

**TENAFLY RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Jerry O'Brien, Vice Chairman Naomi McDermott, Susan Van Poznak, Rich Rodriguez, Robert Sabatino, Tony Favorito, Tim Roetman, Council Liaison Nadia LaMastra, Alpine Liaison Jim Schwartz, Board of Education Liaison Mark Aronson.

**ABSENT:** Tom Swift, Peter Fidler

**MINUTES:** Mr. Rodriguez motions to accept October 19, 2009 minutes. Mrs. McDermott seconds the motion. All in favor and the motion is carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Letter from TJSL to parents regarding picking up children is read. Mr. Favorito will contact the representatives from TJSL to remind them of Tenafly Recreation's policy requiring children in elementary school to be picked up by parents, but allowing Middle School students to be dismissed without a parent present.
  
2. Letter from Recreation Board to Mayor and Council regarding Board Ordinance and light policy. Mr. Rodriguez informs the Board members he received a call from Mayor Rustin who was not in favor of the Board's request. Mr. Rodriguez shared the Mayor's point of view and reasons for opposing the Board's request.

**Mr. Rodriguez and Mrs. McDermott will draft a statement to be read at a Council meeting where the Board's letter will be discussed.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Alpine Recreation – No Report.
  
2. Board of Education –
  - (a) Mr. Aronson reports Mr. Sam Bruno will be sworn in later this evening to fill a vacated seat on the Board of Education.
  - (b) Mr. Aronson also reports Kurt Hommen has resigned as the High School baseball coach. A replacement will be appointed after a search is conducted.
  - (c) Councilwoman LaMastra informs Mr. Aronson a representative from Tenafly Youth Basketball announced at last month's meeting that they had been discouraged from using one of the elementary school gyms. She asks if Mr. Aronson can look into this and report back.
  - (d) Councilwoman LaMastra and Mr. Sabatino ask Mr. Aronson why trees were cut down on the Stillman School property. There is now less shade. Mr. Aronson responds this is the first he has heard about it and will find out the details.
  
3. Youth Services – No Report.
  
4. Joint Use – No Report.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. Mr. Favorito reports he met with Ed Craumer, Monica Zaccario and Jay Shevins about winter gym use. The meeting was productive. There is now more gym availability with the new gyms in the middle school and high school.

2. Mr. Favorito has enclosed an estimate for the repair of the Municipal Basketball Courts which would include resurfacing and painting. Mr. O'Brien would like the Board to spend down the trust balances on recreation projects and then request capital funding if needed. Mrs. McDermott would like this item to be a high priority since the courts are heavily used and in a highly visible place in town.

**Mr. O'Brien suggests looking at the resurfacing quote after a decision has been reached on the restrooms.**

3. Mr. Favorito would like the Board's approval to purchase a new field groomer. Mr. Favorito reports maintenance of the current groomer is costly since it is an old piece of equipment. Councilwoman LaMastra questions whether it would be in the DPW budget. Mr. Favorito reports DPW doesn't do the in-season maintenance on the ball fields like dragging, lining and watering. Councilwoman LaMastra asks if it is possible to share equipment with the Board of Education. Mr. Favorito says it wouldn't be likely since they have their own fields to take care of and the town takes care of Sunnyside Park and all the elementary schools. Councilwoman LaMastra asks if the Tenafly Little League would be willing to pitch in. Mr. Favorito thinks Little League would contribute.

**Mrs. McDermott motions a request for Mr. Favorito to approach Tenafly Little League for a contribution toward the purchase of a field groomer. Mrs. Van Poznak seconds, all in favor and the motion is carried.**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Mr. Roetman reports he has been in contact with Mr. Swift and Borough Engineer David Hals. Mr. Swift is waiting for a survey from the Engineer's office to complete the first phase of the Municipal Field restroom plans. Mr. O'Brien would like to discuss how the restrooms are being paid for, whether bonded for, or paid outright.

**Councilwoman LaMastra, Mr. Favorito and Mr. Roetman will be meeting with Interim CFO Gene Vinci this week. They will discuss cost projections on bonding versus paying the bill outright.**

2. Councilwoman LaMastra informs the Board the rules and regulations for skate park use were established by Mayor and Council resolution and can not be changed without their approval. Mr. O'Brien suggests waiting to see how the meeting regarding the field lighting goes before recommending changes in the skate park.

3. Councilwoman LaMastra, Mr. Favorito and Mr. Roetman will discuss the allocation of the Municipal Field lighting bills with Gene Vinci during their meeting this week.

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4. Mr. Favorito reports the Department has more information on background checks. The state contracted vendor, Sagem Morpho does not retain fingerprint information and would require coaches to return to the location for fingerprinting annually under the current ordinance. The Board members agree this would discourage volunteers from coaching. Mr. Favorito reports he met with officials from the Borough of River Edge. They screen volunteers in their initial year of coaching and require a re-check every five years. Mr. Roetman recommends the Borough can begin the background checks under the current Borough Ordinance, but revisions should be made to adjust the number of years between screenings and to list Sagem Morpho as the screening location. Mr. Favorito reports every five years was chosen by River Edge since it was considered the "life span of a coach". Councilwoman LaMastra recommends the cost of the checks will have to be placed in the municipal budget beginning in 2011.

5. Mrs. McDermott reports the Halloween event was great. She would like to see the Board members more involved in town events. Mrs. McDermott suggests the Board go over the yearly calendar of events at the January meeting and pick two to show up to.

6. Mr. O'Brien reports he and Mr. Rodriguez met with Mr. Favorito and Mr. Roetman about fencing repairs and additions at the Municipal Field. Mr. O'Brien asks for new quotes for the proposed areas of work.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mr. Favorito informs the Board the budget information has been received. Councilwoman LaMastra suggests Mr. Favorito request an extension so the Recreation Board will have an opportunity to review the Recreation Department's budget request.

2. Councilwoman LaMastra reminds Board members next Monday is the town-wide meeting on passenger rail service.

3. Mr. O'Brien reminds members his term will expire in December. He is not seeking re-appointment. If the Board members know anyone interested, have them send a letter to the Mayor offering their service.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roetman