

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Regular Meeting
February 6, 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	Resigned from Committee
TJ Lovenduski	X		
Thomas Supey	X		
Anthony Pastore	X		
Mary Pieretti	X		
Caitlin Motta	X		
Donna Sadler	X		
Nancy Hoch		X	Resigned from Committee
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 January 9, 2023 meeting were approved (Nemeth/Motta)

- 3. COORDINATORS REPORT**

Tennis Court Remediation: Marty shared that township council will review various items proposed for approval, where one of which is the remediation of the existing tennis courts located at Wilkie Park. Estimated cost of mill & paving have been calculated and the next step if approved will be to create an rfp to accept bids. The goal is to have the tennis courts redone by Summer. Material and scheduling will provide a better time frame.

Recreation Basketball: Marty reported that rec basketball has gone very well. Only a few games have been rescheduled due to coaches need, but otherwise all activity and reports from school district and officials have been positive. Playoffs will begin the first week of March and championship games will be played on the main court at Hopkins Middle School in Burlington Twp. High School students volunteering to run the clock have done a great job.

Eagle Scout Project (Nathan Pagano): Marty has continued to work with the Boy Scouts relating to projects in progress. Nathan Pagano has nearly completed work on the picnic benches that were donated by Amazon. Marty will be meeting with him on Wednesday to drive potential locations for placement throughout the community. Nathan has a few locations in mind, so once the areas are observed scheduling of replacement of old benches and securing of new benches will take place. This project will have a positive benefit for our community in various areas and having all of the same picnic tables in our parks creates uniformity.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Propel 100 Charity Bike Ride: Marty shared that he is contacted annually by a non-profit organization that coordinates a charity bike ride that passes thru Florence Township. Each year they inquire about using Marter Park as one of their stops should a rider need a drink or restroom break. The event attracts roughly 350 riders. Marty typically coordinates with recreation soccer to delay any use of the facility until late afternoon to avoid any overlap with riders. Marty will update the recreation soccer program as Propel has earmarked June 24th as their date for this years ride. In the past we have placed extra trash receptacles and have not had any instances where the property was left in any disarray.

5. FACILITIES

Municipal Facilities & Buildings

Recreation Facility Fire Dept Inspections: Marty will be reaching out to Brian Richardson to schedule inspections of facilities so that programs are aware of any adjustments to storage areas or the township will address any needs for safety and compliance.

AED's & Training: Marty will begin scheduling placement of three (3) AED's in recreation facilities in advance of the Spring seasons. The committee discussed the AED's and potential training opportunities in January. Marty spoke with Phil Drangula and they will coordinate with our police and fire department as well to determine participation and available dates to offer the training for recreation coaches that are interested. The AED's will be mounted as follows:

Unit 1: Muchowski Field Concession Stand. This location will serve Muchowski Field, Veterans Field and Legion Field as they are in close proximity to one another.

Unit 2: Coates Field Concession Stand: This location will serve Coates Field, Olaff Field and the Indoor Batting Cage.

Unit 3: Football Concession Stand: This location will serve the football fields, field hockey and soccer field.

Board of Education Facilities:

Recreation Football has requested and been approved to conduct off-season clinic for children interested in learning the fundamentals of football. They worked with Marty to select dates in February to create “Friday Night Football Clinics” to take place in the Riverfront Gym. These evenings are typically not used by rec basketball so there was no conflict with in-season programs. If all goes well they will look to continue sessions during the month of March and then will transition to outdoor clinics in the Spring. Mike Haun from the recreation football program attended the meeting and provided the goals of the clinics. It was well received by the committee.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Florence Twp Fieldhouse: Marty reported that he has participated in meetings with the township architect and engineer to review layout and proposed necessary improvements to the “fieldhouse”. Plans are due to be submitted to the township for review by late February to the construction department. The next step in the process will be to introduce financing to council for approval. Should financing be approved, scope of work will be determined and requests for proposals will begin to be prepared to engage interested contractors. These are positive steps and we look forward to the project moving forward to this next phase.

