

**TENAFLY RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2007**

ROLL CALL: Chairman Jerry O'Brien, Vice Chairman Naomi McDermott, Tony Favorito, Peter Fidler, Robert Sabatino, Rich Rodriguez, Tim Roetman, Susan VanPoznak.

ABSENT: Tom Swift, Alpine Liaison Ann Shaner, Board of Education Liaison Mark Aronson, Council Liaison Robert Thompson

MINUTES: Mr. Rodriguez motions to approve October 15, 2007 minutes, Mrs. McDermott seconds the motion, all in favor and minutes are approved.

AUDIENCE: Paul Caine, 14 Pilgrim Court, Tenafly, NJ. And Lori Leskin, 40 Oxford Drive, Tenafly, NJ. Mrs. Leskin states she is representing Tenafly Travel Soccer, they have a permit request in for use of the Municipal Field in the spring of 2008. They are requesting use of the field for ten teams, boys and girls in grades 5-8. Each team has an eleven game spring schedule. There are fifteen children per team with a small group of four to six non-residents filling out the rosters. Mrs. Leskin understands the spring sports will have priority and they will be willing to work with Tenafly Little League and the recreation sponsored sports which take priority in the spring. Mr. Caine is representing Tenafly Junior Soccer in another matter. The Commission had requested a representative from Junior Soccer come to the meeting to discuss whether travel children were playing in the in-town league. Mr. Caine reports the TJSL Board passed a rule enabling children to play travel without having to play in the in-town league. Mr. Favorito informs Mr. Caine this rule is contradictory to the town's Co-Sponsorship Policy. Mr. Caine was unaware of the existing policy and will discuss revising the TJSL decision at their next board meeting.

Rich Baratta, 24 Standish Court, Tenafly, NJ, is representing Tenafly Little League. Mr. Baratta explains the Little League would like to use the Municipal Field for its travel program. The dimensions of the Little League fields in town do not match the required distances of the base paths in the travel program. Mr. Favorito thanks Mr. Baratta for attending the meeting and their permit request will be discussed later on.

OATH OF OFFICER: Mrs. Susan VanPoznak has entered the meeting. Mrs. McDermott swears in Mrs. VanPoznak as an officer of the Recreation Commission.

AUDIENCE: Mr. Steve Ratty, 42 Sherwood Road, Tenafly, NJ, is in attendance representing Tenafly Little League. The Commission has on the agenda an item to discuss background checks and has asked the co-sponsored groups for their input. Mr. Ratty reports the Tenafly Little League already participates in a program sponsored by Little League which conducts Social Security verification and driver's license screenings on their coaches. They are also required to sign a release provided by Little League. Mrs. Leskin reports Tenafly Junior Soccer's travel program is required by their league to have their coaches screened. Mr. Caine agrees the in-town soccer program would be one hundred percent behind background checks if the Recreation Commission decided to pass

it as a rule. Mr. Ratty says Little League would also be in favor. Mr. Favorito thanks the representatives from soccer and baseball for attending. The Commission will be discussing this topic later in the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. October 26, 2007 letter from Mr. Favorito to David Hals, Borough Engineer requesting assistance with capital budget items. Mr. Favorito reports bleachers for the Municipal Field will be a top priority for the 2008 budget.
2. Email from Scott Smilen of Tenafly Youth Basketball and Jaime Kraft of Junior Soccer supporting the Recreation Commission if they decide to move forward with background checks.
3. Letter from Jennifer Frank, 373 Franklin Street, Haworth, NJ, requesting a refund for Recky's Summer Camp. Mrs. McDermott mentions the letter was written well after the camp season had ended. At this point in time camp budgets have been finalized. Based on this, Mrs. McDermott motions to deny a refund for the camp program. Mr. Rodriguez seconds, all in favor and the motion is carried.
4. Email from Deborah Glatzer requesting a credit for a yoga class. Mrs. Glatzer's email states she attended one class before she became ill. She has not attended since. Mr. Roetman states the yoga instructor has been contacted and confirmed Mrs. Glatzer's attendance. Also, Mrs. Glatzer has been a participant in the yoga program for multiple sessions prior to her withdrawal. The instructor has agreed to allow Mrs. Glatzer to return to yoga in the winter without being charged for the program a second time. Mrs. McDermott motions to approve a refund for Mrs. Glatzer. Mrs. VanPoznak seconds, all in favor and the motion is carried.
5. Letter from Academy of Holy Angels in Demarest requesting use of the Municipal Field for their Lacrosse program. Mr. Fidler motions to deny the request. Mrs. McDermott seconds, all in favor and the motion is carried.

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. Permits submitted from Tenafly Junior Soccer and Tenafly Little League as discussed earlier. Mr. Favorito will meet with the representatives and schedule field times. Mr. Rodriguez motions to honor the requests of both groups as long as the in-season policy is adhered to. Rain dates for softball should be considered in this scheduling. A note for the soccer group to lock the soccer goals in an appropriate location should also be added. Mr. Fidler seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.
2. Permit request from Mr. Spiro Dongaris, a Tenafly coach requesting field time for his travel soccer team to practice out-of-season on the Municipal Field. Earlier Mrs. Leskin advised Mr. Favorito this group is not sanctioned by Tenafly Travel

- Soccer or TJSL. Mr. Fidler motions to deny this request. Mrs. VanPoznak seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.
3. The Adult Soccer Club has filed a permit request for use of the Municipal Field on Sundays during the winter from 1:00-3:00 pm. Mrs. McDermott motions to approve any dates without conflicts. Mr. Fidler seconds the motion, all in favor and the motion is carried.
 4. Mr. Favorito reports new programs are being developed for 2008. The biggest is an outdoor street hockey program for the winter. A budget is enclosed. The program will require a start-up cost of roughly \$1,200. Mr. Sabatino motions to approve this new program. Mr. Rodriguez seconds, all in favor and the motion is carried. Mr. Favorito also presents three new ideas for a mother/son dance, a home decorating contest and "Tenafly idol". Mr. Roetman reports the Recreation Department is also looking into a bowling league sponsorship, run in conjunction with Bowler City in Hackensack, NJ.
 5. CPR Certification was obtained on November 13 for Mr. Favorito, Wrestling coach Jeff Shaner, instructors Kim Delaney, Susan Zabinski, Ted Peng and J. Henderson as well as coaches Roy Huepler and Ariel Azria. Mr. Favorito reports the instructors were paramedics Art Ditzel and Mitch Schwartz.
 6. Mr. Favorito distributes a memo from Police Chief Michael Bruno regarding background checks. In the memo the Police Chief suggests fingerprinting could be done by the Police Department with the cost to Recreation being less than what it would cost at a private facility. The Recreation Commission will have to decide on the exact policy it would like to enforce. Mr. Roetman suggests there is more information available from other towns already implementing background checks. Mr. Roetman will obtain the information and distribute it prior to the next Commission meeting. This will be one of the TRC goals for 2008.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Junior Soccer players are required to play both in-town and travel if they choose travel soccer. This was discussed with Mr. Paul Caine earlier in the meeting.
2. Mrs. McDermott reports the Halloween Celebration went well.
3. Mr. Rodriguez asked about bleachers for the Municipal Field at the last meeting. He is happy to see there is progress being made. Also, Mr. Rodriguez asked if coaches had ice packs in case of injury at games. Mr. Favorito reports the co-sponsored groups were offered use of the field boxes and all coaches are instructed to carry a first aid box.
4. Mr. Sabatino would like to see the Code of Conduct policy tightened up. Mr. Sabatino suggests a meeting should be held prior to the start of each season requiring parents to attend, understand and sign a Code of Conduct. Mr. Roetman reports a Code of Conduct is already required for parents to sign. Mr. O'Brien states it is difficult to have all parents attend a meeting.
5. Mr. Favorito had discussed goals for the 2008 budget at October's meeting. The bleachers at the Municipal Field will be one. Mrs. McDermott suggests background checks should be another important item.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. McDermott asks if correspondence can be forwarded to the Commission members electronically. Mr. Roetman will make an effort to forward all future communications via email. Mr. Rodriguez notes he would like to be an exception.
2. Mr. Roetman reports the Tenafly Recreation Department has been awarded a \$1,500 grant from the NFL Youth Football Fund toward improving the program.
3. Mr. Roetman discusses the Cheerleading program. This year the program has been turned over to a new coach. It has not been as successful as it has been in the past. Mr. Favorito and Mr. Roetman would like to hold a meeting with the coaches and a few parents at the end of the season to discuss the program's goals and objectives for the future and how to improve the program. This will be arranged shortly.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman
Asst. Recreation Director