

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION
January 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call was taken.

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

Absent: Boulware

Also present: Director Rachele Engle, Luis Pena Ochoa, Meg English, Andie Lazaridis and Carolyn Jatsek

Oath of Office:

The oath of office was administer to Nicole Kern and Andrew Moleseki by AJ Ganim.

Appointment of Chairman:

A motion was made by Ganim, seconded by Hanna to open the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Moleski was nominated by Kern, Ganim was nominated by Hanna, and seconded by Moleski.

A motion to close nominations was made by Ganim, and seconded by Moleski.

A motion to accept the nomination Ganim for Chairman was made by Firestone and seconded by Moleski.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

A motion was made by Ganim, seconded by Kern to open the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Hanna was nominated by Ganim, and seconded by Kern.

A motion to close nominations was made by Ganim, and seconded by Kern.

A motion to accept the nominations was made by Ganim and seconded by Moleski.

Adjournment of Organization Meeting:

A motion was made by Ganim, and seconded by Kern to adjourn the Organizational Meeting at 7:35pm

Call to Order of the Regular Meeting of the Recreational Meeting:

The regular meeting of the Recreation Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ganim at 7:36pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ganim, seconded by Ganim to dispense with the reading of the December 5, 2023 minutes and to approve them as written.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim began the meeting by thanking the staff for all of their hard work in the opening of the Blossom Hill Field House, and has heard the Concession is doing well with sales. He appreciates everyone's patience as we work through items that come up from opening a new building.

Some updates from the last Council meeting is the opening of some new businesses in the downtown area thanks to the hard work of Monica Barkowicz and her team. Apricot Lane will be opening soon in downtown. Also, a he wanted to share that Sam Wiglusz, a graduate of Brecksville Broadview Heights is a finalist for the Collegiate Athlete of the Year representing Ohio University.

At the December Council meeting, City Council approved the recreation rate schedule that we recommended to Council for 2023.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle reported that Break-a-thon went well and was well attended. All of those who came to the ornament making, treat making, and late night swim were appreciative of the the events and enjoyed themselves. Breakfast with Santa was sold out for both seatings and went smoothly. Thank you to Human Services for hosting the event, and all of their kitchen volunteers. Chief Dina and Carolyn worked hard to make the event special and the attendees were very complimentary of the food and decorations. There are a few new additions to our programming offerings at the Community Center including more art classes and another session of the acting class. The art classes are being put on as a joint effort between the Recreation and Human Services Departments and will be held at the Human Services Building. All classes are for those 16 and over unless otherwise marked. There is one for children in the winter months and they are working to schedule more classes geared towards youth. The acting classes are continuing to gain participants as the word spreads. The next session starts this week. The Father Daughter Dance will be held on Friday February 10th and is sold out with an extensive waitlist already.

Last Friday we had another offering of Adult Intro to Pickle ball class, this is the 3rd class we have offered and all have been sold out. In addition this past Friday we offered a family intro to pickle ball instructional open play for children and families. This was also

sold out and well attended. We are looking to add additional family sessions in the future.

Concessions at the Blossom Hill Field House are doing very well. There are a bunch of new trainees working through the learning curves working up there, but items are selling well.

Commission Member Moleski asked about revisiting the ability for different CVYO teams to run concessions as fundraisers.

Director Engle mentioned that looking at the meeting schedule, the March meeting is during spring break. She would like to propose moving the meeting one week earlier to March 20th.

Athletic Area Report:

The Youth Basketball is past the midway point, and going well. Men's Basketball is in its 3rd week and there is a 35+ and a 60+.

Thank you to the Service Department and the part time supervisors at the Field House for all the help with the snow removal this weekend and keeping the building clean with all the weather. CVYO baseball, soccer and lacrosse have begun some indoor workouts at the Blossom Hill Field House this week. Registration is currently open for Little Dribblers, PeeWee Basketball, and the Youth Volleyball Clinic for 3-8th graders. Soccer registration will begin on February 1st for the spring session of U3-U8. Brecksville Travel Basketball will be hosting their first tournament at the Blossom Hill Field House on the last weekend in February.

