

Brecksville Recreation Commission

October 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Roll Call was taken.

Members Present: Boulware, Firestone, Ganim, Lazaridis, and Moleski

Members Absent: Hanna and Kern

Also present: Mayor Hruby, Meg & Tom English, Luis Pena Ochoa, Jamie Mewhinney and Carolyn Jatsek

Approval of Minutes:

The September 25, 2023 minutes were approved as written, motioned by Boulware seconded by Firestone

Council Representative Report:

No Report

Recreation Director's Report:

Mayor Hruby reported on behalf of Director Engle who welcomed a baby boy earlier this month. Thank you to everyone who attended Booville! It was a great turn out with many festive fall activities. A very big thank you to our Recreation staff, our part-time workers, volunteers and family members who made the event a great success! We hope everyone enjoyed their time at the Community Center. A friendly reminder the 2023 Trick or Trot hosted by the Brecksville Kiwanis will take place at Blossom Hill this Saturday October 28th. There is still time to register. Mark your calendars for some upcoming activities. On November 20th there will be a Fall Craft & Pool Day at the Community Center from 11am-1pm, and on November 26th the City will be having their annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting beginning at 4pm. The parade will begin in the center of town and finish at City Hall where there will be show and fireworks. If for some reason there are not enough participants for a nice parade, then we will just have the festivities at City Hall. Just a reminder that the last Commission meeting of 2023 is December 4th at 7:30pm.

Athletic Area Report:

Athletic Coordinator Mewhinney share a few updates with the Commission. BSA and the Soccer Academy has wrapped up for the year, and Lacrosse has a few more weeks. We are in the process of getting the soccer goals cleanup off the fields for the winter. The service department has been doing their fall field maintenance. So far the Upper and Lower Soccer Fields have been aerated, over seeded and fertilized, Stadium has been aerated, over seeded and treated for grubs, and City Hall Fields have been aerated and over seeded. Service will finish by fertilizing City Hall and Stadium as well as all the maintenance for Blossom Fields D, E, and F. Field C sidewalk from the parking lot along the left field line to the caboose is complete. They will continue with the fencing project.

We are offering PeeWee Basketball in the fall for the first time this year, and have 88 kids registered with a waitlist. This has been a spring sport for us, and we are adding a fall session that will lead into winter basketball. If we continue to see this level of interest next year we will consider offering 2 timeslots in the future. Other Cities have been calling to find out about their program after they heard feedback from some of their residents that were here for the Volleyball League games. Travel basketball practices are beginning tonight, and rec basketball practices will begin November 13th. Registration will close on Halloween with a coaches meeting on November 6th.

Aquatic Area Report:

Fall Learn to swim lessons end this week, the next session will be offered starting in January on Saturday Mornings. This Friday begins the High School Swim Season. They will be practicing Mondays through Fridays from 3:30pm-5:30pm. We will be offering swim lessons, taekwondo and yoga classes as part of the South Suburban Montessori physical education requirements again this fall. A question was asked about the Holiday Activity Pool Hours over Thanksgiving and Winter Break. Luis is hopeful to be able to extend the Activity Pool Hours while the students are on break and have more daytime hours available. In addition we are looking to have some special events in the pools over winter break.

Fitness Area Report:

None

CVYO Report:

Soccer, Lacrosse and Fall Baseball & Softball are winding down for the season and looking to be done by the first week in November. The Service Department, Jamie and the City have done a great job getting all the fields ready this fall. The improvements at Stadium are looking good and although they were not ready for the season, they are looking good and the teams are looking forward to using them in the next season. CVYO is working collectively to schedule fields for spring. The spring field meeting went well. Lacrosse and soccer needs are being met and they worked well together on a schedule. The City being able to secure the usage of Chippewa and maintaining that facility is a huge help. Basketball is up and running using the Blossom Hill Field House, Middle School and High School Gyms.

Old Business:

Thank you to the Commission for their feedback after last month's meeting regarding the rates for CVYO sports. After looking at all the feedback, a revised rate proposal was sent out as a middle ground. When you look at the percentage of increase it is hard because many groups were paying such a low rate. We believe we are proposing a fair rate for what they are getting. We are moving in the right direction as we acquire and maintain facilities for City programs and the CVYO partners.

Meg commented that she had not shared these rates with her programs but would be doing to at their next meeting. She asked that if necessary, could these fees be phased in. She also wanted clarification on the seasons listed and games fee. What is included in game fees, are scoreboards, lights and field set ups included. The City will have individual agreements with each sport that will spell out the specifics for each sport. Meg understand that this does not

cover 100% of the fees and appreciates the Commission being mindful of the cost to the parents. She will try to support this as best she can with her CVYO teams. One conversation that Chairman Ganim brought up was the conversation of a monthly prorate instead of quarterly. A discussion was had by the commission and it was decided to be something to look into for 2025.

Rates were motioned by Moleski and seconded by Lazaridis, all members present approved the rates as presented.

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

Commission Member Firestone wanted to acknowledge that Councilman Brian Stucky has resigned from coaching for over 40 years, and wants to recognize his tremendous coaching career and all of the players he has influenced over his career. He will continue to manage the Run 4 Your Life Program.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Ganim and seconded by Boulware to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Jatsek