

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 8/5/24

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a reorganization meeting on 5/6/24 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, Mary Pieretti, Donna Sadler, Don Nemeth, Cindy Golway, Tony Pastore, Tom Boracci, Martin Eckert, Tom Boracci, Kim Dembowski, Tom Supey, Caitlin Motta

Absent: Frank Baldorossi

Also Attending: Florence Township Recreation Field Hockey Program

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of April 1, 2024

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

- Special Meeting of April 22, 2024

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

2024 RECREATION FIELD HOCKEY - END OF SEASON MEETING

The board members of the recreation field hockey program provided a thorough overview of each segment of their 2023 season. Overall numbers in each division were up again this year and from a competitive standpoint, each division was very successful based on record and the development of fundamentals, teamwork and sportsmanship. The program operates on a modest budget, however through efforts of uniform exchange, fundraisers and hosting league matches where refreshments are prepared and sold the program manages a solid financial standing.

The program expressed appreciation in working with the football program in aiding in lining fields and coaches continue to do a great job giving time for practices, games and off season conditioning which has proven to be successful during games when the players continue to perform well late in games due to being properly conditioned. Their goal remains to keep the players close on and off the field and provide opportunities for them to get together and grow in friendships and as a team.

The league discussed the possibility of support with temporary lighting during the month of October when daylight is lost in the early evening. It was discussed to potentially work with the football program to utilize the game field on evenings when they are not practicing. There was a request to establish an additional concrete pad beside the existing restroom which will be used for spirit and concessions during the season. This is a project that is within the scope of work that public works can do and Marty will check on. The board did a great job in presenting and will continue to grow this program further in 2024.

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 8/5/24

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Opening Day Spring Sports:** The committee discussed the Opening Day Ceremony held on Saturday, April 13th. The event was successful but was hampered in the late morning due to weather. The softball and baseball programs did a great job working together to organize the day. We wish the programs a successful spring season.

It was noted that on Olaff Field along the 3rd baseline that the grass grows right up to the 3rd base line and that should be addressed. Marty will speak with the league. The season is beginning and work could have an effect on the surface area and most likely a sod cutter and excess infield dirt will be needed to remedy. They will look at it and see what the leagues plans are to address or it may be remedied during the off season.

- **NJ Department of Corrections – Good Deeds Day:** The township was contacted by the Burlington County Department of Correction where they offer a volunteer service to different communities each year. This year they selected Florence Township and drove around and identified that the Woodlawn Basketball Courts needed nets. They also noticed that the softball field at Woodlawn had damaged and missing bases. The group offered to volunteer to hang new nets and to do some light field maintenance and install new bases for children in the community to use. The township public works department cleared all of the growth from the infield and the dept of corrections handled the work to place bases. It was a very nice gesture and greatly appreciated.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Cricket:** Representatives from the Burlington Cricket team based out of Burlington Township appeared at a recent township council meeting expressing that they do not believe it is fair that their team is unable to have scheduled time on the township field which has been established for a local cricket program. The committee has managed the matter over a period of several months and came to a decision which they continue to stand firm. There was a suggestion at the council meeting for a subcommittee to be formed to further assess the matter. The recreation committee members agreed that based on the repeated meetings to discuss along with prepared documentation and the special meeting hosted on April 22nd between Florence and Burlington parties that there has been no new information provided to constitute and further time being dedicated to the subject. The recreation committee continues to hold the offer for the Burlington Cricket team to join the Florence Cricket League and to have an opportunity to utilize the field area on Sunday afternoons from 4pm to dusk. Both offers have been repeatedly denied by the Burlington Cricket team thus the committee rests with its decision as outlined.

FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities**
- **Field Lighting – LED:** A lighting group toured the township recreation fields and facilities to determine the benefits of transitioning to LED lighting. All fields that currently have lighting, concessions, batting cage, public works garage and rear water & sewer building and tennis courts were reviewed. The group will provide feedback to the township outlining costs and cost saving projections.

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 8/5/24

- In addition to field lighting, Don Nemeth reminded that there are bulbs out at both the football practice and game fields that need replacement. Marty will receive the feed back from the lighting company to assess if improvements may be a possibility prior to the end of 2024. If not, bulb replacement will be scheduled. If any are located on the tower where the Osprey nest is located, replacement may need to be postponed until fledglings leave the nest. Tom Boracci also noted the challenges with the lighting pole at Veterans Soccer and asked when maintenance comes out could that be checked on as well.

Recreation Restrooms: The field hockey restroom door has been adjusted. Marty will confirm with water & sewer that it is turned on and ready for the fall season. Rec Football restrooms were set up to where they are unlocked and can only be locked from the inside during use and once exited they remain unlocked until the end of the evening when they are closed up. Veterans restrooms will be checked by water & sewer.

- **Field Maintenance:** Dunphy's landscaping checked various fields confirming irrigation was on for Spring sports and made some necessary repairs.
- **Bleachers:** It was asked if public works can look at various bleachers that have some damage. Marty will relay to the department to begin checking and making repairs.
- **Board of Education Facilities:** Nothing to report at time of meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Community Center Events:** The committee discussed events to potentially be hosted at the community center beyond exercise classes. Music, comedy and various seminars. There have been inquiries for future senior functions which will need to be discussed further due to the facility not having personnel during daytime hours dedicated to that building.
- **Cricket Association:** Tony provided information and a draft of bylaws in establishing a Florence Township Cricket Association. The committee unanimously approved the bylaws which will be evaluated as the foundation of a league comes together. Additionally, the committee voted regarding the formation of a board to manage the initial year(s) of a cricket association. Members discussed and some questioned if it was necessary to make this official right away or to discuss further in future meetings. The committee voted to approve the formation of a Florence Township Cricket Association by a vote of 4 – Approved 2- Against and 2- Abstain at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Community Events & Activities:** The committee discussed upcoming township events such as carnival, patriotic celebration, steel mill street fair and fall festival confirming dates and that information has been forwarded to the public and to potential vendors.

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 8/5/24

- **William Krzykalski Court of Honor:** Marty attended the court of honor for William Krzykalski as he officially has been designated as an Eagle Scout. It was a very nice event held at the Scout House and was very well attended. William received his father's pin from when he was designated an Eagle Scout many years prior. William expressed his thanks to his scouting family, his family, friends and to the township and its committees for their support of the project.
- **Fall Recreation Programs:** Marty shared that fall registrations will be opening soon. They are all through team snap and will be posted on the website and social media pages.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Caitlin Motta/Tony Pastore: Discussed spreading the word for the house decorating contest to add something fun to the patriotic celebration. There will be a sign up and we will invite residents to drive by to check out decorated homes from the list.

Donna Sadler: Inquired about setting up a subcommittee meeting to go over the potential 5K for the patriotic celebration or a future 5K and for the fall festival.

Don Nemeth: Don shared that at the new playground the skid steer is being climbed on by children and it is unsafe for it to be accessible. Please ask Public Works to look at managing the American Flags on the poles at the rec fields. Post-season flags should come down and once seasons begin all poles should have flags. Also the trash can at Muchowski needs to be placed since the old one that was missing the lid has been removed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Sadler, second by Nemeth – 9:10pm