

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 10/2/23

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on the above date at 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 Director, Martin Eckert Jr 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, Mary Pieretti, Donna Sadler, Don Nemeth, Cindy Golway, Tom Boracci, Paul Ostrander, Martin Eckert Jr.

Absent: Tony Pastore, Fred Dunphy

Also Attending: Michael Muchowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of August 7, 2023

Motion of Golway, seconded by Supey to approve the minutes as submitted.

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Fall Recreation Programs:** Marty shared that all fall programs began their season with practices thru much of August. He does not have final totals but all numbers seem to be trending above the count of the previous year. Don Nemeth and Cindy Golway reported that football and cheer totals are between 215-220 participants. There were no reports of problems with Team Snap during the registration period. Marty will follow up with each program to confirm.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Inquiry to Use Baseball Field:** Marty discussed that prior to the meeting he had received a call from someone representing USA Prime Baseball. The individual called regarding hosting a tournament in Mid-October at the township recreation fields. He alluded to bringing in teams in possibly 3 divisions and securing food trucks as concessions. Marty responded that we do not rent fields and that there is a process in requesting facility use and specific criteria is used to determine eligibility. Marty also shared that the recreation committee would review any request for facility use and that it would be discussed at the meeting. The committee agreed that this is not an approved use and with in-season programs occupying much of the parking areas that even if one program had games on the day of a proposed tournament it would cause problems with parking throughout the complex. Marty also cited insurance as a concern as well. The committee unanimously agreed that though this inquiry was not a formal request, that it be denied.

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FACILITIES

- **Municipal Facilities:** Marty shared that during the fall season, the public works department has been assigned to handling maintenance of the recreation restroom facilities. There will be a rotation in place where they will clean and stock restrooms during the week and excess materials will be left at concession stands should there be a need during weekend games. Don Nemeth expressed concern about the rotation and the extent of the cleanings. Don explained that when the OTC Program cleaned the facilities that all surface areas were wiped down, toilets were cleaned and the bathrooms remained stocked during the season. He expressed that anyone assigned to the restrooms should be walked thru the cleaning process so that there is a level of cleanliness maintained. Mickey Muchowski (twp admin attended the meeting) and provided that a program will be put in place to echo the items offered by Don Nemeth. This will be a process and the goal is to place procedures that will allow for consistency in the cleanings. Mickey Muchowski also shared that some responsibility will defer to the leagues in that restrooms should be checked after each practice/game and if there are paper towels left on the floor or an area that needs sweeping that the leagues will pitch in to support the overall needs to keep the buildings clean.
- **Locking Restroom Facilities:** Marty was made aware that some recreation restrooms were being left unlocked after practices. At times, lights and fans are left on as well. Marty sent an email reminder to all league officers requesting that restrooms are checked before and after each practice or game. This will also help to identify damage or maintenance needs.
- **Field Hockey Movie Night:** Marty reported that the field hockey program hosted a movie night for the community and served light refreshments to attendees. It was well attended and a great opportunity for the families to get together in advance of the fall season. Katy Arecchi and the field hockey board and coaches continue to make positive strides in making the program exciting for everyone.
- **Board of Education Facilities:** Marty will be submitting facilities requests for recreation basketball for review very soon.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Florence Twp Fieldhouse:** Councilman Ostrander shared that the bid submittal associated with the project has been rejected. Future information will be provided as to next steps.
- **Fall Festival:** The fall festival committee met prior to the recreation meeting and reported great progress in outlining a very nice event set for Saturday, October 14th. Several activities will be available for families and over 40 vendors will be selling crafts and other products throughout the day. Food vendors will set up in the rear township parking lot and several details are coming together with each meeting. The group will meet again at the end of September to go over additional information.
- **Recreation Football Groundhog Holes and Pad for Shed:** Marty confirmed that the public works department moved the football storage shed and filled holes from groundhogs. A crushed concrete pad has been established and shed is now placed back on the site. Additionally other field preparations have been completed in advance of the start of the season by PW.

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- **League Operating Agreement:** Tony Pastore was not present at the meeting to provide updates to operating agreement draft language. Committee will follow up in October.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Eagle Scout Project – Exercise Stations:** Marty and Tom Supey spoke about the progress associated with the eagle project that has been in progress since mid-summer. The scouts have worked independently on the project with leadership in the former PW garage laying out and beginning to fabricate structure material. The scouts raised funds to purchase materials and have operated a work schedule with various volunteers supporting the project. The project has now taken to site work and this portion becomes in part the responsibility of township staff to conduct some of the work. Marty shared that for safety and insurance purposes, the township must secure the components on the site making sure pieces are level, placed in appropriate depths, concrete is properly added and that the location be marked and cautioned in between work sessions. The scouts have been on-site to assist and learn measuring, digging and how the pieces are fastened together. This is a joined effort for the benefit of the community and the township supports the efforts of our local scouting organization. This project was documented at the start identifying that the township would support hands-on needs and the on-site work has been spaced out and is anticipated to be completed by the close of September.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Donna Sadler: Donna shared that the fall festival flyer continues to be distributed in the area. They will be forwarding to the school district to be emailed out district wide. Marty will also place on weekly updates as the event gets closer.

Don Nemeth: Don shared information about the West Jersey Youth Football weigh-ins. Annually about 2,000 players participate and the league does a good job in managing the flow of teams that visit the community. Many teams stop at local eateries in town before leaving.

Don Nemeth: Shared that the opening game for high school football invites the recreation football and cheer program to participate. It is a positive interaction between recreation and high school participants. For recreation home games, Don shared that the restroom appears to have been cleaned and walls wiped down. Exterior doors and posts have been painted and the recreation cheer program took part in an event at Brookdale which was well received. Cindy Golway included that it is great to visit Brookdale and the residents and staff were very appreciative of their visit.

TJ Lovenduski: Discussed the new Team Snap program and inquiring about placing updates on the township website for each league to note specific information so that when families visit the site. It would be helpful to have information such as how the divisions are broken down including age, grade and minimum age to participate. Marty is going to follow up with every league to receive information. Further information such as bylaws and required documents will be updated as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Sadler, seconded by Supey – 8:05pm