resolve this issue. The Commission agrees this is the best course of action.
3. Mr. Sabatino reports the town of Bergenfield is having trouble with their football program and may approach the league Tenaflly participates in to join. Mr. Favorito informs the Commission the Bergen County Junior Football League will independently review applications to enter the league.
4. Mrs. McDermott would like to discuss the Hobby Quest presentation made earlier. She mentions the after school clubs that Hobby Quest now runs out of the schools benefits the Home School Associations (HSA's). The Recreation

- Department should not be duplicating a program already run in the schools that benefits the HSA's. Mrs. McDermott suggests running this program when schools are not in session and when it would not conflict. Mr. Favorito offers the winter break period as a better time to run a program. Mr. Roetman will follow up with Mr. Givon of the Hobby Quest to discuss alternate ideas.
5. Mr. Fidler mentions the Tenaflly Little League had an altercation go to trial which resulted in a guilty verdict for an assault charged to a parent who hit another parent at a game. Mr. Fidler asks if there is a procedure in place to deal with these types of situations. Mr. Favorito reports parents are required to sign a code of conduct when registering their children for sports. Parents may be asked to leave a facility if an altercation occurs.
 6. Permit request from Englewood based men's soccer club seeking field space. Mr. Favorito points out the permit only lists two Tenaflly residents and it is also filled out incorrectly. The dates also conflict with the Junior Soccer schedule. Mrs. McDermott motions to decline this request. Mr. Sabatino seconds and the motion is carried unanimously.
 7. Mr. O'Brien asks Mr. Roetman to make copies of the Recreation Commission policies and procedures and distribute them as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman
Asst. Recreation Director