

## Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 8/7/23

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on the above date at the Municipal Complex (Former Public Works Garage, 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, Tom Supey, Tony Pastore, Mary Pieretti, Caitlin Motta, Donna Sadler, Don Nemeth, Tom Boracci, Cindy Golway, Fred Dunphy, Paul Ostrander, Martin Eckert Jr.

Also Present: Recreation Soccer Board Members: Monica Seguin, Christie Tuttle, Mark Theurer, Elizabeth ?. Eagle Scout Candidate – Noah Blakeslee

Absent: Fred Dunphy

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of May 1, 2023

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

### COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Roebing Carnival Recap:** Marty shared that the Roebing Carnival was very successful and incident & injury free which is very important. Financially, the event is not in place to create a tremendous profit, though it is designed to support offsetting outbound costs. Marty and those involved establish a footprint where local organizations may participate along with vendors that are non-competitive with ride company concessions. Police, Fire and EMS coverage supports maintaining a safe atmosphere. This year kiosks were present to allow families the ability to pay by using cash, credit card, apple pay and other payment mediums. The township received positive feedback from the event. Marty posted on social media welcoming feedback and will await resident's responses to consider for future events.
- **Team Snap (Recreation Registrations):** Marty shared that leagues have begun using Team Snap. Each league treasurer is managing their registration page and all activity appears to be running smoothly to date. With the school year closing soon, information will go out promoting registration and participant numbers typically spike during the month of June as a jumpstart for follow up during the summer.
- **Tennis & Tunes:** Marty shared that Tennis & Tunes is scheduled for June with our police department hanging out at the basketball courts to play with the kids.
- **Patriotic Celebration:** Marty provided that all event planning continues. All details begin to finalize and registrations ramp up in June. Looking forward to a great celebration day.

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### CORRESPONDENCE

- **Fountain of Life:** Representatives from Fountain of Life has expressed interest in supporting township related activities and events should there be need for volunteer support. Marty spoke with and met with Gretchen from FOL and shared some of the activities that currently take place and offered to let her know when the next fall festival meeting would take place as Life Center has held them in the past.

### FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities:** Yesco Lighting scheduled bulb replacement for Muchowski Field for June.  
  
Brunner Electric made repairs to the break in the ground at Veterans Field. Brunner Electric also made upgrades to the panel to support bulb or ballast pops to be isolated to a fuse for one particular fixture instead of the entire pole. Very clean job in the panel.
- **Field Hockey Restroom:** Swanson Mechanical replaced the toilet in the field hockey restroom which was cracked.
- **Board of Education Facilities:** No current active use of BOE facilities at this time.

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Florence Twp Fieldhouse:** Marty is awaiting bid spec information. Once bid is released there will be a date when all bid submissions will be due. The bid will include both the proposed fieldhouse and the former squad building. We do not have details of course, but the hope that that work may commence in the early Fall pending bid results and processing. More information to follow. As it stands, recreation cheer will continue use, however if construction is set to begin, we will place a request for use of the school facility gyms.
- **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. Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **2023 Health & Wellness:** Lisa Filippones' Yin Yoga has done well right away. Residents were pleased to see this offering return. Marty shared that he is meeting with Dave Yansick to finalize the start of a more active exercise program to take place on Wednesday evenings.
- **League Operating Agreement:** Tony Pastore and TJ Lovenduski are working on details for the proposed league agreement language.

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

Recreation Soccer – End of Season: Members of the recreation soccer board provided a recap of the 2022 season which alluded to a refreshed interest in focusing on recreation and developing skills along with making the program fun for participants of each age group. Currently the travel component is not present but that's not to say that travel can't happen again in the future. The program provided a full accounting including beginning balance, income versus expenses, ending balance and information regarding a reserve allotted for capital improvements. Rec soccer has enjoyed positive relationships with league sponsors and continues to offer annual scholarships. This year's registrations numbers have improved since the first season back post Covid-19. Soccer is planning a pre-season event on Veteran's Field on September 8<sup>th</sup> with more details to follow.

### **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Noah Blakeslee appeared in front of the recreation committee to discuss a potential Eagle Scout project. Noah and his mom met with Marty a few weeks prior and considered projects and he has selected to create displays that are typically found in parks (i.e. Smithville Park) where an oversized picture frame is affixed to a heavy stand and individuals or small groups can stand behind the frame and have a photo taken. Many of these displays are found with a landscape pleasing background like along a river or waterway, garden or scenic overlook. In front of the frame only a short distance away, a pedestal is placed designed for a cell phone or camera to set with instructions as to how to prepare a timer for a photo to be taken.

Noah is considering 1-2 in Roebling Park depending on if placement in the lower park would be approved. One to be located along the river at Wilkie Park and also a portable display that could be used during community events including tree lightings, walking tours, etc.

As an additional component of the project, Noah identified that upper Roebling Park offers such great views along the river that a permanently placed easel could be used by a community member interested in drawing or painting landscapes.

The committee was very pleased with Noah's proposal and his free-flowing dialogue answering questions and being open to suggestion. The recreation committee supports his efforts to move forward with this project. He will coordinate with the troop, Marty and Garden State Council and he continues to plan.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Tony Pastore: Tony requested to hold the community center for July 28<sup>th</sup> as a tentative for a comedy night. Tony will follow up with Marty once confirmed.

Don Nemeth: Don shared that the football & cheer organization will be holding their annual bocce tournament on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Don requested that this summer public works paint the goal posts at the field. He also expressed concern about groundhog holes. Marty shared that Ted Lovenduski was working with someone to trap and relocate. Don inquired about placing a pad for the football shed that has also become a haven for groundhog to dig and a secondary hole that is located just beside the practice field has had an orange cone in it for quite some time. Don shared that Veteran's Restroom door is damaged and unable to be locked. Marty shared that he has addressed with public works and they were pricing for replacement or repair and it would be completed this month.

Marty - AED Training: Phil Drangula provided training to rec softball & baseball coaches. Marty is going to reach out to Phil Drangula about offering the training for the fall sports programs as well.

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Donna Sadler: Donna asked if dugouts could be looked at for cleaning again. Kids from town are hanging out in the dugout areas and leaving trash, etc..

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion of Pastore, seconded by Supey – 8:45pm