Aquatic Area Report:

The winter session of Learn-to-Swim and Kids N Company is in its 3rd week, and almost all the sessions are sold out. We were able to accommodate many of the kids on the waitlist. The Swim Clinic on Mondays is also very full. The High School Swim Team has hosted 4 home meets so far, and have one final home meet this week. The season has gone very smoothly with the transition to new coaches this season.

The Activity pool has been getting a lot of use this winter with people there daily and parties almost every weekend. In addition the Natatorium has been as busy as ever with lap swimmers as well as open swim.

Fitness Area Report:

The winter fitness schedule is up and running with classes 7 days a week. We are in the process of getting quotes for some new equipment to enhance the cardio and weight area. Rhonda will be offering an intro to exercise class for all ages, similar to the one offered for 13-15 year olds that familiarized people with the equipment and set up a good routine. The Taekwondo classes are full, and Jason is now offering a free slow taekwondo class for seniors.

CVYO Report:

The basketball teams are really enjoying using the new Blossom Hill Field House. Having the facility is giving the teams a great boost with these practice times plus additional ones at the BBHMS.

Lacrosse and Baseball have begun to use the space as well. They have about 29 slots on the books. There are some limitations on different sports and what they can do in the field house. Each coach must sign a sport specific usage contract prior to their first usage of the facility. There have been a few recommendations from the first groups to use the facility. The purpose is to plan programming accordingly so no damage is done to the facility. For example, currently there are no bats allowed for softball and baseball practices. The department is currently looking for possible solutions.

Field allocation for soccer, lacrosse, softball and baseball for the turf and multiuse fields has been done.

Meg has shared the Blossom Hill Report that was done about 15 years ago with Rachele. The report has ideas of how the property could be developed over the years. This was part of a 5 year plan that included research from a committee and resident survey. Since this plan was made, the Aquatic Facility has been built at the Community Center instead of the Blossom Hill site, and a school has been built on the Blossom Hill Property. When the plan was done 15 years ago, the study showed that there was a need for 2 more ball diamonds. May be it is time to start a new committee and sub committees in the community to look at current needs. There are a few people who are interested in being part of committee.

For the upcoming Boys Travel Basketball Tournament being hosted at the Blossom Hill Field House, the Cafetorium will be available. Rachele will reach out to Dan Kalinsky and Greg Skaljic about renting it. As of now it is not part of the rental.

Commission Member Moleski commented regarding large rentals that it should be a package deal for renters if they are renting all 4 courts they get the Cafetorium as well. Maybe it is something that needs to be revisited with the fee schedule for next year. Make it a requirement not an option. Commission Member Kern stated that it may help with the cleanliness of the facility if there was somewhere else for people to eat. Commission Member Firestone mentioned that using the cafetorium may offer the opportunity to expand concessions with full meals, maybe from food trucks. Another comment suggested that the requirement to rent it could be season specific, if the weather should be nice, you it would not be required because people could spread to outdoors.

Old Business:

Commission Member Moleski asked for a Kids Quarters Update. Council member Ganim updated commission that Council has given approval to for the mapping and

surveying to be done. The survey report has been turned over the Kathy from Knight and Stolar to review, then she will set up a meeting with Rachele to review.

Commissioner Firestone asked about follow-up on the Pickle Ball meeting. Rachele let the commission know that she is in constant communication with the Pickle ballers. She is still communicating with the Mayor and Service Director, but there is nothing new to report.

The budget update will be tabled until the February meeting since there is not a full commission tonight.

New Business:

Commission Member Kern asked about the location of AEDs at the different field/court locations. The AEDs are located at the schools, and the City Hall Fields & Tennis Courts are in close proximity to the Fire Station, but where are the nearest location at the Turf, Blossom Fields, Stadium and Chippewa? Conversation are in the works already with the Fire Chief to look at possibilities for some of the locations. The City is also reaching out to other Cities to see how they handle it at outdoor locations, and also looking at possible grant funding.

Public Comments:

None

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Ganim and seconded by Kern to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek