

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – November 13, 2006**

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

Absent: Pam Walsh, Ann Shaner, Alpine Liaison, Mark Aronson, Board of Education Liaison

MINUTES: Mr. Swift motions to approve October minutes, Mr. Rodriguez seconds, minutes are accepted.

AUDIENCE: Mr. Bert Pintner, 18 Foster Road. Mr. Pintner is against outsiders using the field. He saw an article in the Bergen Record a couple weeks ago in which the Mayor was quoted as saying certain Men's Softball teams were using the field who were not residents of Tenafly. Mr. O'Brien states the quote in the paper was inaccurate. He plays in the Softball League and knows the teams involved are all Tenafly based teams.

Mr. Phillip Soo, 6 Somerset Road, feels the lights are an intrusion. Lights on at 10:00 pm and even 9:00 pm are too late. He doesn't believe all the town's recreational problems have to be solved at the Municipal Field with lights. He believes the town has enough money to purchase additional lands and develop new sites.

Mr. Walter Merzin, Foster Road, feels the lights should be off by 8:00 pm. The PA system should also not be used. Mr. Roetman explains the PA system is used for the Jr. Football and Jr. Cheerleading programs only. There are only 4 home dates each year for these programs. Cheerleading relies heavily on the music to dance a "halftime routine". The routine usually only lasts a few minutes at most.

Ms. Lorraine Kapajian, Foster Road, is also against a PA system. She does not want the lights to become the rule as opposed to the occasional use proposed. She would like the weekends to be preserved so the residents may enjoy quiet without distraction from field noise. Also, the proposed 10:30 off time is way too late.

Mr. Kim, 30 Foster Road, is concerned about how the lights will be turned off when games are over. Mr. Roetman explains the lights will be placed on a digital timer, controlled only through the Recreation Office by the Director or Asst. Director.

Jaime Kraft, 23 Norman Place, representing Tenafly Junior Soccer League informs the Commission and residents there are now over 800 youth soccer players registered this fall. No children are turned away from the program. The program is currently burdened with playing all games on the fall schedule on Saturdays and Sundays. Use of the field during the week at night would certainly help the soccer program. Mrs. McDermott comments, the expansion of soccer has grown from 300 to 800 kids since she joined the Commission. She also comments that youth sports in Tenafly keep the kids on the field and away from the Downtown area. The new lights will not be glaring into people's windows all night either, the lighting is designed to light the field only.

Ms. Sommers, Cameron Road, comments they live on a cul-de-sac and the parking during games becomes a problem. Mr. O'Brien comments he knows the location of that street and does not agree; the street does not take on traffic as a result of the games on the Municipal Field.

Mr. Walter Merzin asks if the lights would be turned on for snow-sledding. Mr. O'Brien answers no, lights will not be used for sledding.

Residents are also concerned that there will be kids on the field when it is dark after the lights have gone off. Mrs. McDermott explains that is an issue regardless of whether or not lights are put on the field. Mr. Favorito further notes he has warned kids who are on the field at night that it could be dangerous and they may get hurt.

Mr. O'Brien asks audience member, Councilman Michael Latiff who would be responsible for making sure kids and other people are off the field at night. Mr. Latiff does not have a clear answer. He stresses an answer should be found, and made clear to the residents who they should call if there is a problem. Mr. O'Brien states the Police Department will remove people from the Board of Education fields as soon as they are called. He feels there should be a uniform town policy on this so the same can be done for Borough fields. Mr. Latiff and Mr. Thompson would like the Commission to make a note of this.

Mr. O'Brien thanks the residents for their comments. They are welcome to stay when the Commission gets to the lighting questions coming up in a few minutes.

Mr. Avi Sacajiu, Tenaflly Adult Soccer Club, enters the meeting and asks if the residents had mentioned the men's soccer. Mr. Sabatino would like the Adult Soccer Club to be on the field no earlier than 8:00 am as scheduled. Mr. Sacajiu agrees to adhere to that and will inform his group.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Field usage and lighting restrictions. Drafts are presented from the Recreation Commission and Mayor and Council. Mr. O'Brien would like to give the residents a break on Saturdays. Mr. Favorito would like to set up the schedule seasonally. The following changes are discussed and agreed upon: For Fall use, Soccer will be on the field Monday through Thursday 6:30-9:30 pm. Jr. Football will use the field two to four times on either Fridays or Saturdays. Saturdays will be during the day. Fridays may be until 10:00 pm. Lights will not be used Saturday nights, except if a game has been rained out and can't be re-scheduled elsewhere. Sundays the lights will be off. Lights are off during the Winter from December 1 through March. In the Spring, lights will be on for Girls Softball Monday through Friday until 9:30 pm. Tenaflly Little League or Soccer requests will be handled on a case by case basis. Saturdays and Sundays will be handled the same as the Fall season. Wording on the proposed rules and regulations will be changed from "Men's" softball to "Adult" softball to accommodate the Co-ed league. In the Summer the lights will be used for Adult Softball to 10:00 pm Monday through Friday as proposed by Mayor and Council. Saturday and Sunday there will be no scheduled usage. Mr. Favorito adds the PA system needs to be used for the 2-4 home dates for Jr. Football and Cheerleading programs.
2. Memo from Mr. DiGiacomo regarding Bergen County Open Space Trust. Each year the County provides funds for Municipal projects. Mr. Favorito explains we are waiting to see if the Board of Education would be allowed to obtain money for field repairs or renovations. This year the town was awarded money for the Skate Park Phase 2 project and also for making improvements to Huyler Park.
3. Memo from Mr. DiGiacomo to Mayor and Council regarding the Recreation Commission's proposed lighting rules for the Municipal Field. This has been acknowledged in discussion with the residents already.

