

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 6/5/23

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, Tony Pastore, Mary Pieretti, Caitlin Motta, Donna Sadler, Don Nemeth, Tom Boracci, Cindy Golway, Fred Dunphy, Paul Ostrander, Martin Eckert Jr.

Also Present: Michael Haun, Heather Haun, Rec. Football & Cheer Board (Ray Clevenger, Tracie Clevenger, AJ Arecchi, Lisa Frappolli, Crystal Canfield) – Resident: Talaya Loftin

Absent: Tom Supey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of April 3, 2023

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

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Opening Day (Baseball/Softball):** Opening Day for Spring recreation programs was held on Saturday, April 15th. All activities were well attended and police and fire department personnel escorted the players along their annual parade route onto the fields where opening ceremonies were conducted. Rec Baseball President, Scott Aust recognized families and players for their commitment to the programs and expressed appreciation to the public works staff that maintains the fields. (Specifically, Chris Swiderski and Daymion Nix are the day-to-day personnel responsible for the well-maintained areas of the municipal complex).
- **Team Snap (Recreation Registrations):** Marty shared that he is working on the layout of the new registration format and will be communicating with each league to set up registrations. The first season to be prepared will be the 2023 Fall Sports. Marty has a call set up in May to go over further details with Team Snap. More information to follow with league officers.
- **Tennis & Tunes:** Marty will be managing the Tennis & Tunes event on Thursday, May 18th at Wilkie Park. Marty received a \$500 grant and USTA representatives will conduct free clinics for children and adults from 6pm to 8pm. This will be an intro to our summer tennis clinics that will begin in July. Music will be played at the gazebo and residents are invited to come out and enjoy music along the river.

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CORRESPONDENCE

- **Field Hockey Clinics/Football Clinics:** Marty received updated flyers from both programs relating to spring clinics. To date spring offerings have been well attended and offer players the opportunity to further learn fundamentals of these programs and have fun out on the fields with coaches and friends. The league volunteers that have been conducting these activities continue to do a great job.

FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities:** Yesco Lighting assessed ballast & bulbs on Veterans & Muchowski Softball Fields. We are awaiting the arrival of the bulbs so the company can install on the fields. Marty checks in with the company for status on the bulb order weekly.

Damage identified to lighting on Veteran's field is set to be corrected by Brunner Boys Electric. Marty coordinated with the electrician as they provided the recommended process to repair. Marty communicated with the water & sewer department regarding trenching from the break back to the panel to replace the wire. Repair is scheduled for mid-month.

- **Field Hockey Restroom:** Swanson Mechanical assessed the toilet issue and will be replacing this month. Swanson also made repairs to leaks in the Veteran's restrooms. All are in proper working order.
- **Board of Education Facilities:** No current active use of BOE facilities at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Florence Twp Fieldhouse:** Marty communicated with the architect and specs are being finalized so the project may be advertised where contractors will have the opportunity to bid on the designated work. It is anticipated that walk thru of the building will take place in May/June. More information to follow on the next steps of the proposed work.
- **Fall Festival:** The committee did not yet have an updated meeting regarding the festival at the time of meeting. More information will be provided in the immediate future on plans, layout, etc.
- **2023 Health & Wellness:** Lisa Filippine is set to begin the yoga classes on Thursday evenings in the next week. This will be a positive addition to our programs and we will continue to develop further programs to return to the pace we had established prior to the start of Covid-19.
- **Community Carnival:** Marty shared that there will be a community carnival taking place from Wednesday, May 31st thru Saturday, June 3rd. 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.

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- **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.
- **League Operating Agreement:** Tony Pastore shared that to date only Marty & TJ Lovenduski have provided feedback to the operating agreement. Tony will prepare a draft based on the feedback and will review at the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Recreation Football & Cheer Annual Meeting:** Recreation football and cheer appeared with their full board and provided in extensive detail the recap of the past season as well as plans for the 2023 season. All notes associated with their reporting have been attached to the end of the recreation committee minutes. Overall numbers for the program had a large spike and with the growth of the flag program and the active participation in clinics they are anticipating further growth this fall. Marty alluded that communication throughout the season had been consistent and applauded the program for dividing duties and working together to provide a safe and fun program for the children and families to enjoy. As the program liaison, Don Nemeth attends all league meetings and provides feedback to the recreation department on open matters associated with the program during the season.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tom Boracci: Tom will provide information to the recreation soccer program as to information to be provided in June for their end of season meeting.

Indoor Batting Cage: There was an inquiry about lighting, however all bulbs were replaced this past winter. Marty will check to building to reassess. It was asked (Donna Sadler) to follow up with the planner or twp representative to look at the roof, insulation and general condition of the batting cage for any needed maintenance improvements.

AED Training: Phil Drangula provided training to rec softball & baseball coaches. It was requested to follow up with Phil to offer training for Fall sports. Marty will connect with Phil to see what he has available towards late summer.

Groundhog Holes: Members noted areas on the municipal complex where holes are present. Marty will follow up with public works on remedying for safety.

Sprinklers – Marter Field: Tom B asked about sprinkler systems at Marter. Marty shared that he believed that Dave Lebacks crew was looking into it. Fred Dunphy shared that he is supposed to meet with water & sewer to talk about sprinklers and would provide feedback.

Talaya Loftin: Inquired about improvements to the Florence Garden. Asked if the township can do some weed remediation. Also, if a trellis and/or garden bench could be placed at some point. The trellis could be a project for the scouts (per Marty) and would support vine growing plants.

Talaya Loftin: Inquired about 300 block of Foundry Street (Also area of Bodine & W 4th Street) and lack of improvements to streets in that area. Marty will share with Ted Lovenduski as he would be more involved with the road program work. Talaya will follow up as well.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Pastore, seconded by Nemeth – 8:22pm