

TENAFLY RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES MAY 3, 2021
Called to order-7:33 pm

- I. ROLL CALL:** Mike Greeley, Sara Levinson, Judi Feinberg, Jason Alvator, Nahuel Quiroga, Michelle Merchant, Jamie Cannon, Carol Roux, Adam Michaels-Council Liaison, Amy Lerner-Alpine Liaison

ABSENT: David Reichel

- II. MINUTES:** March 1, 2021-**Ms. Merchant motions to approve the minutes, Mrs. Feinberg seconds, all in favor the motion is carried.**

- III. CORRESPONDENCE:** Ms. Cannon reports she received an email from Olivia Lin a 5th grade softball player, asking to have the word “Lady” removed from the softball jersey. Olivia also requested paid trainers for the teams stating she is a 1st time player. Ms. Cannon states that the recreation teams are for girls of all skill levels. Ms. Cannon states she will revisit the uniform for next year and that she is always here to listen to resident’s concerns.

- IV. AUDIENCE:** Briana Holden-Tenafly-Mrs. Holden states she is the mother of a 5th/6th grade softball player. She states there are a lot of new players on the team. Mrs. Holden states we do not at this time have the ability to have both recreation and travel teams. She feels that girls who have experience mixed with girls with not as much experience create a team that gets very discouraged and they are not being coached the way they should be. Mrs. Holden states that there are a lot of girls interested in playing who are on the waitlist and this is our chance to build the program for the high school.

Mrs. Feinberg states that parents would coach if the recreation department reached out to them.

Soyung Park-Tenafly-Ms. Pak states her daughter is a 7th grade who is playing with the 5th/6th graders since there were no other 7th graders registered. She states her daughter started playing in 5th grade and fell in love with the sport, she feels there should be an outreach to the girls.

Mr. Greeley feels that building the program is important and it has come a long way in the past few years.

Mr. Lin-Tenafly-Mr. Lin states if we divide the 5th/6th grade team into two teams he will coach the new team with practices only.

Mr. Greeley states the Recreation Department put out a lot of communications. He states that the softball numbers have increased over the past few years. Mr. Greeley asks Ms. Cannon to work with the parents on this matter.

Ms. Cannon reports she has paid clinics for softball on Sundays with a varsity coach and an assistant varsity coach.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- 1. Summer Camp-**Ms. Cannon reports we have over 200 campers currently registered for camp. She reports the limit has been set at 250. Registration for trips have opened, they are all outdoor trips. Ms. Cannon reports camp will be run the same as last year with masks, social distancing and Covid-19 protocols. We are in the process of hiring staff.
Mrs. Levinson feels we should accommodate more kids.
Mr. Quiroga inquires if there is currently a waitlist.
Ms. Cannon states there are only non-residents on the waitlist and we will take more residents if necessary.
Mr. Greeley asks what the ratio of staff to camper is.
Ms. Cannon reports we have a 7 x 1 ratio.
Ms. Cannon reports camp will be held at the Tenafly Middle School and we are currently working with the school for a block of classrooms in case of rain.
- 2. Summer Programs/Camp Registrations-**Ms. Cannon reports our classes are very popular with most of them already full. She reports we are offering a 2nd session if possible on full classes. We will be following Covid-19 protocols with all participants wearing masks, social distancing and having limited class sizes.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Junior Football-**Mrs. Cannon reports she held a conference call with Mr. Morrison and the president of Dumont Football. Dumont Football has a new board and coaches and is making a fresh start. Ms. Cannon reports if our numbers are low and combining the teams is necessary Dumont is willing. Ms. Cannon reports registration is currently open with no fee to see the interest in Football for the Fall. We currently have 50 kids registered Pee Wee-17, Junior-12, Senior-20. Ms. Cannon states correspondence was sent out letting people know this was a tackle program.
Mr. Greeley states that this sounds amazing.
Ms. Cannon states she hope to have Mr. Morrison run flag football each year.
Mrs. Levinson feels we need to make sure the same issues do not occur if we combine with Dumont ie: practice locations, uniforms.
Ms. Cannon states a contract will be signed by both parties and the president is very fair and they have already agreed to have both a tiger and a paw on the jersey.
Mr. Michaels says this all sounds great.
- 2. Skate park-**Ms. Cannon reports she put in the capital budget \$100,000 a year for 3 years.

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Mr. Michaels states the council decided to move the skate park to open space rather than the capital budget. He states in the meantime a decision needs to be made regarding the current skate park.

Ms. Merchant asked what the timeline is for using open space money. Mr. Michaels states it can be used as soon as approved.

- 3. Committee Restructure-**Mrs. Levinson feels this is a cohesive way to get people engaged, the H.S.A.'s have a 2 year term-the 1st year you are a silent member, then the 2nd year you are a leader. This is a great opportunity for new people to evolve.

Ms. Merchant states this is an advisory board and anyone interested can put their name in and a vote is taken to choose the chair and vice chair. Ms. Merchant states the purpose of the board is for the community.

Mr. Quiroga agrees with Ms. Merchant and states no one on the board has more power than anyone else. He states everyone has the same responsibilities.

Mr. Greeley states this can be discussed at a later date under Old Business.

- 4.** Ms. Cannon asks the board if the new meeting dates are ok for the board. Ms. Cannon reports Roberts Rules states a meeting cannot be held without a quorum, therefore we need a response from members whether or not they can attend to hold a meeting.

Mrs. Levinson asks if someone does not respond, is that considered a no, and Monday's are better for her.

Ms. Cannon states yes.

Mrs. Feinberg states Mondays are better for her.

Ms. Merchant asks if we could avoid holding dates on the same days as Board of Education meetings.

Mrs. Levinson states it is difficult to work around others schedules.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Open Space Plan-**Mr. Michaels reports Planning Board put this plan together.

There is 2 ½ million dollars currently in the Open Space Account. Mr.

Michaels asks each board member whether they feel the money should be spent now and what they would like to spend it on. Mr. Michaels states a few hundred thousand dollars is put into the Open Space account per year.

Mrs. Levinson feels the money should be spent on fixing fields such as Sunnyside, the skate park and possibly putting the ice rink at the Common.

Mr. Quiroga feels the money should be spent on fields such as Sunnyside and the Skate Park.

Mrs. Feinberg feels the money should be spent on the fields, she would also like to see the Little League bathrooms upgraded and opened so they can be used for those playing tennis and using the playgrounds.

Ms. Cannon and Mr. Greeley state the Little League field and building are on Board of Education property not Borough Property.

Ms. Merchant feels the money should be spent on Parks, outdoor exercise equipment and the Skate Park. Ms. Merchant does not agree with saving the

money in the hopes of purchasing property in the future. Ms. Merchant states one of the suggestions is to add a buffer of trees at Sunnyside Park and suggest we contact the Garden Club.

Mrs. Lerner feels the money should be spent on Sunnyside Park and possible field space for free play-unreserved space and a possible bike trail.

Mr. Greeley states the presentation was well done. He feels the money should be spent on a Community Center, Multi-space area, fields, parks, Skate Park and the Common.

Mr. Alvator feels the money should be spent on Sunnyside Park, Skate Park, the Common and a community pool.

Ms. Cannon states the cost to fix Sunnyside will be approximately 2 million dollars, the fields will need to be raised and new drainage will need to be installed. Ms. Cannon would like to see the money spent on a Community Center, multi-use area that is turfed for free play, a skate park within a Community Plaza.

Mr. Michaels suggests another Tiger Cage on the old skate park, with a new skate park in a Community Plaza.

A discussion ensued.

2. Ms. Merchant asks if the Recreation Department can do more phone reach out to residents.

Ms. Cannon states Mr. Morrison will be reaching out to football players and the Recreation staff can make softball phone calls. Ms. Cannon states registration for softball opened in November and she reached out for coaches. Most of the girls on the waitlist registered after the season began. Many emails were sent out regarding registration.

Mr. Quiroga states that the in-town teams in Little League are parent coached and some teams for travel have paid coaches and they are paid for by the parents.

Mrs. Levinson inquires why we cannot pay coaches.

Mr. Greeley states that the coaches went to Ms. Cannon asking for paid training for Wrestling and trainers were brought in paid for by the parents.

Mr. Alvator states the pricing should be kept low for Recreation Programs.

Mr. Quiroga states if we are competing in a competitive league, something needs to be done, this can be demoralizing for the kids.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Cannon reports we do travel to other towns however we checked with the towns and they are all strictly recreation teams without travel players.

Mrs. Roux states both her and her daughter are currently coaching the 3rd/4th grade softball team. They only scored 1 run in their 1st 2 games and then went on to score 5 runs in their third game. The girls were so happy and left the field feeling great. She states they have many 1st year players and do not have strong pitchers but the girls are having fun and improving.

Ms. Cannon reports she will remove “Lady” from next year’s uniform.

Mrs. Levinson motions to change the name from “Lady” Tigers to Tigers for the 2022 season, Mrs. Feinberg seconds, all in favor the motion is carried.

Ms. Cannon reports the Recreation Department will be testing the Pigeon Application as a communication app for residents. We will use it for Football in the Fall. Mr. Michaels states the school may also use the app.

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3. Mr. Quiroga inquires about the new website.
Ms. Cannon states she updated the Recreation page for the new website.
Mr. Michaels reports the website should be up in the next week or two.
4. Mrs. Levinson asks the Recreation Department to do an analysis on the cost to hire coaches for Recreation Sports.
Mrs. Feinberg would like the cost for training 1 day a week for each team.
Ms. Cannon states the programs need to self-support with registration money
The money is not part of the tax payer budget.

VIII. SPECIAL EVENTS: FYI

1. **Tenafly Lacrosse Day**-Saturday, May 15th –Ms. Cannon reports there will be games against Washington Township beginning at 1:30 pm, there will also be food trucks at the event.
2. **First Day of Camp**-Monday, June 28th through Friday, August 6th
3. **Safe @ Home Softball Tournament**- *postponed due to Covid*
4. **July 4th Celebration**- *postponed due to Covid*
5. **Learn to Ride Bike Event**- *postponed due to Covid*

Mr. Greeley asks if the Memorial Day Parade will be held this year. Mr. Michaels states he will find out.

Ms. Cannon states Community Night will not be held this year due to social distancing and businesses in town are still struggling we do not feel comfortable asking them for donations.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 9:33 pm

Ms. Merchant motions to adjourn, Mr. Quiroga seconds, all in favor, the motion is carried.