

## **BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **May 23, 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:** Boulware, Ganim, Hanna, Kern, and Moleski

**Absent:** Firestone and Lazaridis

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Hanna, seconded by Ganim to dispense with the reading of the April 25, 2022 minutes and to approve them as written.

#### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Hruby mentioned that over the weekend there had been some Facebook comments regarding the announcement of the non-resident memberships. Some comments were about not taking Silver Sneakers which is only \$3 per day, which is less than we charge per day. Many are worried about having an additional 500 members, and the silver sneakers program would bring in many more than that number. Many interested in Silver Sneakers are interested in the membership for the outdoor pool, and therapy pool. The Administration has spoken about this before, but it isn't something that meets the needs of the Community Center. Another comment was about how high our non-resident membership rates are. Yes, they are high, but the people getting these memberships pay no taxes what so ever to our Community. There have been about 10 emails to the City in response to the 500 non-resident membership offering, 2 were positive and 8 were negative, overall not bad. There was the same concern when Corporate Memberships were rolled out and everything was ok. If this causes a problem, Council can always roll it back or lower the max number allowed to protect the interest of the residents. It comes down to a matter of economics.

Additional fields are something the City is looking into. The City is currently in the process of getting preliminary quotes for turf at Blossom. There is still room to add two additional baseball/soccer fields on the property between Blossom and the new school. The fields at Chippewa and Highland will continue to be used until City Council decided to either sell or maintain them. This issue is still under discussion.

#### **Council Representative Report:**

Councilman Ganim reported that the feedback from City Council about non-resident memberships were similar to discussion that were had by the Recreation Commission. They recommended it so kids can be with their friends from the school district. Many of

these kids and families are already coming in as guest, and this will be a convenience for everyone.

### **Recreation Director Report:**

Recreation Director Engle reported that the Commission had lots of positive feedback after the walk through of the new Field House Facility. It looks wonderful, and impressive. The location will attract outside business when it not being used.

The women's locker room project is completed and looks good. Thanks to the Service Department, Building Department and Recreation Department for all their hard work on the project. The benches were also refinished by the service department.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> is Resident Guest Pass Day, where Brecksville residents can come to the Community Center Pool at a discounted rate of \$20 for a family. The volleyball nets will be set up in the outdoor pool on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm. The Community Center Staff has been working hard to get the Outdoor pool ready to open this Saturday.

The Fitness area has received the 2 new treadmills and 2 new bikes. The last treadmill and leg press machine will be coming shortly.

### **Athletic Area Report:**

The Athletics coordinator reported on current program registration rates. Little Hitter will be wrapping up. There were 54 kids and their parents for this session. Thanks to all the parents with their flexibility for location changes due to weather. There has been a great growth in their skills over this program.

Tee ball has 128 kids, Machine Pitch Boys 73, Machine Pitch Girls 46, Minors 47, Majors 38, Pony 35, Mini-tail 25 and Ponytail 14.

Bocce currently has 18 teams, looking to have 24 total.

Kid Pitch Baseball and Softball Programs begin today and concession at both City Hall and Blossom are open beginning today as well.

July 1<sup>st</sup> will begin registration for fall soccer, youth volleyball league, flag football, and lacrosse clinic.

Adult Coed Softball has 6 teams for this session and 8 for the next session.

Chairman Molseki commented on what an excellent job our field crew does to maintain our fields and keep them in great shape and playable compared to other locations his teams have traveled to for games.

### **Aquatic Area Report:**

Last week we hosted the High School Physic Cardboard Regatta in our Natatorium. The kids had a great time, and thanks to all who helped out. June 6<sup>th</sup> will begin summer swim lesson, and programs. More than half of the classes are already full. The Belugas summer swim team already has over 80 swimmer enrolled on the team. We will begin to advertise the special events being held in the Aquatic Areas over the summer soon. The Outdoor Pool opens on Saturday May 28 from noon-6pm, Sunday May 29 noon-5pm and

Monday May 30, noon-5pm. The past few weeks the aquatic staff has been busy training and cleaning in the outdoor pool for the upcoming season. Chairman Moleski inquired on the lifeguard situation. Luis replied that he is cautiously ok, they have met their goal number of staff to have by opening, and will continue to hire a handful of additional guards as the summer continues. At the preseason staff meeting yesterday they had over 64 guards, with a few more still returning from school. There are a variety of different ages, and backgrounds on staff and majority are interested in working 20-30 hours per week, with a handful wanting more or less.

### **CVYO Report:**

Meg English shared a preliminary field usage for the travel sports report that she spoken about last meeting. All travel teams will take any field times available, and make things work. If necessary, Meg is willing to meet with Recreation to talk about field availability prior to the scheduling meeting to try and navigate what is available.

Soccer and Lacrosse are wrapping up their seasons. Lacrosse has strong numbers, with over 50 in the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade group.

Tryouts for the 2022-23 season are coming up. AJ had followed up with Meg and confirmed that the traditional tryout banners go against the City sign ordinance, and will not be allowed this year. Baseball and softball are off to a challenging season with the weather, but the teams are having good outcomes on the fields.

### **Old Business:**

Information about the Blossom Field House usage and rates were distributed. The rates are broken down into three tiers, one for residents, one for non-resident, and one for profit organization. On the usage, it includes all the sports we currently offer, plus additional ideas of sports and activities we could add. The Usage by month show what sports are in season each month. Some of the slower months, such as summer will have greater availability for rentals. During the school year, High School and Middle School teams may need additional practice space, and could get in from 3:30-5pm on school day, and then we would open for our teams/travel teams beginning at 5-5:30 when parents can get their kids to practices. One comment from Commission was that it looked like it was competitive with the exception on Independence which is lower, however they have not opened their facility to outside groups again. The whole facility rate for tournaments at \$3000 per day is in line with other facilities for tournaments. The per day rate is competitive without a lot of barrier to entry. Some facilities are much higher.

Conversation was had about the proposed walking pass, which would be offered from 4-5pm school days, and 8am-9am non-school weekdays. Is this something that commission feels we should offer to people, is it a liability, will parents be able to walk the track area while their kids are practicing. It was explained that although there are dividers between the courts, there is no barrier between the courts and the track like some facilities have. There is the possibility of balls or athletes getting into the track area if they are on a court. The Community Center has a track which is highly used, and some days if there is

nothing going on in the field house, overflow walkers will walk on the field house floor as well.

Chairman Moleski ask about putting out a FAQ regarding the Field House to clear up some misconceptions regarding the Field House, and non-resident usage, including how it was funded and who can use it and why. Yes, a Field House brochure is being worked on and clarify many of those questions, and explain that it would be rentable to non-residents based on availability and hierarchy.

Just a thank you to those who have signed up to volunteer at the Recreation activities at Home Days.

Conversation was revisited about the strategic plan from the organization meeting, regarding commission's opinion on whether a formal strategic planning session should be done or if smaller breakout sessions would work for 2022-23 goals. Originally topics that were to be focused on included staffing, facilities, and program offerings. Commissioned agreed there have been a lot of good discussions going on this year, with opening the facility to limited non-residents, and preparing for the Field House Opening, and maybe a Member Survey and small breakout sessions would be best for this year.

**New Business:**

No new business

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Kern and seconded by Hanna to adjourn the meeting at 8:39pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Carolyn Jatsek