

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

The Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Roll Call was taken.

Members present: Boulware, Hanna, Kern, Lazaridis, and Moleski

Absent: Firestone, and Ganim

Also present: Rachele Engle, Luis Pena Ochoa, Rhonda Miko, Jamie Mewhinney, Meg English

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Hanna, seconded by Moleski to dispense with the reading of the March 28, 2023 minutes and to approve them as written.

Council Representative Report:

First and foremost, I hope that each and every one of you join us at the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Service. Let us come together as a community to pay our respects and show our gratitude. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces on this special occasion.

Now, I would like to take a moment to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Joseph Kickel. We are delighted to have him join our Brecksville family as our new Director of Service. Mr. Kickel brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for community engagement. I'm confident that his leadership and dedication will contribute greatly to the betterment of our town.

In the spirit of acknowledging the hard work and dedication of our community members, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Ron Weidig. As many of you may or may not know, Ron had his last official day with us this past Friday. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently exemplified excellence and commitment in serving our community.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to remind you all that Home Days is just around the corner, only a month away. This much-anticipated event is a true celebration of our community's spirit. As we make preparations, I would like to express my gratitude to those of you who are part of the Rec Commission and are volunteering to help with the inflatables area. Your willingness to lend your time and energy is truly commendable, thank you for your commitment.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle stated that the first Mother/Son Soiree was a hit and went very well with a sold out crowd. The Memorial Day Parade will begin at 11am and start at City Hall. The Community Center will open 10-5pm and the outdoor pool will be open 12pm-5pm. Summer programming registration is open, including the summer Acting Camp that will be held July 10-21st. Art classes are posted through August.

Kid's quarters update, the City has received 2 grants. ODNR Land and water \$500,000 and ARPA district 6 for \$250,000 to focus on outer trail of kids quarters and ADA accessible ramp at the entrance. Phase 1 will be to make it ADA accessible. This will begin in 2024. Kathy, Rachele and Stucky have had some work sessions to get pricing from playground manufactures. Hope to have updates for the next meeting.

The City held their first Pickle ball tournament this past weekend. There were 76 participants in three divisions, Men's, Women's, and Mixed Doubles. There has been a lot of positive feedback and we are looking to host more in the future.

The City has welcomed Joe Kickel as the new Service Director, his leadership will be wonderful for our City and we are excited to have him apart of the Brecksville family. Rachele shared updated Turf pricing with the Commission. She also shared a listing of the current AEDs throughout the City and is working with the Fire Chief on Emergency actions plans.

Athletic Area Report:

The Little Hitters program will wrap up next Wednesday. It was under new leadership this year, and went great, it is looking like she will return again next year to run it as well! The BSA soccer academy has a few weeks left in the spring session. Recreation baseball and softball games began tonight, machine pitch and teeball will be starting on the turf in the next few weeks. Participation numbers are exactly the same as last year. Adult Co-ed Softball started yesterday. They will play double headers on Sunday through the end of July. Registration is currently open for youth and adult tennis. All tennis lesson will be held on the High School Tennis Courts. This is great to free up our courts for public play during the mornings. Registration is open for summer bocce league. The Service Department just finished redoing the wood around the courts. They look awesome! Youth Volleyball Camp will be offered at the Blossom Hill Field House July 24-26th and will be taught by BBHES Physical Education Teacher, Mrs. Dubasak, and Ms. Profitt. We are offering a youth track camp for ages 8-18. This camp is for running events and will be coached by Ric Cistone, and other track coaches July 17-21st 10am-11:30am. The Blossom Hill Field House schedule is slowing down a little bit this month. We expect it to ramp back up once school gets out. We are looking to host some summer leagues in the evening, and we have camps scheduled during the day in July. The City will also be hosting a Guardians Camp on our ball fields this summer. The City partnered with EMPOWER Sports to offer more programming. This spring we hosted them in the field house for basketball. They were thrilled for the opportunity to use our field house. Residents were thrilled to see that the field house was being used in that

capacity. The program went great. The kids and their parents loved it and they want to explore soccer and flag football in the fall! There will be a meeting shortly for fall field usage.

Aquatic Area Report:

We just wrapped up spring swim lessons, they went well. Registration for summer has started, so far numbers are looking good. We have been able to accommodate almost everyone on the Belugas swim team, about 130 swimmers. We have a good combination of coaches this year. We just completed a successful spring session of Learn to Swim lessons with South Suburban Montessori School. St. Alberts at Assumption 7th and 8th grade held a cardboard regatta of 12 boats in the Natatorium last week, and this Friday is BBHHS Physics Cardboard Regatta. This is usually a fun event on the last day of school for Seniors! The outdoor pool is opening this weekend for summer. Our summer is based around BBH school calendar. We will have limited hours until school is out for summer. There is a summer aquatic brochure available at Community Center with lots of good information about the Aquatic Center. We have a good number of life guards, and should be ok for the summer, but there are a lot of schedule conflicts.

Fitness Area Report:

Thank you to City Council for the approval for the new fitness equipment, X Squat, glute drive and two new treadmills. The fitness classes continue to have good attendance numbers. The next schedule of classes will change after Labor Day. Rhonda has recently hired some new retired people to help staff the fitness area. They have been excellent additions.

CVYO Report:

There have been meetings about setting up the priorities for the future capital budget projects. Some discussion in meetings through CVYO and all the individual sport meetings. Meg thinks it would be valuable for the city to put their priorities out there. At City Council meeting there were dedication for Diamonds E & F, the Old Stadium game field and Old Stadium practice area. They also recognized the successful sports teams, which was nice.

CVYO needs participation fees for the next season so the teams can plan. Fields are looking playable on infield. Would like to know fall projects plans to help make the fall field schedule. The new transition with Service Department taking over grounds crew is coming along. They have been easy to work with. Maintenance on Field C was completed and the field is being used. The annual Home Days 5K Run, sponsored by Run 4 Your Life will be on Sunday June 25th during home days.

Old Business:

Kids quarters update: Commission Member Lazaridis asked if will there be downtime during the initial updates. The goal is to section some areas off so that it is not fully closed. Meg asked about the matching \$500,000. Rachele stated that it can be matched with labor. We are discussing with service to see what items they can work on. Phase 1 will begin in spring 2024. Commission Member Hanna asked how many phases. Rachele said 2-3 phases. Meg asked if a timeline to use the grants. ADR 3 years; ARPA is 2 years. Which should be doable. Kids Quarters was built 30 years ago. With a few updates to equipment. Nick asked if phase 2 could happen in 2024. Not sure at this point.

Turf pricing update. To replace the turf at blossom it will cost \$720,000. It is already past its life. It will take about one month to replace it and will be scheduled for a time when it is not heavily used. As far as turfing infield of A, B and C vs entire fields. Paul Franks recommends using portable fencing to adjust size of field and possibly have other sports. Paul Frank does not recommend just turfing C – which is our worst draining field. City Council approved the replacement of the walkways at the diamonds at City Hall. This will also include repairs to the fencing along Diamond A. Rachele thinks the priority will be blossom turf replacement or city diamonds first. Nicole asked if consideration would be given to old stadium. Rachele said not to the game football field, there has been discussion about the practice field. Andy asked if this is within budget. He said he played at a field with turf infields and grass outfields. Rain came in and were able to play again within 30 minutes. Meg thinks infields possibly and use the other \$1M for other multisport fields. This year has been very hard to schedule the turf. Baseball has not been on it at all. In the fall, soccer will use it and lax will use it for a City sponsored clinic. Meg hears a lot of complaints about stadium drive. Most of the complaints are about the cosmetic, it just doesn't look nice and there are parking issues. It has been helpful to use horticulture building for parking.

Stadium Drive grant money will help cover some improvements. The restrooms will be cleaned up and working, locker rooms will be cleaned. Grandstands will be added on one side. A new scoreboard will be installed that will accommodate multi sports. Possibly down the line service would build a concession stand. Nicole asked about lights down at old stadium. Rachele said it could come down the road through a grant. Andy asked about temporary lights for 8 weeks to help in short term. Jamie added that service also talked about concrete around the building to make it more accessible, and maybe paving the gravel while walking in. Meg added that this needs to be discussed so we know if we do add light we should know before the concrete is poured. Does not think we should have any turf without lights. Nick likes the idea of turfing infields and then turfing another space to fit more sports. Meg suggested upper soccer fields turfing then can add lights and can use lights for that area and D. Nicole asked if that could fit a full soccer and lax field. Meg said yes, Jamie said not with a fence. Rachele also suggested area to the south of fieldhouse. Meg said that could be expanded at some time and would not

suggest transferring that land to something else. Meg would like to meet the Cities needs from birth to grave. Andy added that feels like right now baseball has the best thing going for them. Maybe AJ can help add color to this. We need to know what the city has the ability to give money to work with.

New Business:

The Recreation Department will be hosting the carnival games and bounce houses again in the Horticulture Building during Home Days. We would like all members of the Recreation Commission to help out with the supervision of the inflatables. A list is being passed around tonight, and Carolyn will send out a sign-up genius as well. All help is needed and appreciated. Sunday the department will also be hosting a petting zoo at Stadium.

Public Comments:

None

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Lazaridis and seconded by Moleski to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, June 26, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek