

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

June 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. Please note this meeting was held in person for members of the Commission, and the Recreation Department, and was live streamed for on Facebook live for the public to hear.

Roll Call was taken.

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

Absent: Boulware

Also present: Director Rachele Engle, Luis Pena Ochoa, Jim Kolesar, Jamie Mewhinney Meg English, and Carolyn Jatsek.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Kern seconded by Hanna to dispense with the reading of the May 23, 2022 minutes and to approve them as written.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim reported City Council has passed legislation to create the New Field House Coordinator Position and advertise for candidates. The job is officially posted. City Council also approved the purchase of a Kubota All-Terrain Vehicle that will be housed at the Community Center to assist with snow removal and daily tasks at the Community Center.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle reported the Aquatic Facilities and Concessions at the Community Center are doing well. Last week Monday was a warm day and we had 40 Non-resident members present and 77 guest passes sold, and Wednesday there were 67 Non-resident members present and 93 guest passes sold. Concession has had a handful of days with over \$1000 in sales. Some days have been busier than others, but we have been able to accommodate all visitors to the pool. July 1st is the pro-rate day for Non-Resident Memberships, so we may see a second wave of Non-resident members.

The first late night swim was held on June 17th and had about 75 participants. July 10th and 24th will be the next 2 Sunday evening where the volleyball net is set up in the outdoor pool which will shut down the zip line, climbing wall and lap lanes. Thanks to everyone who helped out at Home Days, it was a good weekend.

We have received several applications for the Field House position, and will accepting more for the next few weeks. Application can be dropped off at the Community Center or emailed to Rachele.

A question was asked by Commission about any impact from Non-Resident Membership in other areas of the Community Center besides the pool. No negative impact has been seen in any area.

Athletic Area Report:

Teeball and Machine Pitch will be wrapping up over the next 2 weeks. They have had very few rainouts. Tennis numbers are on par with previous years, a little lower than the past two which were high during COVID's limited offerings of other sports. The adult tennis program is gaining popularity. There is a July and August session still left. Session 1 of Coed Softball is wrapping up next week, and will have a one day tournament. The second session is still open for registration for another week or so and will begin in July. The department has been having to cold call umpires trying to find umpires for the second half of the season, or having to shuffle umpires around to try and move them to older leagues and have parents call pitches at younger games. There have been about a dozen games we have hosted with Umpires. This is not unique to Brecksville Recreation but is an issue in the area, and for travel leagues as well. Other than that the softball/baseball season has been going well, and any rainout games have been made up or

scheduled. There has a lot of positive feedback from our coaches this season. The leagues had decided pre-season not to hold any tournaments this year, and instead schedule more regular season games. The department is going to have a Brecksville Teams only mini-tournament for our teams.

Camp is going very well, there have been a few behavioral issues, but other than that the new camp coordinator, Jordon, and the counselors are doing well, and really stepping up as needed.

July 1st will begin registration for the Boys & Girls Lacrosse Fall Clinic, Youth Flag Football for 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th and 7th & 8th Grade traditional flag, unlike padded flag that Bees Football offers, Youth Soccer Academy U3-U8, and the Youth Volleyball League which is available for 3rd-9th grade and partners with west side cities.

The Ground Crew has been doing a good job and fields look great, the dry weather helps/

Field House programming is schedule to begin in September with these fall programs.

Commission had further discussions about the umpire situation. Inquired about getting some younger kids to help out with the little league games. Talked about trying to get some high school students involved.

One concern that was discussed was the liability of having youth, but will look into it further for next season. You need to be 16 to be a certified umpires. In the past the City had used umpire helpers as a second umpire on the fields, but not sure if today's umpires would want to take on the responsibly of helping train them and have them on the field. Meg added that the issue is not just for Rec level games, but travel teams are having the same issues. Usually travel games have 2 umpires on the field, but most u14 and under are running with only one umpire. Part of the issue is the overall lack of respect for officials. The umpire population is getting older and the younger population is not stepping up.

Aquatic Area Report:

The second session of summer learn to swim is wrapping up, the second half will start up after the 4th of July. The first late night swim was chilly, but there were about 75 people there and the lights looked amazing! The next one is scheduled for Monday July 25th for Christmas in July. Belugas meets will begin this Saturday and they will have a total of 9 meets, 3 of which will be home meets held in July. The Natatorium will be closed for the meets, but the rest of the pools will remain open during the meet.

The Lifeguards have been doing an amazing job this summer and have been handling everything very well. Commission Vice Chair Kern brought up the pool hours and asked if it was possible to open them earlier like 11am. Luis explained that during the week we have programming in the pools until 11:50am and then open the outdoor pool immediately at noon. Saturday and Sundays we do open at 11am. Unfortunately we cannot move programming earlier in the day, because it is too chilly in the outdoors.

CVYO Report:

Travel Baseball and Softball are in the process of wrapping up their seasons, and will hold tryouts for next year right after. Summer has been nice after the crazy spring weather. Thanks to the City of Brecksville, especially the grounds crew for all the hard work getting the fields look great all season. The season has gone well and the Meg has heard much positive feedback about our fields and facilities. A quick survey will be sent out to all coaches for feedback and a formal report will be passed on to Rachele.

Prior to tonight's meeting, there was preseason meeting for groups looking to use fields this fall including, football, soccer, baseball, lacrosse and softball. Off season's needs will be met based on field availability. Soccer has had tryout for next year, and Lacrosse will have their fall clinic and participate in a few fall tournaments. Since the status of Chippewa Fields is still uncertain, there will be a plan A and a plan B for field usage. Chippewa is zoned correctly already for a developer, but Highland will need to be rezoned, and the earliest it could go on the ballot is this fall. Highland does have room to but a small 7v7 or bantam fields on it, and also has grass practice areas, that may not have lines on it.

Old Business:

The Commission has in front of them the proposed Blossom Hill Field House Rental Rates that had been presented at the May Commission meeting and opened the floor for any further discussion. There was a

motion by Lazaridis and a second by Kern to recommend the rates to City Council for approval as they were presented. The motion was passed by all commission members present at the meeting.

New Business:

No new business

For the July meeting we will look at usage numbers and the first half of the year budget numbers.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Firestone and seconded by Kern to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, July 25, 2022 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek