

**TENAFLY RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – MARCH 12, 2012**

- I. ROLL CALL: Matthew Mercurio, Carol Roux, Naomi McDermott, Rich Rodriguez, Tom Swift, Steve Hamersma, Robert Silber, Monica Zaccario, Jeff Pattison, Nadia LaMastra-Council Liaison, Sam Bruno-Board of Education Liasison, Daniella DiStaulo-Alpine Liaison**

- II. MINUTES: February 15, 2012 Mr. Silber motions to approve the minutes Mr. Hamersma seconds, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Pattison abstain, all in favor motion is carried**

- III. AUDIENCE:**
 1. Chief Michael Bruno-Chief Bruno states that there are several options for follow up background checks. Chief Bruno recommends that all 1st time coaches be fingerprinted, after that there is a form from the state police that the coach fills out including name, date of birth and social security number. Chief Bruno would like to use form 212B which is sent to the State Police with the results being returned to the Recreation Director. Chief Bruno will assist the director with any denials. Chief Bruno will continue to handle the initial fingerprinting. The fee for this process is \$18.00.
 2. Al Zaccario-Hazelton Terrace-Mr. Zaccario expressed his concern for the softball program stating that registration is low, he feels that a parent advisory board could help the recreation department with enrollment, advertisement and other aspects to help build the program. The advisory board will be open to all parents, guardians and any Tenafly resident who is interested in helping build the program. Mr. Zaccario stated that the travel softball team requested the municipal field for Sunday night games, however the field was given to travel soccer. Mr. Zaccario stated that they would prefer to have home travel games rather than travel to other towns due to the fact that girls sometimes have an issue getting to the away site.
 3. Mike Horbacewicz-Sussex Road-President of Tenafly Junior Soccer League Mr. Horbacewicz stated that he approached the Recreation Board two years ago regarding a parent advisory board and that he is in full support.
 4. Megan Williams-Tenafly High School Varsity Softball Coach-Coach Williams reports that over the past 4 years 9-12 girls have tried out for the freshman team, this is not enough to field a freshman team so there has been a junior varsity and varsity team. Coach Williams stated that she is happy to help in any way to build the recreation program which in return will build the high school program.
 5. Mike Barone-Magnolia Ave-Mr. Barone states that sports play a big part in the all around wellness of children and that sports are the backbone of our

town. Mr. Barone states that parent involvement is very important in the success of a program. Mr. Barone states that his daughter is looking forward to playing for Coach Williams at Tenaflly High School.

6. Tom Giordano-George St, Tenaflly Lions Little League Board Member-Mr. Giordano states that his daughter played softball in Tenaflly and is now an assistant coach at Tenaflly High School, he feels that it may be time for softball to become a separate group like Little League. Mr. Giordano feels that an in season sport should have field priority. Mr. Giordano reported to the board that the Little League Fields at Sunnyside Park is in need of clay, a pitchers mound , seed and he reported that the drainage is a problem.
7. Elizabeth Gallay-Sunset Terrace-Mrs. Gallay believes that priority should be given to in season sports. Mrs. Gallay feels that a parent advisory board is necessary to help build the program.
8. Carol Camizzi-Engle St.-Mrs. Camizzi states that he daughter plays softball, basketball and soccer and feels that girls are not taken seriously in the softball program. She feels that softball is great for girls and that the program needs to progress.
9. Sheri Gerstein-York Place-Mrs. Gerstein feels that it is very important for in season sports to get field priority and that the town needs to show that softball is a priority.
10. Michael Wanderman-Kenwood Road-Mr. Wanderman feels that softball is treated unfairly and that a parent advisory board is needed.

Mayor Rustin states that the enrollment in softball is down in other towns. Mayor Rustin states that a new director is in place and he feels confident that the he will do the right thing for the softball program and that it will be a success this year. Mayor Rustin feels it is wrong for travel soccer to pay for fields when the municipal field sits empty some days. Mr. Rustin states that the field at Sunnyside Park is a softball field and that on hot days it is much cooler to play there instead of on the turf. Mayor Rustin mentioned that during the Safe @ Home Softball Tournament teams prefer to play on the Sunnyside Park Field. Mayor Rustin reminds the audience that the travel soccer players are residents also. Mayor Rustin insures everyone that he is here for all programs.

Mr. Bruno asks the mayor if he will use all of his powers and skills to insure full force of his office, the borough manager and the recreation chair to create a digital system for field/facility reservations with a transparent process to prevent the perception of favoritism for in season vs out of season sports.

Mrs. Levinson notifies the Recreation Board that her husband owns a tile store and would like to donate to the concession stand.

Mr. Zaccario states that teams from other towns do not like to play at Sunnyside Park due to the backstop being far back. Mrs. Roux states that recreation has a

Approved April 9, 2012

portable backstop that can be brought down to Sunnyside Park and used on the field.

Mr. Rodriguez states that travel soccer is an out of season sport and that they are not a co-sponsored sport.

Mr. Swift inquires if a deadline should be place on permits to coincide with schedule deadlines.

Mrs. McDermott reminds the board that business issues cannot be discussed through emails, this is in violation of the Open Meeting Act.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Permit-TEF 5K Run-**Mr. Pattison motions to approve the permit, Mr. Swift seconds, all in favor the motion is carried.**
2. Permit-Grace Chapel Bible School-**Mr. Swift motions to approve the permit, Mr. Hamersma seconds, all in favor the motion is carried.**
3. Permit-TJSL Coaches Games-**Mr. Rodriguez motions to approve the remaining dates in March, Mr. Pattison seconds, all in favor the motion is carried.**
Mr. Pattison motions to approve the rest of the dates based on no conflicts with the softball schedule, Mr. Swift seconds all in favor the motion is carried.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Mr. Mercurio presents a copy of the trust accounts to the board. The recreation board acknowledges receipt of the accounts.
2. Mr. Mercurio presents a copy of the ROID Grant information to the board and requests that they bring suggestions to the next meeting. Mrs. McDermott asks Mr. Bruno for Board of Education suggestions.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Rodriguez asks what the target date is for completion of the concession stand. Mayor Rustin states hopefully before the start of softball.
2. Mr. Mercurio reports that the recreation department will be purchasing 35-40 new football helmets and that the department will be implementing a process to replace helmets as needed. Mr. Mercurio states that an option for the old helmets is to present them to graduating 8th grade players.
3. Mr. Mercurio reports that he informed John Quinn and John Sobo that the insurance for recreation to run the Adult Flag Football League is too costly for the borough. Mr. Quinn and Mr. Sobo will look into other options.
4. Mrs. Roux reported that the borough engineer will be checking into installing a lightning detector at borough fields.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Mercurio reports that he will be holding a meeting with the junior football coaches. Mr. Silber inquires if Mr. Mercurio is comfortable having parent input for softball and football. Mr. Mercurio states that yes he will welcome their input. Mrs. Zaccario states that Mr. Mercurio was very gracious when they met. Mr. Pattison inquires whether softball should be made a co-sponsored sport as all co-sponsored sports are thriving. Mr. Pattison feels a parent advisory board should be formed with the goal of co-sponsorship. Mrs. McDermott states that a director was hired who will take the programs where the parents want them to go and that the group should work with Mr. Mercurio. Mr. Hamersma feels that communication between the recreation board and the recreation director needs improvement and that the recreation directors ability to approve permits as he sees necessary should be revoked. Mr. Hamersma feels that out of season sports should not be given blanket permits. Mr. Rodriguez feels that Mr. Mercurio is looking out for best interest of all children in the town. Mr. Rodriguez feels that the recreation board should not be issuing permits that they should set up guidelines for the director and the decision should be made by him. Mrs. LaMastra states that the only permits that require the recreation board approval are those from outside organizations. Mrs. LaMastra states that the recreation board told Mr. Mercurio to approve permits to the best of his ability on a first come first serve basis, this is the director's job. Mrs. McDermott states that Mr. Mercurio's boss is the borough administrator, not the recreation board.

2. **Mr. Hamersma motions to accept Chief Bruno's recommendation to use form 212B for the follow up background checks, Mrs. Zaccario seconds all in favor the motion is carried.**

3. **Mr. Silber motions to allow the formation of a softball parent advisory board, Mr. Rodriguez seconds, all in favor the motion is carried.**
Al and Monica Zaccario will step forward to form the board, Mr. Swift will be the recreation board liaison to the softball parent advisory board.

4. Mr. Pattison inquires about the status of travel soccer being a co-sponsored sport. Mrs. LaMastra states that the co-sponsored sport rules need to be checked.

5. Mr. Silber states that he was in charge of both recreation and travel soccer and that soccer encourages the children to play softball and soccer. The main concern is the maximum output for our children. Mr. Silber states that we need to properly allocate our resources.

6. Mr. Hamersma reports that there is no Morton Basketball Tournament this year.

7. Mayor Rustin states that in the past recreation ran a summer basketball league for Jr. High and High School players and that recreation should look into holding it again this year.

Approved April 9, 2012

Mr. Rodriguez motions to adjourn, Mr. Silber seconds, all in favor the motion is carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Carol Roux