

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION
January 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call was taken.

Members present: Briggs, Brubaker, Ganim, Gawlik, and Hanna

Absent: Boulware and Lazaridis

Also present: Mayor Kingston, Director Engle, Luis Pena, Rhonda Miko, Tom and Meg English, Carolyn Jatsek and Members of the Community.

Oath of Office:

The oath of office was administer to Lauren Brubaker by AJ Ganim.

Appointment of Chairman:

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

Ganim was nominated by Hanna, and seconded by Gawlik

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

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

Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

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

Hanna was nominated by Ganim, and seconded by Gawlik

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ganim, seconded by Hanna to dispense with the reading of the October 23, 2023 minutes and to approve them as written.

Motion was made by Ganim, seconded by Gawlik to dispense with the reading of the December 4, 2023 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kingston welcomed the new members to the commission and looks forward to working with the Recreation Commission. He also expressed his appreciation to all who volunteered their time to serve on a board or commission. For those who were not chosen, there may be other opportunities to volunteer on other projects throughout the year.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim first and foremost wanted to thank City Council for allowing him to stay on the Recreation Commission this year, and thank you to the Commission for electing him as the Chair of the Commission.

The 2024 Inaugural Ball is Saturday February 24th. There is still time to get tickets, and the ball will benefit the Kids Quarters Project.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle welcomed the new members to the Commission and congratulated AJ and Nick for their leadership appointments. Director Engle stated that Community Center Memberships are continuing to come in steadily. We are currently hiring for Camp Counselors for the summer and Building Supervisors for the Blossom Hill Field House.

The Kids Quarters Project is continuing to progress with the overall plan and vision. Budgeting and grants are in place for phase 1 to be completed this year. We are hoping to begin in April or May with the front ADA ramp and then move on to phase 2 to pick out new equipment. We are continuing to work with Kathy from Knight and Stolar.

Athletic Area Report:

Jamie Mewhinney was absent, but Director Engle gave a quick update. Youth Basketball has a couple of weeks left and travel basketball has about a month of games left and will conclude by hosting the Bees Travel Tournament at the Field House the last weekend in February. Registration is currently open for Peewee Basketball, Little Dribblers and the Youth Volleyball Clinic. The Field House continues to be busy weekdays from 4:30-9:30pm and all day Saturdays and Sundays with games and rentals.

Aquatic Area Report:

The winter session of Learn to Swim is about halfway through. The next Session will be a Monday/Wednesday session in the Month of April with registration opening on February 1st. There is one home High School Swim meet left this Wednesday hosted at the Community Center, with practice continuing through February. The Therapy pool

will be open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings until 7pm beginning in February. The Community Center is always hiring lifeguards, the biggest need currently is for daytime guards, but we will be starting to gear up for summer in the next couple months.

Fitness Area Report:

We are running 36 classes throughout the week, 6 of them being free classes for the seniors. We are seeing an influx of people coming in, especially on the weekends. We are still offering the 30 minute acclimation sessions for those who want to learn how to use the equipment. These complimentary sessions can be set up by contacting Rhonda.

CVYO Report:

Basketball is in full swing, they are using the Field House and Middle School for practices. CVYO is currently planning for spring and summer for lacrosse, soccer, baseball and softball. Lacrosse and soccer field allocations are out, waiting on baseball and softball fields. The numbers are up in all programs, but CVYO is being mindful of how many kids they are taking to make sure it fits within their field allocations. All travel teams have to think outside of the box to get the facilities they need. Not all teams can practice Monday-Thursday 5-8pm like they would like.

Old Business:

Project Updates:

Stadium Drive: The new scoreboard has been installed, the bleachers, concrete pads, and bathrooms have been redone. The Service Department is still working on the ADA bathroom. The locker rooms were cleaned up for the Middle School Football usage. Thank you to Service Director Joe Kickel and the Service Department for all of their hard work to get the work done, that was paid for by a grant. Having access to the Horticulture Parking Lot on games days has alleviated the parking issue at Stadium.

City Hall Fields: Field C has had the 1st and 3rd baseline fencing replaced as well as the outfield fence for Fields A and B. The steps are complete and the railings will be install soon. In addition the dugouts for Field C have been revamped and are now covered dugouts. In spring the walkway by the Caboose will be replaced with a concrete.

New Business:

2024 Priorities:

Mayor Kingston stated that we know Kids Quarters is the #1 priority for Recreation for 2024 with \$1.5 Million budget, \$750,000 of grant money, and \$750,000 of City match. This project will be going on most of the late spring and summer. The commission needs to revisit the 5 year plan of small projects to large capital projects and make a priority list of items. Some of the items on the list include Tony Niccoli Field, turfing the baseball

fields, Stadium Drive long term vision and growth, Pickleball Courts. The outdoor pickleball courts are in this year's budget to create at Blossom. Mayor Kingston is looking for commission to submit a list of priorities to help the City decide how we should spend our limited funds to improve or grow our facilities. City Hall is not going to making the decisions alone, but is going to lean on the commission on how to best spend the taxpayers' money.

Sponsorships

Recreation Commission Chair Ganim would like to develop a subcommittee with some members of the commission along with some citizen members to work on Corporate Sponsorship Project as a way to increase funding for these projects. How can we take advantage of some of the private money in the Community that Corporation may be willing to donate to Recreation? The Committee will look at opportunities for small businesses, large corporations and community organizations, while understanding the level of class the residents expect with how sponsorships are displayed. If you are interested in being part of this committee please let Chairman Ganim know. The hope is to have this committee in place by the next Commission meeting.

Public Comments:

John Farrell, director of BSA was in the audience and wanted to stop in and show his support to the Recreation Commission. John was hired by the City of Brecksville to run the Brecksville Soccer Academy. Director Engle thanks John for the smooth transition as he took the program over from Thacker.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Ganim and seconded by Gawlik to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek