

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

July 25, 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, Kern, Lazaridis, and Moleski

Absent: Firestone and Hanna

Also present: Mayor Hruby, Director Rachele Engle, Jamie Mewhinney, Meg & Tom English, and Carolyn Jatsek.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Kern seconded by Ganim to dispense with the reading of the June 27, 2022 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hruby reported that he is in the middle of working with Rachele and Service Director Weidig to put together a different group to maintain the fields and facilities. Service will be taking over the fields with Horticulturist Dweyer being responsible for the turf area, and a new person will be working with summer help to maintain the infields. The City is looking into the turfing the infields of some baseball stadiums and possibly the multi-purpose field at Stadium Drive. Paul Franks of SCG has reviewed the City's fields and confirmed that the most critical would be the infields, and there would need to be some reworking for drainage, but the outfields at this time would remain grass. The three phases would be the three fields at Blossom, the three fields at City Hall, and a multipurpose field at Stadium Drive. The City was looking to start with Fields E and F at Blossom, as they have lights on them, but would like feedback from the Commission about their thoughts on priorities. Conversation was had amongst the Commission about the multipurpose field at Stadium Drive. It was clarified that the football game field would remain as is, and the turfing would be a new multi-sport field to the east of the football field. Chippewa's lacrosse/soccer fields will be going away. After discussion the members of Recreation Commission was leaning towards having a turf multi-sport field added at Stadium that all sports could use as the priority. Not only could baseball and softball benefit with this, it also helps fill a void that will be left from losing Chippewa. A question was asked by Commission to the Mayor about the status of the Chippewa and Highland Drive School properties. Bids were submitted last Friday for Chippewa, but none for Highland. The bids have not yet been opened as the Superintendent is out of town.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim reported the Blossom Hill Field House rates that the Recreation Commission recommended to Council were accepted and approved at the July 17th meeting. Council also approved the re-appropriation of grant monies received to be put towards the tennis court lights. Council also approved the increase to staff uniforms blanket purchase order to allow for the purchase of shorts for the lifeguard staff at the Community Center.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle reported that summer programs are wrapping up this week and next. The Community Center recently accepted the donation of a nice air hockey table for the game room, and it should be up and running this week. Applications are still being accepted for the Field House Coordinator position.

Christmas in July Late Night Swim is going on tonight at the Aquatic Center from 8-10pm. The cost is \$2 for members and \$5 for guest of members or Brecksville Resident Non-Members. The areas is decorated for the occasion, there will be holiday music, candy cane limbo and special treats at the concession stand.

Athletic Area Report:

July 1st began registration for fall programs including the Lacrosse Clinic, Flag Football, Soccer Accademy and the Youth Volleyball League. Registration is going well, and will continue for the next few weeks. Director Engle read a letter to the Commission from Jim Kolesar who has resigned from the City of Brecksville Recreation Department.

Aquatic Area Report:

Luis sent an update to the Commission about the Aquatic Area. Swim lessons are wrapping up this week, and the next session will begin in October, with registration beginning September 1st for Brecksville Residents. The main focus for the next month will be on staffing and trying to keep the outdoor pool open for the rest of summer. Belugas are wrapping up their season this weekend with the Championship meet. They have had a total of 8 meets, including 3 home games. During the home games we were able to use the Community Rooms as a staging area and keep the Outdoor and Activity Pools open to the public. There will a lifeguarding class August 1-4th, and more classes will be coming soon. The annual pool shutdown will begin the Tuesday after Labor Day and will last about 3 weeks.

Fitness Area Report:

Rhonda sent a update to the Commission. The heat has brought more people inside for their workouts. Non-resident memberships have brought some new faces to the Fitness area. A new fitness schedule will begin after Labor Day, with some new class offerings. Rhonda is continuing to look at needs for new or updated equipment in the fitness area, and open to suggestions.

CVYO Report:

Meg reported that the fall schedule is out for fall, and does not utilize Chippewa Field. In season sports are football, and soccer. Off season sports using fields include lacrosse, softball and baseball.

Tryouts for baseball and softball are coming up over the next few weeks for the 2023 season.

The Run 4 Your Life Home Run 5K and 1 Mile races were a success over Home Days weekend. There were over 200 participants. The money raised from the race goes to support the Run 4 Your Life program and High School Scholarships.

Meg expressed her thanks to Jim Kolesar over the past 16 plus years he worked for the City of Brecksville. He was alwas easy to work with after the transition when Pete left. He was good for the program and personally good to her family. He always went above and beyond!

Old Business:

No old business was discussed

New Business:

A Community Center usage report was handed out to Commission that compared Member Visits, and Guest Passes for 2021 and 2022 YTD. A budget summary was also handed out with YTD expenses and revenues for the Commission Members to review just as snapshot of the department financials for the first half of the fiscal year.

Roundtable:

A few items were brought up by Commission Members as feedback they have gotten from the residents.

*People are looking for more shade areas at the outdoor pool

*More seating at the ballfields, especially Field B at City Hall, where the visitor dugout and First base has no seating due to the woods.

*Swim meets, parents would like a remote timer/scoreboard on the outdoor pool deck so if they are at the outdoor pool with siblings, they can see the status of the meet.

*During swim meets, can the concessions stand be open later. It was open later for the second 2 home meets. The dates for the meets were announced after the staff schedules had been posted for the first meet, and the staff were not able to stay later.

Commission members asked about the status of the Blossom Field House. Director Engle commented the official usage date would not be until after school starts. The school is hosting their ribbon cutting on August 1st and the City will have one later for the Field House. The City will be doing a test run of the new floor cleaning machine this week.

Public Comments:

It was commented by Meg English regarding to the turf priorities, that there is already a multi-sport turf field up at Blossom, but there is not any turf field for Baseball yet.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Lazaridis and seconded by Kern to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek