

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

July 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call was taken.

Members present: Boulware, Firestone, Ganim, Hanna, and Lazaridis

Absent: Kern and Moleski

Also present: Meg & Tom English, Rhonda Miko, Rachele Engle, Daryl Kingston, Carolyn Jatsek, and members of the community

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ganim, seconded by Firestone to dispense with the reading of the June 26, 2023 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

No Report

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim is looking forward to tonight's Christmas in July Late Night Swim Party at the Community Center with the kids!

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle stated that tonight is the second Late Night Swim of the season - Christmas in July \$2 for members, and \$5 for guests. The last one of the season will be on August 9th with a Disco Theme, and the next Flick on the Field will be on Friday August 18th. Fall Acting Session will begin in September. This session will include auditions for parts in the performance at the end of the session, registration will begin on August 1st. August 12th will be the second annual Bike and Trike at the Blossom Hill Facility at 10am. The Recreation Department will be holding a fall Pickle ball Tournament on Friday and Saturday September 22nd, and 23rd. Registration will be open on August 1st and will have 3 divisions, Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles levels 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0.

Athletic Area Report:

Baseball and Softball Season has wrapped up on July 19th. Bocce season is ongoing currently – many compliments on the new courts rebuilt by service. Youth and Adult Tennis lessons are ongoing as well, instructors from Center Court have been doing a great job. Youth tennis will end beginning of August, adult tennis will run through the month of August. The Adult Coed Softball season and Tournament wrapped up last night. We may look into a mini one day tournament here in the fall. We are still taking signs ups for the BSA Soccer Academy. The season will begin mid-August. August 1st registration will include: Lacrosse Clinic, Fall Youth Volleyball, Adult Coed Volleyball, Fall Pee Wee Basketball, and the Fall Pickle ball Tournament. Fall Sports will begin on July 31st with the following sports using the various City Athletic Properties:

- Soccer – Turf, Upper Soccer Field, Chippewa
- Football – Stadium, Chippewa
- Lacrosse – Turf, Chippewa
- Cheer – Outfield of E

The service department have removed some fencing from City Hall A/B/C that was in need of repair in preparation of the new concrete pathway.

Later this fall, service will also be installing a drain at the lower soccer field to alleviate some of the standing water at the base of the hill. Once the drain is installed, the field itself will be aerated, over seeded and shut down until next spring.

Aquatic Area Report:

Last session of swim lessons has started, so it's the last two weeks of both evening and morning lessons. Late night swim tonight, the next one is August 9th. Swim team championship is this Saturday, Independence hosts the event, and Brecksville put together the entries and lineups for all the teams. From the 6 teams in the league, there's about 330 swimmers swimming Saturday, 105 of them are ours. Last day of outdoor pool season is August 13, after that we'll switch to just weekends and some evenings, depending on staff availability. Our last weekend will be Labor Day weekend. There's no substitute to parental supervision in the pool.

Fitness Area Report:

The fall fitness schedule will begin after Labor Day with some new classes, and should be available soon. We are expecting the new equipment we ordered in April to arrive in September. We are working on a resolution to what we would like to do with the Audio Fetch system for the televisions in the fitness area.

CVYO Report:

Summer programs are wrapped up for the season, and try-outs for the 2024 season are underway for baseball and softball.

August 1st will begin the season for fall sports. Cheer is a new sport under CVYO for the 2023 season. They had about 150 girls at the summer clinic. They will be using the outfield of Field E in the fall with access to lights and restrooms for practices.

Meg asked for an update on the status of the improvements at Stadium Drive, will they be completed before the fall football season begins as discussed. Director Engle updated that the scoreboard, bleachers and concrete work has been approved by Council and the items have been ordered. The concrete and bleachers are expected to be completed prior to the first game, but the scoreboard estimated installation date is end of September, or early October. The timeline for the walkway repairs at City Hall Fields is expected to be about one month and is still on track.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

Members of the Pickleball Community were in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Scott Campbell, 8315 Sunnydale Drive

Mr. Campbell states that he is representing the pickleball players in the room, plus an additional 120 players. This past December, a pickleball proposal was presented to the Recreation Commission, and they are looking for an update on the status of their proposal.

Director Engle updated that the Commission did pass the proposal along, and the Mayor and City Council are onboard to come up with an outdoor pickle ball solution. Multiple locations are being looked at, including Blossom and Stadium Drive. The project was not in the 2023 budget, but Monica Bartkiewicz is working on getting a grant possible through ODNR. We are looking to include monies for a project on the 2024 capital budget proposal for the Recreation Department. The proposal is for basic needs for courts near existing amenities. The hope is that the courts will be finished in 2024. Mr. Campbell stated the pickle ball is the growing sport. The City is very behind other communities. Brecksville residents have been playing at Independence and Broadview Heights. He stated Seven Hills just opened new courts, and Richfield is in the process of building new courts. The City needs to re-arrange funding and not put more money into items that already exist. Commission Member Hanna states that the City knows this is a priority. They have done what they can to accommodate the sport indoors. City Council and the Mayor know it is a priority to the pickleball community to work on getting outdoor courts. Meg English stated that she wants to lend support to pickleball in any way she can. She can see a pickleball league under CVYO in the future. She also stated that the City needs to look at the total needs. There are about 160 pickle ball players, 1200 kids that participate in CVYO and 3,000 kids that participate in recreation programs.

Teri Matuszak, 8468 Whitewood Rd

Terri asked the Commission if there was an interim agreement the City would work out. Many of the pickleball players are not that particular, and would be happy with just some lines on even pavement somewhere and some portable nets that could be put out. For instance could courts be added to the muni lot? It seems like they could be able to get 4 courts down there, with lights if they fill in some of the pot holes, or possible on one of the school parking lots. Last night at Independence all courts were full with 24 players and there were about 7 paddles waiting, and all but 2 players were from Brecksville. Any support would be appreciated to bridge the gap until the new courts are available in 2024-2025.

Linda Dillon, 8707 Fox Rest

Linda appreciates all that has been done, and would like to have some money earmarked by Council for the project to do something, even if temporary.

Chris Graor, 6714 Pintail Drive

The association of Pickleball Professionals did a study in March of 2023 and the average age of the avid players are 34.8 years old. 70% of the players are between the ages of 18-44. The project would serve a wide range of individuals, it is not a sport that is only played by older individuals over the age of 45. Having a pickleball facility helps with the Community, drawing people from other communities and helps local business.

Kristen Pawlak, 9265 Lawnpark Drive

Kristen stated that she began playing pickleball about 6 months ago and has met more people playing pickleball that she has in the 14 years she has lived in Brecksville. Is there any temporary solutions that the City can do to accommodate the players? Broadview Heights just has some nets in Tupperware bins with nets in the on the tennis courts that anyone can come up and use. Pickle ball facilities are popping up everywhere. Pickle and Chill is in Westlake, and other facilities are popping up in abandoned malls.

Mike Krenisky, 6949 Mill Road

Mike has met many great, welcoming people playing pickle ball over the last year. Everything that has been talked about has been if there is grant funding, you get courts. Does this mean that if there is no grant, there are no courts?

Director Engle stated that she does not have that answer, Commission Chair Ganim stated he cannot state directly to this situation, but the fiscally responsible approach of the City is to find grants to help. Most of them require a match commitment.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Ganim and seconded by Lazaridis to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, August 28 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek