

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION
February 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call was taken.

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

Absent: None

Also present: Council President Redinger, Director Engle, Meg English, Jamie Mewhinney, Luis Pena, and Carolyn Jatsek

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ganim seconded by Kern to dispense with the reading of the January 23, 2023 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor asked Council President Redinger to pass along his sincere thanks to the City Team for the successful tournament this weekend. He has received numerous calls and email complimenting the facility and tournament.

The Mayor is also thankful for the Councilman Ganim's initiative for leading the 5 year plan, and is looking forward to hearing feedback from the Commission.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim reported that in the past month City Council has approved the purchase of two new projectors for the Community Rooms, and a new aquatic wheelchair and replacement battery for the chair lift.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle stated that the Father Daughter Dance was very successful and everyone danced the night away. Thank you for Dina and Carolyn for heading up the event, and all the staff that assisted with the event.

We will be hosting Mother Son Soiree on April 21st from 6:30-8:30pm. There will be a DJ for dancing, small plate appetizers and desserts. The event is geared towards boys 3-10 years old and the special ladies in their lives. Registration will begin at 5am online and 5:30am in person for summer camp, baseball, softball, tee ball, little hitters, art classes, Mother Son Soiree and Easter Events. The next On Camera Training class will run April 4-May 16. We have been getting a lot of positive feedback from the current session. The visit with the Easter Bunny will be Tuesday April 4th, and the Aqua Egg Hunt will be on Thursday April 6th. There is new evening Cycle Class with Jenni on Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:45pm which has been getting good attendance and feedback.

Athletic Area Report:

Athletic Coordinator Mewhinney stated that youth basketball wrapped up this past weekend. The Youth Volleyball Clinic began tonight with 53 youth enrolled up from 30 last year. There is lots of excitement, and hopefully it will carry over to the fall league. Pee Wee Basketball will begin on Saturday and there are 135 kids enrolled up from 103 last year. Little Dribblers will begin March 7th with 89 kids registered up from 60 last year. Soccer Academy registration is open and baseball, softball, tee ball, and camp will open on March 1st. Tennis lessons will be held on the High School Tennis Courts this summer to allow the City Courts to remain open for public play. Registration for Tennis will begin April 1st, and we will partner with Center Court again this year.

Aquatic Area Report:

Aquatic Coordinator Pena stated that winter Learn-to-Swim just wrapped up last week, and the spring sessions will start soon. The Aqua Egg Hunt will be held on April 6th, with registration beginning March 1. There are 2 upcoming Lifeguard Training classes, one March weekends, and one during Spring Break. We are beginning to prep for summer and plan to open the Outdoor Waterpark Memorial Day Weekend with pre-season hours until school is out.

CVYO Report:

Meg began by reiterating the Mayor's comment about what a great job was done by the City of Brecksville for the Weekend Tournament. A special shout out to Greg Skaljac and Dan Kalinsky for organizing the tournament and to the parents for helping out. Having the Cafetorium available for people to sit between games was helpful. The menu at concessions was enhanced this week with pizza. Things seemed to run smoothly, there was plenty of staff, and Brecksville had some great success on the court as well. Spring CVYO sports, lacrosse, soccer, baseball and softball are awaiting good weather so they can get outdoors for practices. Meg is working with Jamie and Brett from the Service Department on field conditions. Boys Travel Basketball is looking forward to next year's tournament and an addition of a girl's tournament as well.

Old Business:

The first item of old business is a follow-up to the AED conversation. There have been discussions with Chief Zamiska, Meg and Rachele. There will be two in person classes offered to travel and rec coaches to get certified in CPR and AED, as well as an online options with just a hands on skills training. They are hoping to have the dates firmed up in the next week. As far as getting AEDs at outdoor facilities, the City looked into some grant options, and Chief is mindful about getting them at all the athletic facilities.

New Business:

The first item of new business was a draft of a 5 year plan that was presented by Councilman Ganim as it relates to athletic facilities. This is a loose draft of the needs and wants for facilities. The current list would cost a lot of money and needs to get scaled down. The draft of the timeline was reviewed by the Commission. Along with the draft, a report with sport participation numbers was also handed out. Commission member Kern commented that Lacrosse with the largest growing sport, and does not have own dedicated field and most of their fields do not have lights, it feels like an under loved sported. Every other sport has a home. Meg stated that Old Stadium is the home for Lacrosse in the spring, and for football in the fall, and Chippewa is for Lacrosse. The need for a facility for Lacrosse is appreciated and they have been allocated the turf more fairly this year than in the past. There is no Recreation soccer or Lacrosse, it all is through CVYO. BTBA has been respectful of the field availability and has limited their teams to only one per age group for the most part and has limited its growth out of a respect for field usage and Recreation team needs. Many ages could field multiple teams and there are Brecksville children playing in different travel leagues. The 2023 Recreation Operating Budget was shared with the Commission as well as the year end for 2022. Commission asked about the Capital Budget Items for 2023, a copy of the 2023 5 year Capital Budget Project will be supplied to Commission for the March meeting.

Public Comments:

Brian Kardos of 6568 Glen Coe was in the audience.

Brian mention that there is already a lot of lighting for baseball, and there are plans for additional lighting of diamonds in the 5 year plan. He would like the commission to consider more lighting for soccer and lacrosse. Their season begin early and it is hard to get more than one practice scheduled each night at the facilities. Other than the turf there is no lighting and the sun goes down so early. As far as practice facilities for lacrosse, historically only 4th grade and below can use the game field at Stadium for practices, 5/6th and 7/8th use the practice field with only 70% of a full size field. The fields at Chippewa at most can get a 90%, and 70% size fields. The teams do not need full size fields for every practice, but they do need a full size field to practice on. Currently there are times when Lacrosse has the turf that there are 3 teams practicing at the same time, so while they have a full field, they are sharing it and cannot run full field practices. Brian asked if there was any agreement with the Julia Billart School about the use of the fields for sports. If those fields go away, it would be immediate big trouble for the Lacrosse program. Lacrosse is not allowed to practice on the lower soccer field because of the proximity to Barr Road for overthrown balls, but is there the possibility of the upper field having lacrosse lines.

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

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek