

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

April 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, Firestone, Ganim, Hanna, Kern, Lazaridis, and Moleski

Absent: none

Also present: Mayor Hruby, Director Rachele Engle, Bob Pliske, Luis Pena Ochoa, Jim Kolesar, Rhonda Miko, Tom and Meg English, and Carolyn Jatsek.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Kern, seconded by Firestone to dispense with the reading of the February 28, 2022 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hruby told the Recreation Commission that the issue of what to do about the ball fields at Chippewa and Highland. The City is to sell the properties for the schools. It was discussed if the City should purchase the properties as a short term or possibly a long time solution to maintain access of those fields. The Mayor has reached out to Meg and Tom English to evaluate the fields and their issues. Another option is should the City be looking to turf and add lights to some existing fields to allow more usage out of them. The Mayor is also posing the issue the Recreation Commission for feedback as well. There was a historical survey that showed the City would ideally need 8 baseball field (the City currently has 7 including Highland), and soccer could use some more. Youth Lacrosse is also has needs for fields. The City is looking for feedback soon as the properties could be sold by September.

The Mayor has spoken with Director Engle about the use of the Field House, concerning the usage and time of use of the Field House. The City is looking for some immediate feedback so it can start marketing the Field House for tournaments and events. Once word gets out that it is available for use, people will want to start scheduling. The Field House project has been a success, coming in under budget, on schedule, and a smooth process. It is a nice looking facility and has good sound, surprisingly quiet. Soon the City will begin outfitting the facility with furniture and equipment.

The Mayor spoke of the sad information the City has learned of a year ago when we learned of Mike Harwood's illness. The Mayor is very proud of how the Community responded and turned out to honor him. Mike was on the Planning Commission for 8 years, and then on City Council for 12 years. Mike served in the leadership of Council for all 12 years, 2 years as Vice President of Council, and 10 years as President. There was the longest servicing Council President since Mr. Biggs. Mike did a lot for creating and building the travel baseball program and spoke highly of the Recreation Department. He has a great family and hopes that we continue to reach out to them. Mike was extremely helpful in bringing Sherwin Williams to

Brecksville. He has signed a confidentially contract with them and was a huge help in making the deal happen. Mike was also able to attend the ground breaking ceremony.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim reported that as the Mayor had mentioned, City Council is about to become the broker for Chippewa and Highland School properties. They are looking to re-zone each property before sale. Council is looking forward to input for the Commission regarding the fields on each property. City Council has approved all items that have been brought before them by the Recreation Department including the installation of the new women's lockers and fitness equipment. One of the contingency regarding the fields on the properties is what can we do at Stadium and other fields to get more from the fields we have. Jim Kolesar agreed that turfing of fields and adding more lights would help. Lacrosse is really growing and how the loss of Chippewa Field could really impact the program. The schools want the property sold ASAP, but cannot turn them over until late August, early September. Council does not seem to want to purchase the properties. The Mayor mentioned there is a drawing for Blossom that shows a ball diamond and turf field to the West of the new school and an indoor turf field new the new Field House.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle gave a recap of recent events at the Community Center. The Visit with the Easter Bunny was sold out with over 125 children who enjoyed Easter Bingo, crafts, cupcake decorating and a visit and photo with the Easter Bynny. Luis will give more details on the Aqua Egg Hunt as well. April 14th there was a Sip & Chat with director where people are invited to discuss their suggestions about programing and the facility, while enjoying a snack and beverage. The next one is scheduled for May 23rd from 5-7pm. May 1st will be our first Mother's Tea, and that event is sold out.

The fitness area is getting more busy, and Council recently approved some new equipment for the fitness area. The Recreation Department is sponsoring games and bounce houses at Home Days June 24, 25, and 26th and is looking for Recreation Commission Members to volunteer some time to help supervise Saturday and Sundays from 4-7pm.

The new most recent Bulletin has just been sent out, take a moment to check out the snippet about the new Field House. Also in this issue is information on summer aquatic programs, Run 4 Your Life, Home Days 5K, tennis, and the fitness schedule.

The women's locker project will be begin on May 9th, details will be coming regarding how to access parts of the locker room, and showers during the renovations.

Current membership numbers are still growing. We are currently at 5350 total members, 5252 residents, 79 Corporate memberships, and 19 employee members. Resident membership are at 2337, Corporate memberships 28, and 14 employee memberships.

Athletic Area Report:

The Athletics

Aquatic Area Report:

Spring

Fitness Area Report:

Spring

CVYO Report:

There.

Old Business:

The

New Business:

endars.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Moleski and seconded by Kern to adjourn the meeting at 9:14pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek