Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 10/7/24

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on 9/9/24 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 Recreation Director, Marty Eckert at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: TJ Lovenduski, Mary Pieretti, Don Nemeth, Tom Boracci, Martin Eckert, Tom Boracci, Kim Dembowski, Tom Supey, Caitlin Motta, Frank Baldorossi, Cindy Golway

Absent: Donna Sadler, Tony Pastore

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of May 6, 2024

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

- Special Meeting of August 5, 2024

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

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **2024 Fall Recreation Programs:** Marty shared that recreation numbers overall for the fall programs are up. All practices have begun and some games schedules have started. Fields and facilities are being maintained restroom cleanings are on a Monday/Friday rotation. Public Works is reviewing the concrete pad for beside the field hockey building and will be scheduling when that work will commence. Some leagues have been leaving concession and field lights on and we are contacted on social media or by our officers. We are sending reminders and will look to see if there is an option to place on a timer in the future.

- **Background Checks for Youth Sports –** Review: Marty provided examples of some of the challenges this fall with a few background checks. There is an individual where inconsistent information has been relayed to the league but there is regular communication between the rec department and that league and the individual has been notified in writing that they are not permitted to have interaction with the players or attempt to coach without a valid approved background check. Marty has requested completed coaching lists and is verifying all active coaches then providing badge expirations to the president of those leagues.

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 10/7/24

CORRSPONDENCE

- **Cricket:** Marty noted that when Tony returns next month he will provide any new information associated with the Florence Cricket Association. Marty has communicated with the current league utilizing RD Wood Field and everything is going well. They have noted that the approved use set for the Burlington Cricket Team has not been used at all. The current league was asked to forego matches during that time slot to allow for the use by the requesting team and adjusted schedules to accommodate. The committee agreed that this lack of use will be noted and discussed pending future inquiries.

- **Men's Baseball – Field Use Inquiry:** Marty did receive an inquiry by a men's baseball league to utilize a township field for games during the fall/early winter. Marty did confirm that they did not meet the required 50% residency in order to submit for field use.

- **Linear Speed Training**: Marty received correspondence regarding a small business providing speed training to interested individuals or leagues. The conversation evolved from training to any future interest in the township offering a track & field program. The individual expressed interest in helping if this came to fruition. The committee discussed the positives of a program, but there would need to be a stable of willing volunteers to develop and run such a program. Track, wrestling and potentially volleyball are all viable suggestions, however in order to bring these programs to life, it does require an organized approach before a program can move forward. We also would review any impact on existing program numbers, but Marty provided that there are a lot more youth than what is registered and adding a program may bring out people that aren't currently participating.

FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities**

- **Field Lighting** – Quotes are being generated for bulb replacement and remedy for light pole at Muchowski Softball and Veterans Soccer.

- **Tennis Court Renovations:** Improvements to the Wilkie park tennis courts are nearly completed. It was suggested by the committee, now that leaves are falling to have the leaves blown from the courts regularly to prevent damage to the new surface. Marty will follow up with the contractor as to when work will be completed.

- **Board of Education Facilities**: Marty will be submitting requests for gym usage for the winter recreation basketball season.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Community Center Events:** Marty started a calendar on the township website specifically for community events and activities. As information is provided or flyers are designed, all will be placed on the calendar where it will appear on the main page of the website weekly. Princeton School of Rock will be doing a free show in October and details are coming together for that. There will also be a youth metal show in November along with a "Cruisin for the Cure" event.

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 10/7/24

- **Cricket Association:** Tony Pastore will provide any updates at the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2024 Fall Festival**: The committee coordinating the event has shared that overall vendor participation has exceeded that of the 2023 event. There will again be pumpkins, hay bales cornstalks and other decorations which will be expensed against the vendor fees collected. Marty will communicate with Dr Lou and the Privileged Few to play on the 12th. Various activities and food vendors will round out this year's event. It was requested for the police message board to be placed along Front Street at the end of September to post event information. Marty will communicate with Public Works on barricades, cones, trash and recycling needs.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cindy Golway: Shared that 13 or 14 cheer coaches took part in the CPR course offered by the Florence Twp Fire Department. The one member that did not participate is in the medical field.

Don Nemeth: Inquired as to the progress of placing a pad beside the field hockey shed. Marty will follow up with public works. Don shared that the weigh-ins went very well. Roughly 16 teams participated equating to about 2,700 players. A secondary evening was scheduled for players that were unable to attend that Saturday. Don also shared that recreation youth night would be taking place the following Friday during the HS home football game.

Mary Pieretti: Shared that the new playground has its fair share of challenges. Many teens hang out at the playground and are very rough with the equipment. When cautioned they respond negatively and regularly use inappropriate language around the smaller children. Cameras and additional signage were suggested. The committee further discussed notifying the police department and during patrols after school concludes, if officers see groups of teens at the playground could them stop by to make sure that they are conducting themselves appropriately in the park.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Motta, second by Nemeth – 8:05pm