Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 12/2/24

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on 10/7/24 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, Don Nemeth, Tom Boracci, Martin Eckert, Kim Dembowski, Tom Supey, Caitlin Motta, Frank Baldorossi, Cindy Golway, Donna Sadler

Absent: Tom Supey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of August 5 2024

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

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **2024 Fall Recreation Coaches Lists:** Marty shared that he has received complete lists from all fall programs confirming active coaches and updating background check status. Some coaches are due for renewal and those are in processing. All leagues have communicated the process to coaches that will be due for renewal prior to the start of next season.

- **Amazon Pink Socks –** Florence Amazon – ABE8 has confirmed a donation of pink socks, headbands, bows and wrist bands to all of our fall recreation programs in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. Theis donation were extended to the Florence Township Memorial Hight School programs as well. This was a greatly appreciated offering from Amazon.

CORRSPONDENCE

- **Recreation Football & Cheer Incidents:** Marty summarized separate incidents that have taken place at recreation football involving parents, another with an active coach and regarding smoking on the complex. All matters have been identified and have gone through proper channels to reach resolution. In addition, signage donated by Tobacco-Free for a Healthy New Jersey have been placed at our fields, parks and playgrounds around town. The signage cites that our public properties are smoke free from tobacco, vaping and marijuana use. Information for incidents and the smoking concerns have been reported to our police department and officers have begun to provide a presence at the fields in support of the needs of recreation.

- **Recreation Code of Conduct:** To date most recreation programs utilize a code of conduct that extends to both participants and parents. Recreation is in the process of adapting a uniformed code that will be utilized by all programs. Having these in place aided in enforcing sanctions on individuals that has caused challenges at our facilities.

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FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities**

- **Tennis Court Renovations:** Marty is awaiting a final report from the group responsible for the tennis court renovation. The courts are in use currently and there is regular activity during the evening and weekends and local employees have been seen using the courts during lunch, which is great.

- **Sprinkler Systems**: Marty shared that sprinkler systems will be checked and readied to shut down in late October pending the weather. The township water & sewer department will confirm when this will begin and once all programs have concluded for winter, restrooms will be winterized.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Community Center Events:** Marty provided an overview of upcoming activities at the community center. Musical events, end of season banquets and meetings will take place to close out 2024. The committee did a good job in creating new activity and supporting the growth of use in the building for the benefit of the community.

- **2024 Fall Festival:** The committee went over details regarding the upcoming fall festival. Members have worked together creating a much larger event than the previous year and it will be an exciting and enjoyable event for vendors and attendees. Details associated with prep, correspondence, delivery of items, layout, music and food vendor planning was covered.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2025 Florence Township Community Calendar:** Marty shared with the committee details about the calendar including some of the themes and what the cover will be for the 2025 calendar. The Boy Scouts will deliver prior to the New Year.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kim Dembowski: Discussed using the community center for a Girl Scout event in the New Year. "Thinking Day" is something that the troop does and the building will serve as a great venue to host this activity. Kim also noted that the bulletin boards at Roebling Park are quite dated and inquired about placing updated information in each.

Tony Pastore: Tony discussed hosting another NJ Veg Event in December. This event will be an information session/pot luck dinner. Marty will confirm the date and Tony will coordinate details.

Mary Pieretti: Shared that the new playground challenges and inquired to the possibility of placing signs that identify appropriate ages for use. The teens appear to be very aggressive and rough with the equipment and the fear is that they will not last if this behavior continues. Marty has shared with administration and made police and public works aware of the conduct and use of the playground equipment for monitoring purposes.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Motta, second by Sadler – 7:55pm