4. Draft of Rules for lighting use by Mayor and Council. This has also been discussed with residents and acknowledged by the Commission.
5. Email from Cherie at Eifert French Insurance Company regarding insurance costs. Mr. Favorito explains the email, according to Cherie if Recreation program instructors were paid as sub-contractors they would have to provide their own insurance. Mr. Roetman believes this would be costly to many of the instructors and we may lose up to half of the instructors if we decided to go down this path. Mr. Favorito reports research is being done to find alternative ways to pay instructor's salaries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Alpine Recreation – No Report
2. Board of Education – No Report
3. Youth Services – No Report
4. Joint Use – No Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Mr. Favorito thanks Mrs. McDermott and Mr. Thompson for judging the costume contest at the Halloween Celebration. Mrs. McDermott was very pleased with the turnout of people on a poor weather day.
2. Summer Camp will not be able to use the Middle School in 2007 due to construction. Mr. Favorito has requested the use of Stillman School.
3. Basketball and Jr. Wrestling programs are now open for registration. All programs now have coaches in place.
4. Jr. Football and Cheerleading awards dinner scheduled for December 3rd at the Colonial Manor in Old Tappan.
5. Turkey Shoot is scheduled for Sunday, November 19.
6. Winter Registration is scheduled to start Saturday, December 9.
7. The 2007 budget is due on December 13. If Commissioner's have any requests Mr. Favorito would appreciate their ideas.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Follow up on previous month's discussion on lightning detection equipment. Mr. Favorito and Mr. Roetman attended a workshop hosted by the company who sells the equipment. Mr. Roetman states the equipment would cost anywhere between \$15,000 and \$20,000 fully installed. The Recreation Commission would like it added as a Capital budget item request for 2007.
2. Follow up on CPR training classes. Mr. Roetman has scheduled two dates with licensed paramedics. The dates are March 4 and 18. Mr. O'Brien would like to see the classes offered through the seasonal brochure.
3. Mr. Favorito would like the Commission's continued approval for use of Fuel Fitness as part of the training for programs. Mrs. McDermott motions to allow Fuel's assistance, Mr. Swift seconds. All in favor.
4. Mr. Fidler asks if there is a policy on scholarships for people in need. Mr. Favorito states there is no set policy. Any cases are handled on a confidential basis and scholarships are almost always awarded. Mrs. McDermott would like Mr. Favorito to reach out to the Elementary School Principals to display an open line of communication regarding the Recreation Commission's willingness to assist those in need.

5. Mr. Swift asks about re-surfacing the tennis courts. Mr. Favorito will be putting a quote into the Capital Budget requests for 2007.
6. Mr. Fidler would like to know if Mr. Favorito has heard back from Mr. Morrisson of the High School's Flag Football Club. Mr. Favorito has not heard from him.
7. Mr. Rodriguez would like to know if we've heard from the Board of Education regarding Stillman School's field. There has been no response.
8. Mr. O'Brien asks if the Mayor and Council have put the Municipal Field lighting project out to bid. Mr. Roetman reports they will not put it out to bid until the rules and regulations have been finalized.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Favorito reports the proceeds from the Tackle Cancer program run by the Jr. Football players will all be donated to the Tomorrow's Children's Fund.
2. Mr. Swift reports the Tenafly Little League has approved the addition of a Challenger Little League division.
3. Mr. O'Brien states at the last home Jr. Football game the opposing team was complaining about the lack of bleachers on the away team's sidelines. Also he believes a gate should be cut into the fence near the entrance to Froggy Park so people may walk directly onto the away team's sidelines.
4. Mr. Roetman would like the Commission to approve changing winter registration from a 75/25 split of walk-in/online to a 50/50 split of walk-in/online registrations accepted. The Commission feels this is a good idea so people will not have to wait on a line in the cold weather.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting is adjourned 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman
Asst. Recreation Director