

March 2013 Recreation Commission Meeting

Meeting Open to Public: James Blair – wants Recreation to offer a travel basketball team for second graders. **Handout**

Maria Elena Bellinger, Council Liaison: Inquired about the possibility of men's pick-up basketball. **Discussion**

The Recreation Commission does not have to fund the repair of the public address system for the Little League Field at the Sports Complex.

Include in next brochure information on parents getting their children baseline exams.

The Superintendent of the Paramus Public Schools would like the Recreation Commission to be represented at a "summit" to keep Paramus athletes from leaving the district for private high schools. **Discussion**

Discussion of seeking "gym" time at the new gym "up the street" at the Bergen County Vo-Tech School. **Maria will make a call concerning this request.**

Jay Sexton, Superintendent of Shade Tree & Parks:

Director's Report

Track & Field: Practices will be held up on the high school track whenever it is available. These practices will start at 7 p.m. East Brook will be used as an alternate site so that there are at least two practices per week. The coaches will email all registrants every two weeks their practice schedule for a two week period.

I have started to give out the new shirts and shorts. Since everyone is taking the smaller sizes, I have had to order some additional youth smalls in both the shirts & shorts. Any parent who is signing up now is being told that I will not be allowing them to pick up a uniform until all those who registered on time are fitted. They are almost a month late in registering – they can wait another week or two for their child's outfit.

Men's Softball: I purchased four bats per team. They will have to transport these bats to every game. I need to finalize the rules for this season. I already stated in an email to all the managers that use of a bat other than the ones I have given them will result in that team forfeiting the game. Someone mentioned that the home team should bring the bats and both teams should use them because what is to stop one team from having our bats altered. **Do you think this should be put in the rules?** Also if it is found that our bats have been altered what should the penalty be? Should the person who altered the bat be thrown out of the league. Also the team should then be required to pay for a replacement bat. A majority of the men signing up for our league think it is good that we are providing the bats. **One player wants to know if he can use his own wooden bat.** **Discussion – both teams will have access to all**

eight bats. Use of an illegal bat will result in a forfeit. If it is found that a team has altered one of the bats supplied by the Rec Commission – that team will forfeit the rest of the season as well as being barred from the following season.

Arts & Crafts: Felicia wants to eliminate the fourth through eighth grade class. The parents of these kids expect a much more involved program and the kids themselves get bored and drop out after a couple of sessions. Felicia has parents asking her to have a class for pre-schoolers. These parents might be expecting what I offer in the summer as part of the Parent & Child Summer Program, which is Abrakadoodle. This program is run by an art professional. I guess I would have to make it clear in the brochure that this program would be run by Felicia. Those parents who have been in our Parent & Child Summer Program do seem to like Felicia. **OK**

Recently the parent of a special needs eighth grader called me wanting to know if next year when her daughter is a ninth grader would still be permitted to sign up for arts & crafts. I advised her that Felicia is looking to drop the fourth through eighth grade class. She then wanted to know if her daughter could sign up anyway – with the class of second & third graders. **Should we consider offering a special needs Arts & Crafts class? NO as far as the ninth grader being permitted to attend a class for second & third graders. Sue to look into how many special education students there are in the district.**

Cheerleading: Allyson Tabor, chief coach of the competition squad, wants to make numerous changes for next year. She wanted me to reduce our cost, but then she was going to charge an additional fee. She now wants tryouts – actually hoping to eliminate one girl whose mother is impossible. Donna Tellian called me last week as a heads up to possible complaints against one of the comp cheer coaches who is new to our program and is a young woman with a lot of experience when it comes to teaching and spotting but not very good when it comes to dealing with parents and their issues. Basically, I think she kind of told one mother, who reportedly was brought to tears, that her daughter stunk. Donna did add that this girl has brought the entire group to a higher level of skill, then she could ever have done. **Allyson's Handout**

Football: The helmets have been sent out for reconditioning. Rich Trunfio had to go to one household to get the helmet that they still had that the father had advised me to “relax” about. The helmets were picked up on Tuesday afternoon. Looks like we are still missing three. Mrs. A did not return any of my emails or calls to her concerning the equipment issued to her two sons. The equipment given to an eighth grader who was never even registered is gone – this boy was not even listed in our computer system. I found out yesterday that the “A” Family moved down the shore. Should I ask Mr. D’Arco if the police could give this woman a call? We are missing hundreds of dollars of equipment – the helmets alone cost \$167.00.

Present Mrs. Dolack's Form – OK to use it next season. Sue to ask Mr. D’Arco to have the police get involved with trying to get the “A” Family equipment back.

Lacrosse: I am in the process of giving out uniforms to the girls who have already paid for them. Once they are taken care of, I will sell them to those who are now coming out of the woodwork.

I had one parent email me on Monday that he was withdrawing his son from eighth grade lacrosse due to conflicts with some club soccer team. The deadline for withdrawal was last Friday. This man coaches numerous programs for us. Would you want me to make an exception and give his family credit? **OK**

Last Friday, I got a call from a seventh grade mother looking to register her daughter for lacrosse. I told her that registration for that grade level was shut down and now there was a wait list per the seventh & eighth grade coaches. Her daughter is number one on the wait list. Initially she told me that a coach told her that it was ok to register. Today, she tells me well actually it was the wife of a man who has yet to hand in an intent form and according to Tom Sharples this guy missed his coaches meeting. Tom thinks that this girl should be allowed to join even though the coaches on that level prefer they stay at 31 and not add anyone. As per Tom, I did put in the brochure that the last day to register would be April 1st. However do the coaches on any particular level have the right to ask that registration end when they feel they have too many participants? No matter how many times I stress no one coaches until all requirements have been fulfilled – everyone does what they want. I told this woman that I would call her back on Monday. She told me her husband coaches football and he is furious. **Allow this girl to register.**

Soccer: Should I be lending out our equipment to coaches who want to run their own clinics? **NO**

Travel Basketball: No champions this season. Our eighth grade girls' team did make it to the finals.

I have heard that the basketball coaches think Indoor Soccer should be abolished as it takes up gym time that they need to practice. Bob and I both agree that Indoor Soccer provides a fun activity for many kids in this town. Last week, Jon LoBue, came in to register for men's softball and in conversation I mentioned to him that I can still picture him dribbling through and around everyone in a third grade game at Memorial School – his response was that he had the best time and most fun playing that sport. As you know every sport has become year round and if we ever eliminated indoor soccer, I believe there would be a mini revolt. True the travel players are probably playing with club teams, but there are many other kids who may not be as competitive and like to play soccer for the fun of it. Indoor Soccer is also providing a little bit of physical activity for those kids who may not be getting it anywhere else.

Intown Basketball: At last Friday's semi-final games on the Senior level, Rich Trunfio's assistant coach was out of control. Bottom line, the police had to be called to get the guy to leave the gym. He was disrupting the second game of the double header. **Ask for a police report.**

Wrestling: Joe Mancuso is anxious to meet with us, but not until after the tax season as he is a CPA. Al Nadera will be joining us at that meeting. His opinion seems to be go back to stressing the Twin County Program. Boys who want to wrestle in Tri County Meets could

probably do so through their club teams. **Sue to determine the “drop off” numbers the last couple of years.**

Megan Kanka Foundation: I recently got a bill for \$220 from Mrs. Kanka. Twenty two people over the course of the past several years were no shows for their fingerprinting appointments. Several people didn't show up for two appointments that they had made. Even though we advise everyone ahead of time that they would be responsible for the fee for missing an appointment, I don't think we would get it from a lot of these coaches because their missed appointments go back as far as 2010. I have already processed payment to the foundation.

Coaches Dinner: Head Count is 150 which includes 134 guests, 7 staff, 2 rec, 7 M & C The invitations went out later then usual due to the printer not informing me of a problem she had matching up the color of the invitations to envelopes that I already had. Of course I am getting a ton of calls from people telling me that they coached but didn't get an invite. These calls usually are from “assistants”.

Grants: Received information on getting a grant for bicycle projects.
Hand out information from the Grant Company.

Easter Egg Hunt: Last weekend – huge crowd – probably due to the electronic board now located on the corner of Farview and Midland – nothing was left – put out 3000 eggs

Summer Playground: I would like to add to brochure that the requirement for our Kindergarten through Second Grade Playgrounds not only be that you must have finished kindergarten this past season but also the cutoff date that parents needed to meet in order for their child to be enrolled in the Paramus Public School System's Kindergarten Program. We get a few parents who claim that their children completed a kindergarten program elsewhere but in reality it was a preschool program and more then likely their child will not be in first grade come September.

Acknowledgement of Coaches:

Track & Field

Dominick Mazzone
Gina Kaider
Michael Passarelli
Johnny Ribeiro
Daniel Counterterman
*Lisa Lanzalotto
Nick Paolazzi
Mindy Metzger
Joseph Mecca
*Dr. Earl Estwick

Lacrosse

James Dolack
Dean Avagnano
William Kerkendall

Intown Softball

Lisa Cassesa
Ray Allen
Steve Prado
Tony Zotollo
Daniel Salvemini
Joe Bosticco
Tina Walker
Len Williams
Ken Lenoci
Devin Monahan

Lindsey Lucas

Travel Spring Softball

Robert Kaiser

Travel Summer Softball

Robert Kaiser

Linda Wicker

Lisa Catello

Gina Vitale

Jim Chacanas

Mike Fox

Tom Locicero

Anthony Locicero

Tim Coyle

Assistant Director's Report

Indoor Soccer: Indoor soccer has finished up for all leagues. I believe that our drafts worked very well because we only had two winless teams out of the 25 total teams. 19 of our teams earned at least 3 wins (teams played between 7-9 games). Five teams have already picked up their trophies. Despite the complaints and drama we had pre-season for our 7th and 8th grade boys, all the head coaches behaved and had no problems once the season began. All games that were snowed out on Feb 9 and March 8 were made-up, so all games were played and none were cancelled.

Intown Basketball: The Senior Basketball league is completed, however the Collegiate and Pony will not play their Championship until April 6 due to delays with school events, baseball and Passover/Easter. We have had some complaints from coaches who say their parents would prefer to end the season and just move on to baseball. Since not everybody plays baseball, we decided that we would not just cancel the playoffs and would play them as planned. All games that were snowed out on Feb 9 and March 8 were made-up, so all games were played and none were cancelled.

The basketball drafts were even more effective. Of our 26 basketball teams, only one went winless. 15 teams won at least 6 games (Collegiate played 15 games, Pony/Senior played 12 games); 23 won at least 3 games. In the Pony league, we had a four-way tie for first place with an 8-4 record and two teams tied at 7-5. The Senior league came down to the last day of games when seeds #3-9 hinged on the last two games and tiebreaker scenarios. The issue with Pony league trophies still needs to be decided.

We did have a few issues of coaches improperly substituting and not using their rotations correctly. Most instances were mistakes from first time coaches. Having 10+ players per team in the Senior league, however, permitted coaches to substitute more which led to some complaints; while I cannot prove that certain coaches purposefully went against league rules, I have my suspicions. Aside from the beginning of the season when we had to suspend a coach, we did not have any other problems arise that warranted more than a phone call to remind the coach of the rules.

Softball: We are doing well with softball coaches, however, we're not completely done. We have 3 head coach volunteers for Clinic league and one maybe (he is also coaching a Minor league team). We have 3 head coach volunteers for Minor league and 3 assistant coach volunteers; my hope is that two assistants can work together to take a team. We had 5 head coach volunteers for Senior league, but are only anticipating 4 teams, so one coach said he is willing to assist; we have 4 assistant coach volunteers. For all 3 leagues, our enrollment is about 40 girls which would allow us to draft teams of 10. We're hopeful we get more registrations so teams can have substitutions. Softball rating sessions and drafts are scheduled for April 2, 4 and 10. Practices will begin April 10. Games will start the first week of May (after the public school's spring break).

Summer Camp: As for Summer camp, we have all 18 key staff in place (6 supervisors, 8 teachers, 4 EMTs). We have applications from 40 returning counselors and 36 new counselors. Last year, we had 90 total staff members. Right now, if all new applicants were hired we would have 94 total staff members.

3x3 Basketball: We had a lot of interest in our 3x3 basketball instructor positions this year. In the past, we have struggled with these positions and would only have 2-3 staff members. We will have 7-8 staff members for the Spring season and will need to choose the best performing instructors for the Summer season because enrollment is lower. Each time slot will have about 40 children in the Spring.

Committee Reports

Cheerleading: Marie Elena – do not reduce the price of second grade cheerleading – need to give each registrant a new pair of pom poms.

Football: Tom LoCicero noted that football wants to add first graders to the tackle program. **Gary Zysman needs to send a formal request regarding this request.**

Vince noted that the Tom Burke knows someone who wants to donate money for the football jerseys. **Discussion – Surprisingly the football board thinks that the jerseys should be returned at the end of each season.**

Volleyball: Sue to offer volleyball in fall instead of the winter. Sue to revise this program and have it run as a league instead of a clinic. **Maria Elena promises she and her players will help out.**

Email Issue: Discussion Needs to be put on the Intent to Coach Forms & in the next Brochure.

Lacrosse: Jay needs to make another sign indicating which way the AED is located.

Coaching Ordinance: Review and discussion of the revisions that Bill Holzmann made.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:45 p.m. by Vince
Seconded by Tom LoCicero