

February 2013 Recreation Commission Meeting

Meeting Open to Public: Tom Wiedemann – discussion concerning the problem with getting football equipment returned at the end of the football season as well as his idea concerning replacing football jerseys.

Maria Elena Bellinger, Council Liaison: Discussion concerning the possible renting of West Brook School to the Japanese School. Brian noted that it looks like the Japanese group will be staying with Paramus Catholic, it is a matter of working out three or four dates with them.

More consistency is needed in getting teams recognized at Mayor & Council Meetings. Sue needs to coordinate this between the teams and the council.

Dr. Bottiglieri, an expert on concussions, will be opening an office in Paramus. Perhaps a deal can be worked out with him to provide baseline screenings to our athletes age 10 and older.

There are major problems with the wrestling program that need to be worked out. Attention to the Tri County League wrestlers overshadows those boys who just wrestle in the Twin County League.

Sue to set up a meeting with Joe Mancuso and the wrestling committee.

Jay Sexton, Superintendent of Shade Tree & Parks: Sports Complex will be ready for baseball's opening day.

Jay needs the practice and game schedule for the lacrosse program. Jay recommends that a porta john be rented for the Parkway Plex at least through April 1st as the water meter will likely not be installed before that time. **Sue needs to alert the Board of Education about this.**

Director's Report

West Brook Rental: The Board of Education is looking to rent out West Brook on Saturdays to a Japanese School. Needless to say our winter programs would be greatly affected. Linda Caruso has started a petition to stop the rental.

Office Internet: Last week the system was ridiculous. When working it seemed like we had seconds to send out emails. This week the problem, which was borough wide, seems to have been corrected.

Spring Registration: Online and Mail In began on Monday and will continue through next Wednesday. In Person Registration will be on Monday, March 11th & Tuesday, March 12th.

Summer/Fall Brochure: Shortly I will begin putting this together. We might consider lowering the cost of second grade cheerleading as part of their registration fee includes their uniform and pom poms. I have plenty of used poms that I can give out, that have been in the back of our storage closet for years. A set of poms last year cost \$18.50.

Track & Field: The practice schedule is once again going to have to be flexible. We will only be allowed to use the high school track after the lacrosse teams are done using the turf field. This morning Bridget emailed me the up to date schedule for that facility and most weeks we have been scheduled in

for one practice at 7 p.m. Permission has been granted to hold a meet on the high school track on Sunday, April 28th. **Show sample of new track & field uniforms – shorts have been added.**

Discussion – Find out if Frisch's track is available. Also find out schedule for East Brook.

Earth Day: On Sunday, April 28th the Environmental Commission will once again be holding their event out on our roller rink.

Roller Hockey: I emailed John (Westwood Roller Hockey) and asked if payment for both January and February could be delivered by Monday. I received payment today for January.

Lacrosse: The boys in fifth through eighth grade have been granted use of the Paramus Catholic Bubble for practice. Their start time is 8:15 p.m. The girls will not be using the bubble as their season starts much later. The lacrosse program would like to start practicing at Parkway starting the week of Daylight Savings – March 10th.

Wrestling: Rob Kaiser must have made a couple of calls as I understand the wrestling group did get permission to use the high school for a wrestling tournament this coming Saturday. I had put in a request for use of the middle gym and had been told that the gym could not be assigned to Rob on Saturday, March 2nd as the start of baseball/softball practices can begin as of tomorrow and in the event of rain on Saturday, the high school gyms would be needed for baseball and softball practices. Someone must have told Don Roll the AD to let wrestling have the gym. This year the wrestling program was only able to hold two home meets, which Rob advised severely cut into the wrestling parents group fundraising efforts. Today, I found out that after going through all the trouble of getting the gym for the tournament, Rob had to cancel because not enough teams decided to enter.

Travel Soccer: On Tuesday night I represented our town at the meeting of the Travel Soccer League that we are a member of. At this time I don't have any travel coach who wants to be our rep. Last year's rep wasn't all that effective. If I cannot make a meeting, then I will send one of the Rich's. The main topic at Tuesday's meeting concerned all the requests to change games once the schedule is given out. Also, the league is looking to get other towns to join. They will not run a division if less than four teams are in it. Last season the U14 Girls' Division only had three teams of which we were one. Many times, when there are four teams in a division, we comprise two of the teams, since when the numbers permit, sponsor separate teams per grade rather than by age. The reason for the decline in the number of teams in this league was explained that the club teams recruit all of the better players from the individual towns and as a result in the smaller towns there aren't enough kids left for a town team.

Field Rental: Frisch will be renting the Sports Complex Baseball Field on Sunday mornings for double headers through May. Jay advised that he will have that facility ready by April 1st. **Find out if Babe Ruth will be having afternoon games at the Complex, so that if they are, Jay can bring a crew in to prepare the field for any afternoon games.**

I have given permission for the high school to once again use Petruska for some of their games and practices.

Mike Coughlan is looking for a field for his club team. I called him and told him what I need from him, insurance as well as a copy of his roster including addresses. I told him after I have the little league schedule I will be able to assign him fields.

Stony Lane has again requested the use of the Sports Complex for their annual Field Day on Thursday, June 13th, 9 a.m. through 2 p.m.

Yeshivat Noam will be once again renting the Sports Complex for their annual Field Day on Monday, April 29th. I kept the rental fee at \$550.00

Community Center: I have been letting various groups use the room including Kevin Bilin for his adult football meetings. The Mayor told him at the Robbie Bonastia Fundraiser to see me. There has been a balance of \$300 plus dollars in the Community Center Account for years. I am going to use that money to purchase some new lightweight tables. When they come in, I will get rid of the tables that are in poor shape.

We seem to be getting a lot of requests to use this room from people who are not from Paramus but are looking for a central location for their organizations. I told Bob to advise these people to call the Fire House on Farview Avenue as they rent out their room.

Farmers' Market: Will be returning to Petruska Park starting on Wednesday, June 19th.

Men's Softball: Six out of the seven managers agree that the Rec Commission should supply the bats for the league. The consensus is that they would like to see lock boxes at both fields. The bats as well as bases at Reid Park would be stored in these units. **Discussion – Jay to find out the cost of a lock box.**

Football: I recently sent out letters to a number of families in an effort to get them to return their son's football equipment from last season. I cannot send out the helmets for reconditioning until I have gotten all the helmets that were used last season back. Apparently last season, some eighth grade boy showed up at practice, without being registered he was given equipment because he promised his mother would register him. She never did and I have no address or phone number for this boy because he is not in our system.

I have already ordered over \$6000 in equipment for next season. I still have to order the helmets and shoulder pads which will come to an additional \$7000. The reconditioning of the helmets will cost another \$2000. The league fee is \$850. Last year's refereeing fees came to \$6165. They estimated \$7200 but gave me bank statements that show that \$6165 was paid out.

I think it would be great if the football parents, like every other sport, were responsible to purchase their sons' jerseys. The fee to register for football is \$100. Perhaps they will need to spend an additional \$50 to \$100 for jerseys that will become their property. They don't have to buy one every year. Consider the cost of our lacrosse program and what those parents pay: \$81.00 registration fee; \$25 to join the lacrosse association; boys' jerseys & shorts \$72; girls' jerseys & kilt \$74; boys equipment according to one parent who Bob and I spoke with on Tuesday afternoon - \$450. The wrestling parents pay \$75 plus \$30 if they need a singlet.

Competition Cheer: Allyson Tabor thinks second graders are too young for her program. She also now wants there to be tryouts. These parents pay several hundred dollars and also purchase uniforms. **Tom Locicero noted that it appeared that the Comp Cheerleaders were not showing up to cheer at football games – especially on the senior level. Sue to speak with Janet Palmaccio about this.**

Summer Playground: 80% of trips and entertainers have been booked.

I sent a letter to one of our adult supervisors that there is no position available to him. Mr. D'Arco was on the same page as Donna, advising that the letter to him be short with no explanation as to why we are not offering him a job again this year.

Coaches Dinner: As soon as the invitations come back from the printers, I will be sending out invitations to everyone who coached who met all of our requirements. There may be some coaches who neglected to hand in an Intent Form. No doubt I will be hearing from them and if they have taken care of the other two requirements, I will tell them that they are invited and let them know why they didn't get an invitation in the first place.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 23rd at 10 a.m. Setup begins at 9 a.m.

Bob's Report

Indoor soccer and intown basketball are starting to wind down, with just a few games left for each team. I've received good feedback from coaches in the Senior basketball league who have said the boys had more fun than this year than in the past. Our basketball leagues are scheduled to play their playoffs the last week of March. This year, we decided to add playoffs to the Collegiate league for the first time. Despite each league having one win-less team, I am happy with the results of our draft because most teams are in contention for the #1 or #2 seed and a first-round bye. I have altered Rich Lambert's playoff format which gave #1 and #2 a double-bye because I felt it was an unfair advantage because we will likely end up with 3- or even 4-way ties for those playoff spots.

Indoor soccer has run very smoothly and the only issue we have had was a disputed result in the 5th and 6th grade boys league. One coach said it was a 3-2 win for his team, the other coach said it was a 4-4 tie. The referee did not have a record of the final score. I have left the game off the standings for now as I do not believe it will ultimately affect the final standings.

I have sent out intent forms to last year's intown softball coaches and have begun receiving them. Right now, we have 4 head coaches and 3 assistant coaches. We are expecting to need 4 coaches in each league. The rating sessions and drafts are scheduled for the first week of April. Practices will start in the second week of April and games will start at the beginning of May.

I updated the summer camp employee applications and sent them out to last year's staff to see who will be returning. I have asked them to return their application by March 15th so we can do interviews the last week of March. We have two open supervisory positions that will need to be filled earlier. The candidates for those positions have received their application and are being asked to return it by March 1st. Last year, we had 89 total summer camp staff members. We have received much interest from people interested in working our 3x3 basketball program for the Spring and Summer; we will likely have six staff members.

Acknowledgement of Coaches:

Lacrosse

Christopher Andersen
Thomas Sharples
Roy Askling III
John Daly

Track & Field

Robert Roemer

Bill suggested that Sue look into the possibility of renting the gyms at O.L.V., Annunciation (Windsor Prep) and the J.C.C.P.

**Motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. by Steve
Seconded by Bill H**