

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE
REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Front Conference Room 711 Broad Street, Florence, NJ 08518
Meeting Time and Date: 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 6, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING
Regular Meeting
January 9, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Tony Pastore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Sunshine Law statement was read and ordered that the minutes reflect that adequate notice was provided to the public at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting by prominently posting a notice on the public bulletin board of the municipal building and by publication in the Burlington County Times (Rec Committee Meetings listed January 2022)

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT	REMARKS
Paul Ostrander	X		
Kim Dembowski	X		
Dennise Yurcho	X		
TJ Lovenduski	X		
Thomas Supey	X		
Anthony Pastore	X		
Mary Pieretti	X		
Caitlin Motta		X	
Donna Sadler	X		
Nancy Hoch		X	
Don Nemeth	X		
Tom Boracci	X		
Martin Eckert Jr.		X	

Quorum Present (7 Voting Members) Yes X No _____

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

The minutes associated with the October 3, 2022 meeting were approved (Yurcho / Boracci)

2023 Officers: Tony Pastore, Chairman TJ Lovenduski, Vice Chair Caitlin Motta, Secretary

Liaisons: TJ Lovenduski (Baseball), Tony Pastore (Softball), Tom Boracci (Soccer), Kim Dembowski (Field Hockey), Don Nemeth (Football/Cheer), Mary Pieretti (Basketball)
Kim Dembowski, Tony Pastore, Donna Sadler, Caitlin Motta (Health & Wellness)

3. COORDINATORS REPORT

Fall Softball : Fall softball tournaments & workouts went very well. Facilities and field maintenance continued between public works staff and volunteers and provided a very nice fall extension for players. Don Nemeth remarked that on one weekend all of the fall programs had activity, as well as softball and outdoor basketball courts. It was a very nice atmosphere and great to see the complex in full use.

Recreation Basketball: (Marty reported in writing) Basketball is going really well! Team practices started and instructional basketball ran just this past Saturday. Everything is running smoothly. Huge challenge for coaches this season that required me to reduce overall amount of teams in each division and divide players to fewer teams specifically because I couldn't get coaching. Total numbers are down by about 100 players. Many parents shared that other parents opted for off season baseball & softball and other activity. This poses a challenge for a small town and I don't know what the answer is. I am hopeful that off season programs are letting kids know that their workouts are optional and if they have an in season practice then that is the priority.

I am working with Burlington Twp on the game schedule and that will be set soon. Sponsorship forms are out now and a small discount card fundraiser is being worked on. The last item I am working on is coordinating our officials with Burlington Twp officials so they can share coverage during the season.

Spring Sports Registrations: (Marty reported in writing) I have not yet received information to create registrations for spring recreation baseball or softball. Both programs were notified that registration must run thru the townships Blue Sombrero site. I relayed that this was thru discussion with the township attorney and also applicable for our insurance.

Rec Softball has posted a registration open flyer and also a "Registration Fee" which I have questioned both. The township does not charge a registration fee and I asked that it be removed from the flyer and to receive an explanation as to what the \$30 fee is for. Every program should be offering a fundraiser & buyout option. EVERY player will be accepted upon registering and will not be require to pay a fee to participate. This is why we offer the option to do a fundraiser or pay a buyout to encourage support to the league. Please discuss during the meeting and provide feedback on this. I was asked by several people what the \$30 fee is supposed to be for.

Committee discussed the item and language will be changed to fundraiser/buyout option. Softball did not submit registration thru township, but instead opened registration on their own site.

As it relates to fundraising, some members identified with costs associated with sponsorships. It was noted that some programs offer sponsorship tiers, where a business may participate at a more comfortable option. Tony cited that it had been a league decision thru the years to determine sponsorship fees versus a committee determination.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None at time of meeting.

5. FACILITIES

Municipal Facilities & Buildings

Building Winterizations: – (Marty submitted in writing) Only building that I am awaiting confirmation is the new field hockey building. Sprinklers reopen in Mid-Spring by water & sewer department.

Annual Fire Inspections: (Marty submitted in writing) Marty will be following up with the fire dept.

AED's & Training: (Marty submitted in writing) Marty will be coordinating install of AED's in rec building and will be scheduling a training for all interested in mid-winter. Suggested to set date for trainings and receive sign ups. Ted, Donna and Dennise will make calls to FD/PD about trainings.

Board of Education Facilities: (Marty submitted in writing) All basketball and softball clinics were approved by Board of Education.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Florence Twp Fieldhouse (Marty submitted in writing) Fieldhouse financing went to council for approval. I continue to work with the architect and engineer on plans. I will know more about the next step after my upcoming supervisors meeting this month.

Fall Festival (Marty submitted in writing) I met with a group that aides in running fall festivals. They have vendors to offer, a petting zoo, live music and other items. I am awaiting a proposal and supporting information for us to review and discuss.

Committee shared that they would prefer to handle coordination of proposed event and will follow up with township to confirm proposed plans and inquire about any support needed. More information will be discussed in February.

7. NEW BUSINESS

New Communications Manager & Hall Rentals

(Marty submitted in writing) The township has hired a communications manager. Jim Ford will handle all community center rentals as well as social media postings. A township twitter and Instagram account to compliment the existing website and Facebook page. As it relates to usage, the township will be working on the rental structure and community organization use. I will be participating in the layout of the structure and will provide information as to our fitness program(s) as well as local organization use based on what we've been doing in recent years. I will make sure that Tony has his information to inquire about comedy night availability.

2023 Health & Wellness (Marty submitted in writing) I'd like to add more fitness programs back in during 2023. I will discuss budget with the twp administrator and once we confirm budget I will know better as to what programs that we will be able to add for the year.

a. 2023 Events & Activities (Marty submitted in writing)

(These are just examples of what is to come)

1. Annual Patriotic Celebration – **Saturday, July 8th**
2. Carnival Returning – **Wednesday, May 31 to Saturday, June 3**
3. Music in the Parks – **Will be working on dates and bands soon.**

8. REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Not reported to Marty prior to February meeting.

Members of Public: No members of public present

RECREATION PROGRAM REPORTING – 2022 Softball Post Season/Pre-Season Meeting

(Questions/Comments submitted in writing by Director of Recreation)

Total Participants 2022: 100+

How many travel teams: ?

Confirm registration information is ready to send to rec dept to create form (I emailed the league stating that all registrations must go thru the township portal). To date I do not have information to create registration for softball or baseball. (Response – Rec softball opened registration on their existing portal.)

A flyer was created by softball opening registration and also included a \$30 registration fee. We do not have a registration fee? What is the \$30? We are not requiring families to pay \$30 to be a part of the leagues. Is this a buyout? (Response – Language has been changed on registration flyer)

How much are sponsorships? My concern is that the sponsor fees get a little out of control. We should be sensitive to local businesses not to overwhelm fees.

Depending on the amount of funds in the league checking account, we need to really clarify what is being done with any large sums. The township did not approve the outdoor cage to be enclosed and due to the leagues sharing the indoor cage, we are not a large township where each league needs their own batting cage. If funds are being stock piled, they are not directly benefitting the participants and on top of that if we are charging fees or running fundraisers and are sitting on a large balance then why is the township providing an annual reimbursement to the league.

Fields & Maintenance:

Due to the league extending into the Fall and plans to continue into the winter months, it creates extra for public works in terms of maintenance since the fall is a very large task managing in-season program needs. They are also in the process of winter preparation and township owned properties extend well beyond recreation fields that we maintain. Leagues will need to manage some maintenance (Dragging, fields, etc if they are involved in off-season activity).

Financial Reporting:

How much currently is in league account? (Financial report not provided. Estimated \$45k to \$50k in league account.

Since the travel programs are basically designed as tournament teams comprised of all recreation players, should some of the recreation funds in the account be earmarked to help offset tournament fees or some other costs incurred by these teams. If we have excess funds that these players families contribute to, I feel that in a sense those teams shouldn't be 100 percent responsible for raising their own funds to manage the teams. These are the same coaches that also coach the rec teams, so they are giving their times X's two. I support some funds being allocated to help support the growth of the league as they compete in tournaments, etc.

9. ADJOURNMENT. Request for motion to adjourn was made, (Nemeth/Lovenduski). The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm