

## Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 5/1/23

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

Also Present: Michael Haun, Heather Haun, Rec. Field Hockey Board (Katy Arecchi, Sophia Corbin, Lauren Miller, Ami Miller)

Absent: Paul Ostrander, Tom Boracci

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of March 6, 2023

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

### COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Spring Sports:** Registrations for spring programs have closed. Leagues are practicing nightly in preparation for Opening Day which is scheduled for Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Marty has coordinated with each league as well as police and fire departments regarding parade and activities scheduled.
- **Florence Township Community Center:** Marty shared that there is a new person handling the hall rentals as well as managing our social media presence. The former part time employee has resigned. Marty will share the contact information with Tony in relation to being a contact for health & wellness related activity.
- **Recreation Basketball Season/Playoffs:** Marty will be transitioning registrations to the Team Snap platform. There are tutorials coming that will introduce the process to create portals for leagues. Marty will get the information and then connect with each league to coordinate how each program will develop their registration portals.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- **Field Hockey Clinics/Football Clinics:** Marty received flyers from both programs relating to spring clinics. Rec Field Hockey will describe further during their end of season meeting. Both programs are offering optional skill & drill sessions to instruct fundamentals of the programs.

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### FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities:** Yesco Lighting assessed ballast & bulbs on Veterans & Muchowski Softball Fields. They are ordering bulbs and scheduled to replace in April. Veterans Soccer Field has one pole completely out and Marty is scheduling an electrician to assess and report back. Veterans Restrooms has a door that no longer is able to be locked and the metal is rotted. Marty coordinated with Dave Wright at Public Works and a door company has been contacted to come out and assess. Water & sewer has been contacted to place meter at Veterans restrooms to set water in building to active for the spring season.

Phil Drangula conducted an AED/First Aid training at the community center available to spring programs. Recreation Softball sent coaches to the training and Phil did an excellent job.

- **Board of Education Facilities:** No current active use of BOE facilities at this time.

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Florence Twp Fieldhouse:** Marty shared that financing had been approved for the former public works garage. The architects and working on specs to prepare for bids for the work on the building. More information shall be forthcoming.
- **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:** Tony discussed with Lisa Filippine details to restart the yoga program offering at the community center. Lisa is working on a flyer and we are targeting early May for a start date to resume this program. The gentle fitness class has continued to have a positive turnout of between 20-25 people attending weekly.
- **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>. He is working on all of the details for this event. Live music and local vendors among others will be taking part in the first carnival since the Covid pandemic.
- **Annual Patriotic Celebration:** Marty shared that he continues to work on the upcoming annual event. Several details begin this time of year and will be ready for a great event honoring our veterans and enjoying time together as a community.
- **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.

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- **League Operating Agreement:** The committee discussed the draft of the proposed operating agreement from Marty. The majority of the committee felt that it would push away volunteers and that it re-explains much of the information that was already in the league presidents packet years ago. The committee agreed that the annual meetings with programs and creating a checklist of items to cover including providing league financials would be something that each year the committee will have the opportunity to review. Tony asked the committee to follow up with him on any other feedback that may be important to consider adding to a checklist for annual league meetings.

### NEW BUSINESS

- **Recreation Field Hockey Annual Meeting:** The recreation field hockey program board joined the recreation committee to provide an annual report from the 2022 season. Each member of the board provided information associated with the area that they specifically coordinated and each segment was well represented and very thorough. The program enjoyed almost 60 participants this year and in lieu of offering a product to sell for a fundraiser they completed a “Dribble-a-thon” and raised money to support the programs needs. They were supported by several volunteer coaches including high school field hockey players serving as positive role models for the young rec players.

They discussed needs for the new restroom including shelving and cited that the locking mechanism for the doors had some challenges and asked if we could look to replace them. The bleachers are located on the grass and Marty shared that we had discussed in the past placing a pad for the bleachers to sit. There is also a grass area beside the shed and sidewalk that doesn't really make sense and the program asked if it can be replaced with a concrete pad so they can set up the area for concessions or league gear to sell.

The program will begin spring clinics in April on Sundays and will have support from coaches and high school players instructing fundamentals. The program noted that portable lights for the season were very helpful and with the loss of daylight in the fall, setting up arrangements for lights will be important.

Collectively, the committee was very pleased with the reporting of the field hockey program.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Donna Sadler: Shared with Field Hockey resources for First Aid Kits for the program. Donna also expressed concern about the hardened surface of Muchowski Field. We have discussed in the past and the dry infield has allowed for the separation of the dirt and clay. Marty is going to discuss with the high school or possibly Burlington Twp recreation on possible remedies. This improvement may need to wait until the off-season or need to take this field offline in the fall in order to maintenance.

Field Hockey Inquiry: Are there plans to further extend the parking lot near Field Hockey to further back along the side of the public works garage. Marty will inquire if there were future plans. The program shared that during the season there is not much room for cars coming and going due to how the parking lot was designed.

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Kim Dembowski: Kim noted that the playground on Riverbank Drive is somewhat run down and the trash receptacle is always overflowing with trash. Requested a follow up with PW about making sure that can is part of the rotation to clean out.

Don Nemeth: Discussed that the signage along streets near the municipal complex describe the “sports complex”, but they are cracked & faded and not easy to see. They need replacement. Don also noted that prior to the next fall season, the goal posts placed on the football practice field should be painted.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion of Sadler, seconded by Nemeth – 9:20pm