

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 5/6/24

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a reorganization meeting on 4/1/24 at the Municipal Complex (711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey). Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting in person.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tony Pastore at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: TJ Lovenduski, Frank Baldorossi, Mary Pieretti, Donna Sadler, Don Nemeth, Cindy Golway, Tony Pastore, Tom Boracci, Martin Eckert, Tom Boracci, Kim Dembowski

Absent: Tom Supey

Also Attending: Members of Burlington Cricket Team (Balvir Singh, Ricky Singh, Halprit Singh – Spoke during meeting), Florence Cricket/Lions (Shivam Patel – Spoke during meeting)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of March 4, 2024

Motion of Sadler, seconded by Golway to approve the minutes as submitted.

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Earth Day Community Clean Up:** Marty reported that township council and the environmental commission has organized a community clean up day, scheduled for Saturday, April 21st to begin at 8am. Details are finalizing but the clean up will be divided into two areas of town. Group 1 will meet near the RD Wood Baseball Field and walk streets, alleys and parks in our downtown area of the community. Group 2 will meet across from Roebing Elementary School at 8am and will participate by walking avenues, parks and alleys in the Village of Roebing. All are welcome to participate. The school district will be sending information to students and clubs looking for volunteers. Marty will coordinate trash & recycling bags, first aid kit and hand sanitizer for each group.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Cricket:** Representatives from the Burlington Cricket team attended the meeting. Balvir Singh and Ricky Singh spoke on behalf of the team regarding follow up to the committee's decision renewing the use of the grounds at RD Wood Field to that Florence Cricket team. Ricky Singh expressed that their team built the pitch the previous season and had played on the field as well. Marty Eckert interjected that at the previous recreation committee meeting in March and also at a meeting with the recreation department and committee their liaison, Balvir Singh confirmed that the team "will" pay towards the cost of the pitch. This portion of discussion continues to be brought up with differing responses meeting by meeting. Don Nemeth, whom was in attendance at one of those meetings stated that the Burlington team offered to pay towards the pitch and not that they had been the group to build it. The committee had offered the Burlington team to join the league and play with other Florence residents that have teams as well as play other teams. The committee asked what the team was looking for because providing a full day of use was not an option because the approved group has a 10 team league and an

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 5/6/24

active schedule for the season. Balvir Singh stated that they were relooking for a home field to play games for the Burlington Cricket Premier League.

Shivam Patel from the Florene team appeared at the meeting and provided that the Burlington team is welcome to join the league and participate with all other teams. Mr. Patel shared that their team has kept in communication with the township for over a year and have the interest of growing the program in whatever manner the township feels appropriate including offering clinics to children and welcoming residents to join teams and learn cricket as well.

The committee discussed as some members of the Burlington team are Florence residents, there may be an option where they could use the field. Since the Florence group is already approved and has an active schedule, offering the Burlington team to join the league provides the ability for them to play multiple teams on Saturdays or Sundays throughout the season. The committee also decided to offer to the Burlington group every Saturday throughout the season to utilize the field from 4pm to dusk. This would mandate that the Florence team must be completely off of the field prior to 4pm so that the Burlington team could practice or play games within the Burlington Cricket league schedule. Chairman Pastore will be contacting the representative representing the offer for the Burlington Cricket team to join the Florence league and the afternoon time slot weekly for the season. Committee unanimously voted to offer the Burlington Cricket team the opportunity to join the Florence league. Committee unanimously voted to offer the time slot of 4pm to dusk every Saturday to the Burlington Cricket team to use for games in the Burlington County Premier Cricket League.

FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities**
- **Grant Application – Pickleball Courts:** Marty shared that a DCA Grant application has been submitted for consideration with the goal of locating pickleball courts at the township municipal complex. The committee agreed that pickleball has become very popular and if there is an opportunity to place courts away from the tennis courts that would be ideal. There are regular inquiries to the recreation department about pickleball, thus prompting the discussion to apply for the grant.

Recreation Restrooms/Municipal Building Hours/Doors: Marty provided that the recreation restrooms are now in a cleaning rotation at the beginning and end of each week. Leagues are to report and concerns or damages to the recreation department. Leagues must monitor restrooms during evenings and weekend games and make sure that all are checked then locked at the end of each use. The township municipal building will now close at the end of the business day (4:30pm). There are limited hours where the police window is open on Wednesday evenings and on Saturdays until 1pm. We are encouraging all recreation programs to use the rec restrooms.

- **Field Maintenance:** Due to the influx of rain there has been a delay in some of the ballfield maintenance, however public works continues to prep for Opening Day. A lot of work on the Babe Ruth Field is being completed by volunteer, Jim Carnival and it is greatly appreciated. Public Works will take advantage of any open opportunities to continue to add infield mix to fields. For the past few weeks the rain has washed a lot of

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 5/6/24

what had been applied to Muchowski Field. Marty relayed to PW that the field is a priority to re-establish the infield.

- **Board of Education Facilities:** Nothing to report at time of meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Community Center Events:** The community center will be closed in mid-April for the floor to be refinished. Once completed, exercise programs will resume. The committee will then discuss additional uses for the space that are community based. Music nights, comedy nights, additional classes or crafts are an option. There is one new use for a “painting night” which will eventually be outdoor along the waterfront, but something different to try. Additionally, Dr Lou from the former Dr Lou’s place will be returning to the area for summer months and has offered to assist with booking entertainment if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Community Events & Activities:** The committee has formed a sub-committee to assist in enhancing the patriotic celebration activities. The committee is looking to add a house decorating contest, create prize categories for parade participants and other potential activities.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Don Nemeth/Cindy Golway: Shared the date for the annual bocce ball tournament as August 3rd. More information to be released.

Donna Sadler: Brought up the outfield pole on Muchowski Field. One row of lights are out and there was an inspection of the pole last season and will need a repair asap.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Pastore, second by Dembowski – 8:45pm