

September 2013 Recreation Commission Meeting

Meeting Open to the Public: Tim Bush, representing the wrestling program, attended the meeting to quell any rumors concerning the rec wrestling program. Rec wrestling will not be leaving the Tri-County League. **Discussion – suggestion that for the upcoming season, a clear rule must be established that would make any boy who wrestled in so many Tri County Meets, no longer eligible to wrestle in the Twin County Tournament.**

Maria Elena Bellinger, Council Liaison:

Joseph Sexton, Superintendent of Shade Tree & Parks:

Director's Report

Finance: **Discussion – Meeting between Rec Commission, Sue & the Borough CFO needs to be scheduled as soon as possible.**

Little League & Babe Ruth Baseball: Those two groups have gone to the Mayor's Office looking for this year's umpiring reimbursement. Mr. D'Arco as well as Evie Johnson both called me today wanting to know the history of past reimbursements to those groups. I advised both that the Rec Commission was no longer to be involved and that it was believed that the Mayor had made other arrangements to fund those groups this year. **Discussion**

Travel Basketball Tryouts: Presently I am waiting to hear back from the group that runs our tryouts, that the dates I gave them are good. Once I get confirmation of such, we will email as well as mail out the tryout dates to those groups that need tryouts. At this time every team on the boys' side needs a tryout with the exception of the 5th grade boys. At the registration deadline, there were twelve boys registered for the 5th grade team. Yesterday we reached out to the 3rd and 4th grade girls coach, of whom we have not heard from yet, to see if he wants to increase his current roster of 13 to 14 or 15 or does he want us to hold a tryout to reduce his number to 10. Otherwise tryouts are not needed on the girls' side at all. I am planning to hold tryouts starting the week of October 7th. As previously mentioned in one of my emails, I've worked the tryout schedule around tackle football, travel soccer, 3X3 basketball, intown soccer & CCD.

Facebook: In light of those parents who did not know about the travel basketball tryout deadline, Bob and I have been kicking around the idea of a Paramus Recreation Facebook Page. Perhaps announcements on a facebook page would reach those persons who disregard the brochure and do not attempt to view our webpage. My only concern would be that people might post nasty comments on our page. Bob isn't sure if there is a way to block everyone from posting. He is going to reach out to other rec departments that have facebook pages. **OK**

Winter Registration: The brochure copy has already been sent to the printers. Delivery is expected on October 10th. Brochures will be brought to the post office on October 11th. Mail In Registration will begin on October 15th and run through October 22nd. In Line Registration opens up on October 15th and does not shut down. In Person Registration will be on October 28th and 29th.

For the Winter Season, I did not advertise either a Baton or Phys Ed for Tots Program. We do have one parent who has volunteered to run the Phys Ed for Tots activity for the fall session. It is going to be an

abbreviated season with only five classes. If it works out for us and the volunteer, then I will look into fitting a class in somewhere. We could send out a notice through the public schools.

Bids: A resolution was passed last night allowing for our bids to go out. Our bids will be for printing, umpiring, equipment, uniforms. Informal quotes will also be sent out for trophies, first aid supplies and the reconditioning of the football helmets.

Inline Skating: Our staff includes two high school boys on skates as well as Felicia and Rich Trunfio, both not on skates. The first session one of our high school kids, brought his friend who lasted one session. I wasn't surprised that he didn't come back the second week because of all the paperwork involved as well as being told he needed to get drug tested and lay out the \$45.00 for that test. This season, these kids are working a total of 12 hours. Eight dollars times 12 equals \$96.00 minus taxes. The lead kid gets \$15 per hour. He missed the first session due to a prior commitment. Programs like this are not worth all the trouble it takes to get them operational. The numbers aren't that bad, 28 in the first class and 21 in the second class (combination of two age groups).

Volleyball: This program gets started on October 2nd. Maria Elena and her staff will be running this program out of the varsity gym at the high school between 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Presently we have 33 registrants.

Flag Football: Bob and I have been kicking around the idea of expanding our flag football program through the eighth grade and to include girls. We feel there are probably a ton of kids who would love to play football but aren't suited for what it takes to play tackle football. Bob suggested running this activity off season, like in the spring at Mele Park. My concern would be that enrollment might not be there because of baseball and lacrosse. I was thinking of running it in the fall and using the Complex around the tackle football schedule. I think tackle football only has three games scheduled there this season. Games could be on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Kindergarten through second grade would stay the same on Saturday mornings. **Discussion – consensus, good idea.**

Softball: Mike Rennar stopped by on Monday to discuss what can be done to make our softball program stronger. He and several other parents along with Brian Hay have formed a Softball Association. Among other things, Brian will be holding clinics. This group would like us to mandate that all travel players must play intown. Mike claims that intown will be the priority. They want us to divide the groups up by age. When it comes to our intown program, they would like us to combine with another town such as River Edge. I advised Mike that we tried to combine with Rochelle Park several years ago, but it didn't work out. Everything Mike was suggesting are things that I believe we would be supportive of. Mike said something about why do we have deadlines and why shouldn't someone who didn't originally try out but is outstanding in one of our intown programs, be allowed to switch over to the travel team.

Wrestling: *Refer to the email that was received on Tuesday.* Joe Mancuso did reply to my email and advised that our group will not be leaving the Tri-County League. Bob replied to Joe that any rewording of what we have in the brochure concerning wrestling can be put on line, however the brochure has already gone to the printers. Bob suggested that perhaps we could offer two separate wrestling programs – the more competitive “Tri-County League” and the more recreational “Twin-County League.”

Pumpkin Hunt: Saturday, October 26th starting at 10 a.m. Set up at 9 a.m. A new category for the costume parade/contest is “Best Costumed Animal.”

Winter Carnival/Tree Lighting: Saturday, December 14th between 2 p.m. & 6 p.m. The tree will be lit at 6 p.m. The committee is Diane Marichal, Dennis Arslanian and myself.

I have a suggestion concerning the Thomas Caruso situation. Everything at this winter carnival is free, the rides, the food, the plush items that Santa gives out as well as the entertainment. I think that this year we should charge a small fee like 25 or 50 cents to try the stands where prizes are won. I have a ton of left over jerseys from intown soccer, basketball and softball that I usually give away during summer playground that would be our prizes. We use to do this at the Block Party that was held in conjunction with the borough’s July 4th celebration. I also think that the Caruso Fundraising Committee should be allowed to sell 50/50 tickets at the event. **Discussion – Shouldn’t be a problem. The Caruso Fundraising Committee would need to apply for a raffle license at Borough Hall.**

Vacation: Reminder that I will be taking off next Friday, coming back the Tuesday after Columbus Day.

Acknowledgement of Coaches:

Tackle Football

Michael LaLomia

Travel Basketball

Jonathan Kim

Travel Soccer

Dot Buccola

Jeffrey Gomez

Intown Outdoor Soccer

Maria Hesse

Arda Hovsepian

Dan Haemmerle

Silvana Maurino

Alex Les

Michael Somma

Nick DeRobertis

Michael Iannantuano

Jennifer Kisla

Tony Zotollo

Robert DiDomenico

Michael Ramirez

Solaida Mamsaang

Arnie O’Callaghan

Al Abbatiello

David Pagliaro

William Holzmann

Thomas Park

Bob’s Report: Intown outdoor soccer is underway and so far is going well. We had some issues getting coaches for the 3rd/4th and 7th/8th grade boys and low enrollment for 7th/8th grade boys, however that was solved by splitting up the 5th and 6th grade to have two divisions instead of three: 3rd/4th/5th grade and 6th/7th/8th grade. Some coaches expressed concern over the 3rd and 5th graders playing together, but I have not yet heard any complaints. Ultimately, we ended with 36 intown teams. So far through two games, it looks as though our competitive league teams (3rd grade and up) are fair and balanced and should lead to a close season. I made some changes to how I ran the drafts this season and the coaches were receptive and it seems to have worked out well.

So far, I have 6 indoor soccer intent forms and 1 for basketball. I’m tentatively planning to hold rating sessions/drafts for basketball the last week of November and first week of December. Indoor soccer would likely be the second week of December. Hopefully we don’t have the same issues getting coaches this season.

I have continued to add coaches to my “Master Coaches Spreadsheet” and I believe it will be very useful going forward. To give you an idea what it looks like, I made copies of the first page (it’s too big to actually fit on a page, so some columns are cut off). I already used the spreadsheet to easily mass e-mail everybody who handed in a Fall soccer intent form about winter indoor soccer and will continue to do so each season as we begin looking for the next batch of coaches. The spreadsheet also makes it very easy to see who is missing certain paperwork, who is “in-progress” and who has not completed a certain requirement (i.e. concussion course). It’ll also make our lives much easier when it comes time to send out new annual background check forms because I can filter by anybody who is over a year due and then create mailing labels from the info. Lastly, creating the invite list and mailing labels for the coach’s dinner will now take hours instead of days. I currently have 130 coaches listed on my spreadsheet and will see a jump in the Winter. (PS – if “background check” is blank, it does not mean they have not filled out the form, it means we did not get the results back from the State)

On a personal note, I completed my Certified Park and Recreation Professional re-certification at the end of August.

Meeting Adjourned at 9 p.m.