

## Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 4/3/23

Florence, New Jersey  
March 6, 2023

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on the above date in 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 Committee President Tony Pastore at 7:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Paul Ostrander, Kim Dembowski, TJ Lovenduski, Thomas Supey, Tony Pastore, Mary Pieretti, Caitlin Motta, Donna Sadler, Don Nemeth, Tom Boracci, Martin Eckert Jr.

Also Present: Michael Haun, Heather Haun, Steve Lennon, Christine Trimble

Absent:

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of February 6, 2023

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

### COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Architectural Park Planner:** Steve Lennon and Christine Trimble representing Taylor Design Group met with the committee to share how Taylor Design has approached assessing our municipal parks and playgrounds. They provided that Florence Township's facilities are situated throughout town offering options for residents to enjoy. General maintenance, refreshing and replacing items will support the overall improvement of our facilities. They have devoted the initial phase to the area of the municipal complex and will filter reports and recommendations to the township administrator for consideration. One improvement that the township wanted to address was an upgrade of the existing playground located in the area of W Sixth Street. Steve Lennon described that a new playground is being designed to offer amenities for multiple age groups as well and offer inclusive aspects to support handicap accessibility. The committee had the opportunity to ask questions and offer information they've discussed over recent years as to priorities of the committee and potential improvements to consider. Steve Lennon also offered the committee to future questions via email. As the planning of improvements continues, the township will update the committee about projects and recreation committee will have the opportunity to offer input.

## Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 4/3/23

- **Florence Township Community Center:** Marty provided that the proposed rental structure was introduced to Mayor & Council. This information was shared with recreation committee and feedback supported that local organizations will have the ability to rent the facility only paying a cleaning fee. Additionally the committee expressed that they want to continue to be able to support adding community activity in the building.
- **Recreation Basketball Season/Playoffs:** Marty shared that he and the Burlington Twp Rec Basketball rep charted the playoff schedule and the regular season concluded well. Championship games will be played at the Burlington Twp Middle School. Mickey Muchowski had been very supportive of the league this season and managed all officials and all games went off without any problems.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- **Field Hockey Clinics:** Marty shared that the Rec Field Hockey program will begin offering clinics during the spring. Sunday Skills & Drills will run April 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 2:30pm. These clinics will be offered to children K thru 8<sup>th</sup> interested in learning the fundamentals of field hockey. More information to be released by the program.
- **Football Clinics:** Recreation Football has continued to offer Friday Night Football Clinics at Riverfront School and at the end of March will continue to offer similar but on the football practice field once weather permits. These are set up to offer the basics of the game of football to children between K thru 8 and are divided into different time slots so that players are situated appropriately by age.
- **Softball Clinics:** Recreation Softball continues to offer various clinics for players. Thru the winter both baseball and softball have split time at the indoor batting cage; Softball has utilized the community center on Thursday evenings for exercise and wellness type sessions including yoga and Sundays are offered for clinics at Riverfront School until the end of March.

### FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities:** Public Works will begin prepping fields and addressing maintenance needs prior to the start of the Spring season.

Marty shared that he is finalizing information with Phil Drangula to offer an AED/First Aid training at the community center. During the meeting Marty confirmed the date as being March 29<sup>th</sup> and coordinated the time with Phil to begin at 6pm and the training will run for 45 minutes to an hour. Participants will be between baseball and softball program coaches. We will look to set up an additional training in early summer for Fall sports programs to participate.

- **Board of Education Facilities:** Use for the season will conclude in late March. Basketball and softball will end use. All communication with the school district has been positive.

## Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 4/3/23

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Florence Twp Fieldhouse:** Marty shared that financing had been introduced to council for various projects and the field house project was among them. Marty will await final approval of the financing and then will work with professionals to begin charting work to be done in the building and start the process of prepping for proposals and any in-house work that can be completed.
- **Fall Festival:** The committee has a subcommittee working on details for a fall festival. Members shared that they will be working with various township organizations to manage activities and booths. They will look to having local groups or businesses handle refreshments and they are beginning to outline areas on the complex to station activity. Marty shared that items such as trash, recycling, barricades or cones will be supported by the township. An outline of planned activity and times will need to be provided. And there will need to be coordination with police and fire department to confirm participation if there is availability and coverage for safety.
- **2023 Health & Wellness:** Marty shared that the gentle fitness class continues to have solid participation weekly. Between 20-25 people take part in the class. The committee will look to re-add Yoga sometime in April after Easter/Spring Break.
- **Community Carnival:** Marty shared that there will be a community carnival taking place from Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> thru Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The ride company will arrive in town just after Memorial Day weekend and will set up at the Roebling Museum. We work with the ride company, health department and local police & fire departments to ensure all permits and licenses are in order. Marty has already heard from the Pit Club regarding Bacon Bread sales and one of the local churches will sell stuffed cabbage and other foods on one of the evenings. More details to follow.
- **Annual Patriotic Celebration:** Marty shared that the annual patriotic celebration will be on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 9<sup>th</sup>. The route will travel thru the Village of Roebling this year. Clark & Carolann Boyd will be honored as Grand Marshal's this year in celebration of Boyd's Pharmacy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Flyer and vendor & parade participant flyers will begin filtering as of April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Music in the Parks/Youth Activities:** Marty shared that he is working on the first event to be set for Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Wilkie Park. It will coincide with May being National Tennis month. USTA will offer tennis activity and at the same time a group will perform at the gazebo. More information to follow.

### NEW BUSINESS

- **Recreation Program Operating Agreement:** Committee discussed Marty's initial draft of a proposed operating agreement between the township and recreation leagues. One component addresses oversight by the committee and township of league financials. The committee discussed potential options to make sure that league funds were being managed appropriately and an annual audit or copy of all records be submitted to the township after each season. Other items included league responsibilities, adhering to background check protocol and reporting incidents/injuries. The committee will reconvene to discuss further how the document should be structured and items to include.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tom Supey – Follow up discussion on Scout House. Securing property and Marty shared that we are looking into a few motion lights for the rear entrance. Also discussed potential of placing AED at Scout House.

**Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 4/3/23**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sadler – 9:48pm