Fall Festival: Rec committee discussed at the January meeting that they will be forming a subcommittee to discuss preparations for a fall festival. Marty left some information about a 3rd party that coordinates festivals (vendors, music, etc.) but the committee feels that they have a lot of local groups interested in participating and will handle gathering participants. Committee will meet to discuss further on February 27th.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Florence Twp Community Center Hall Rental Agreement: Committee members inquired about the proposed rate structure moving forward. Marty shared that language was being put together by the administrator and manager of the community center and would be reviewed by council prior to any adjustments to the existing format. Once council has an opportunity to review and provide feedback, language will be revised and Marty will be able to share with the recreation committee. Recreation committee asked to have the opportunity to review language before it gets final approval. Councilman Ostrander provided that once he reviews the document he will relay thoughts from the committee and provide feedback.

2023 Health & Wellness: The committee discussed adding back in the yoga program again. Marty shared that once he has reviewed the recreation budget with the administrator then there will be a clear picture of the budget we will have to work with in terms of expanding our offerings that we had done prior to Covid.

2023 Municipal Alliance Youth Training: Marty is discussing with the school district and resource officers an appropriate time to host the programs. More information in the next month or so.

Patriotic Celebration: The annual patriotic celebration will take place on Saturday, July 8th. The route of the parade will travel thru the Village of Roebling. Marty is beginning preparation for this year's event.

Community Carnival: Marty shared that they are awaiting final language from the ride company in order to sign off on the agreement for the event this year. The projected dates are Wednesday, May 31st thru Saturday, June 3rd. The Roebling Museum will handle the 50/50 sales and local organizations will be welcome to participate.

Music in the Parks: Marty is working on bringing back a music in the parks schedule this spring & fall. He shared that summer music evenings were a challenge due to the temperatures so setting them up for Spring & Fall should offer a better turnout.

Spring/Summer Youth Activities: Mayor Wilkie shared with Marty that many years ago, activities were set up at the river front parks as an enjoyable option for families to take children on week nights after dinner. Marty will be working with local organizations to set up activity nights a couple times per month during the summer. If any committee member has ideas on activities or groups that may participate, please bring information to the March meeting.

8. REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kim Dembowski shared with the committee information regarding "World Thinking Day" and how the Girl Scouts take part in various activities. One idea was regarding growing seedlings and planting trees in the parks. The committee shared that Ted Lovenduski oversees the shade tree committee and that he would be the person to discuss those ideas.

Members of Public: Mike Haun (Rec Football), Scott & Vicki Aust and Chris Pair (Rec baseball)

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

Total Participants 2022: 175+

How many travel teams: Babe Ruth Baseball had a team and each division competed in tournament play.

League Registration: The program has worked with Marty providing information on the Team Snap program, which they currently use. After reviewing the value of the program and the benefits for the league, families and township, Marty approved their use of Team Snap and will discuss with other leagues to determine how many currently use this platform and will research costs to shift from Blue Sombrero and begin using Team Snap within all leagues.

Concession Stand: Prior to Scott Aust becoming league president, the operation of the concession stand had been halted. Scott attempted to sell drinks and packaged goods, however there were challenges to finding volunteers to work the concessions. They offered a food truck last season and everything went fine for a portion of the season but then as temperatures increased, less people came to the fields looking for meals. This season they are going to work with multiple options like Kona Ice, Rita's Water Ice and others to offer a variety. Each will donate a portion of proceeds to the league. Marty shared that if any vendors are contracted that have cooking surfaces that they must be approved by the township Fire Marshal and confirmed to be in compliance with the Burlington County Health Department.

2023 Plans: The league is interested in either entering additional tournaments or hosting at least one tournament. They are looking into options currently.

Fundraisers: The league will again sell discount cards, which went very well last season. They are also going to do car magnets and drink cozies as something different this year. They will also consider a car wash event.

9. ADJOURNMENT. Request for motion to adjourn was made, (Motta/Sadler). The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm