

April 2013 Recreation Commission Meeting

Meeting Open to Public:

Maria Elena Bellinger, Council Liaison: By the fall, the Mayor & Council wants Baseline Concussion Tests done on all our athletes. **Major Discussion**

Jay Sexton, Superintendent of Shade Tree & Parks:

Director's Report

Budget Meeting: I met with the budget committee last week. **Handout** At that meeting the subject of a field house came up and so I prepared the following which I gave to Maria Elena as well as Mr. D'Arco's intern, who is going to do some research on this project. **Second Handout** Also discussed at this meeting was the practice of volunteers not having to pay the registration fees or pay for travel uniforms. The Mayor & Council may eliminate this benefit. **Discussion – Maria elaborated that the borough attorney is looking into whether or not Commissioners receiving this benefit is against the law.**

Summer/Fall Registration: Brochures should be in the residents' mailboxes by Saturday, May 4th. Mail In Registration as well as Online Registration will begin on Monday, May 6th. In Person Registration will be on Monday, May 20th & Tuesday, May 21st.

Men's Softball: After the first week the 7 p.m. games had to be switched over to 5 p.m. games at Reid Park. Once the lights at the complex are fixed, we will return to the original schedule. Everyone is pleased with the bat rule and the bats that I provided each team.

Travel Softball: Friday is the deadline for registration for summer travel softball. The U10 Coach is trying to recruit enough girls to have a team. Right now he has 5 registrants. The U12 Team will probably need a tryout as the enrollment right now is 16 girls and the coaches only want 12 or 13. The U14 Team is struggling and presently has 7 registrants. Presently we have two spring travel teams. The U12 Team has 18 girls. The U14 Team only has 9. The U14 Team is looking to allow up to 2 out of towners to join so that they don't forfeit any of the spring games. **Discussion – For the spring only this request will be granted. Bob will notify Jeff.**

Track & Field: Our home meet is this coming Sunday. I have alerted Sgt Pepe in traffic of this event that will include several hundred participants. Upon the request from Nick Paolazzi I have ordered two porta johns to supplement the permanent restroom facility that is up on that turf field. This year registration is down and is currently holding at 147 registrants.

Inline Skating: Starts next Tuesday. Presently we only have three instructors. I would prefer to have one more. The largest class has 22 registrants, while the other two classes have 15 and 17 children.

3X3 Basketball: Very popular, especially the 5th & 6th grade boys division that we had to shut down when we got to 51 registrants. We have 41 total girls registered, however none on the 7th & 8th grade level. We have a total of 119 boys registered. We have a staff of eight, of which we will have the best work our summer pickup program.

Competition Cheerleading: We do have to work out the direction that we want this program to be going in. The young coach who has greatly improved the quality of our girls' performances is too gruff when it comes to dealing with the parents. There are two sides to this problem. The one parent who called me is the mother of a very small girl who cannot be a base, doesn't want to be a flyer and doesn't tumble but has been with this group I believe since its inception.

Tackle Football: The woman who moved down the shore with her twin boys' equipment has returned everything with the exception of her sons' blue game jerseys. She noted that she believed that they were at her sons' father's house. At least we got the helmets and the shoulder pads back.

Acknowledgement of Coaches:

Spring Travel Softball

Perry Settecasi
Jeff Gomez

Summer Travel Softball

Perry Settecasi
Jeff Gomez
Michael Cantone

Track & Field

Lindsey Carpenter

Lacrosse

Robert Voorhis

Recreation Supervisor's Report

Basketball: Intown basketball ended on April 6th. The playoff champions were... Collegiate: Gary Casamento over Joanne Teehan; Pony: Gio Licini over Al Daeschler; Senior: Bill Mahnken over Mike Pallatto. I sent end-of-season rating sheets to all coaches and will use these at next year's draft to help us further balance out the teams. Despite some of the issues we had early on, many of the coaches said this was the closest and most fun season they had; having one particular coach who was against the way we ran the draft admit that the balanced teams were the best thing for the league was icing on the cake.

Softball: Intown softball teams are all created and have begun practicing. We have 48 signed up for clinic, 51 for minor and 45 for senior.

As you've seen from the many e-mails, we had multiple requests to change teams after the draft. We asked the parents to put the request in writing, sent it to the Commission and went with the majority decision. Luckily, we haven't had any further complaints. In the future, we need to do a better job of explaining, up front, that there is no guarantee of being placed with a friend for grades 3+. A few of the requests came from friends/relatives of one particular assistant coach who gave me a hard time before

the season because I would not guarantee her child be paired with another so she could coach with somebody specific. It's frustrating because I've explained the reasoning behind the policy to her on multiple occasions but she still tries to get around it.

Regular season games begin next week, on May 1st. I made a 9-game season in each league. Games will run through mid-June.

Summer Playground: We have 44 returning counselors and 18 returning key staff members (teachers, supervisors, EMTs). I conducted 34 in-person interviews and 4 phone interviews. Altogether, that was 100 people interested in jobs with us this Summer. As far as I can tell judging by Rich Lambert's old files, that's the biggest turn out we've had in a while. Since we were planning on hiring 96 staff based off last year's needs, Sue and I decided to just take on all 100 applicants. Last year we had 9 staff members quit, no show or fired, so we want to be prepared for similar problems this year. I've received a few late applications that I will hold on to in case we see there will be a need for more counselors once enrollment opens.

Letters to all the applicants went out yesterday. I set an orientation date for playground camps for June 28th, the Friday before camp begins.

Fingerprinting: What should we do with the fingerprinting process? It's not required, but is recommended. If coaches must pay up front, their cost to coach is \$61-66 out of pocket. **Discussion – coaches will be reimbursed.**

Committee Reports

Wrestling: Sue to reach out to Joe Mancuso, Rob Kaiser and Al Nadera about setting up a meeting to discuss plans for next year.

Football: Any parent asking why there is a first grade tackle football program and not first grade cheerleaders is to be advised that first grade tackle football for the coming year is on a trail basis.

Coaches Dinner: Bill thanked Laura and Donna for a great job.

Tom Locicero: Noted that Bob did a great job with the email notice on the Intent to Coach Forms.

Bill Holzmann: Questioned if the Recreation Commissioners are required to fill out the Financial Disclosure Forms. **Maria Elena to look into this.**

Motion to Adjourn at 9 p.m. by Tom Locicero
Seconded by Laura