

# Harrington Park Recreation Commission

## Minutes of Meeting

November 9, 2011

### **Commission**

Chris Apostle	Absent
Jerry Esposito	Present
Jennifer Brackenbury	Present
Mickey Franklin	Absent
Tom Gleason	Present
Steve Marotta	Present
Steve Pacicco	Absent

Secretary: Michael Amdur

Meeting called to order at 8:15 PM

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Approval of last month's minutes is requested.

1. Modifications to be made in October minutes
  - a. The number of Highland Field lamps needing to be changed is THREE, not two.
  - b. Choices of verbs to be used in October minutes will be changed to reflect more formal, neutral writing.

**UPDATE: Modifications were made and incorporated by Michael into an email message sent directly on November 14 to Mickey.**

Steve M. proposed crossing off some items on tonight's agenda because of the high absenteeism at this meeting.

1. (Steve M) Take off/Move down the money and budget finances - crossed off for tonight
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## **PRELUDE TO AGENDA – “CATCH-UP” DISCUSSION FOR JENNIFER WITH A FOCUS ON THE FIELDS (20 MINUTES – EXCERPTS BELOW)**

Jennifer sat with the Mayor for some time and she learned that on January 1, the Mayor needed everything we would want as a Rec. Comm. (realistic wants along with a wish list combined).

1. (Jennifer) One suggestion was that we make the 5-year plan and we break it down into (every) 2 years.
2. (Jennifer) Something other than bleachers should be added to a 5-year plan.
3. (Jennifer) We can accumulate our penny tax that we get and save that money.
  - a. The first thing we would have to do is to have an architect come and spend that money (on an assessment – such as if we wanted a dog park in town)

## **DISCUSSION OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN**

(Steve M. – as per the document that Mickey sent) The right way to identify projects is to invite one rep. from each of the sports - even some of the town organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Juniors, etc. – to a meeting here. They should come prepared to identify/describe for us what is an important project for them.

1. Jennifer expressed support for the idea. Also added that the Commission should have an idea of what we want.
2. Steve M. suggested that we should first prioritize their (the other groups) ideas ahead of the Rec. Commission’s desires.
3. Tom suggested that every year, we should update our five year plan. Jennifer seconded the idea.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Jennifer will receive five-year plan from Tom, analyze it and then report back to the Commission – with issues having been prioritized by her ahead of time.

Steve M. would like the Commission to finalize the five-year plan at the next meeting with other members...for submission on January 1. By Dec. 21 date, we should identify all the people we want to send the invitation to. Jennifer said she could provide that. Steve M. could take care of the Sports and Jennifer will do all the other ones.

(Steve M.) Jennifer would provide the names of groups/individuals. We will try to come up with their email addresses. Tom will send a template to assist with process.

(Steve M.) He will send a note to Mickey.

## **DISCUSSION OF HIGHLAND FIELD/PARK – ISSUES WITH APPEARANCE/CONVENIENCE**

Steve M. pointed out that people have objected to the signs at Highland Field on more than one occasion. Steve M. observed that there is a view amongst town citizens that we should try to preserve a “park appearance” there.

1. Jennifer pointed out that there are also signs on Highland 3.
2. Steve M. would like to improve the situation. Steve would prefer to improve the backstops. Specifically, take the backstop on Field 3 (teacup/half-moon), move it to Field 2 (where the little kids play) and then put two new ones on 1 and 3. Incorporate fencing in there and then put covered dugouts there.
3. Jennifer would like to see some batting cages and electricity back there as well.
4. Jerry asked about developing a short trail from Field #3 to Upper Highland.

### **ACTION ITEM**

Jerry will speak with Marlene (Casey) about grants for a short trail.

- a. Tom suggested that when we talk to Marlene, we should ask her – for this particular grant – if there are any projects that would fit that? Would the path require a small bridge and how might that be received?

## **SPORTS BOOSTERS**

1. Steve M. would like to delay the sports boosters issue to 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2012 (will try to arrange a January meeting devoted strictly to collecting ideas from projects and funding of those projects from town organizations and the various sports – including boosters).

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

1. Steve M. inquired as to whether Michelle Ryan might potentially want to get involved with the committee as an alternate.
2. Jennifer might potentially have people who would be interested in the Committee.
3. Discussion as to how the alternates might be used on the Rec. Commission
  - a. Steve M. suggested that perhaps alternates would come to meetings, not have a vote but can volunteer to take on ongoing tasks. Or perhaps an alternate might handle “Town Day”.
  - b. Tom pointed out that there might be a legal issue concerning alternates as per State statutes. Tom would like us to define what an alternate is, thus it may be easier for people to want to do it.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Jennifer has a few contacts who seem interested in helping out with the Recreation Commission, though not on the level of current Rec. members.

(Steve M.) John Roth will be consulted as per our ability to assign alternates and what the process is for making them members/ or attaching them to the Rec. Commission.

## **CERTIFIED COACHES ISSUE**

1. Tom suggests that we need to continually update the certified coach's list. He believes that the certified coach's list is not on the five-year plan.
2. Tom mentioned that coach certification requires, at a minimum, having coaches complete the Rutgers safety course which is usually offered at local hospitals. They should then provide evidence that the course has been completed to their respective Sports Commissioners who will, in turn, provide this information to Chris A. Tom stated that he would like to see the Commission employ more discipline around this requirement and suggested that completion of the course be a precondition for coaching.

## **ACTION ITEM**

Steve M. said that he will take care of the communication. A communication will go to the newsletter listing: Coach certification opportunities, a reminder that coach certification is required/ a precondition for coaching in town, and upcoming dates and locations for that certification program.

## **HPREC.NET, CALENDAR**

1. A discussion as to the fact that the calendar needs to be established and then maintained.
2. Jennifer was informed that no one is in charge of updating the website.
3. Jennifer suggested that the website might be perfect for someone who wants to volunteer. Both Jennifer and Steve agreed that one of the alternates would be a good idea.
4. Directions to the sports fields could go onto the website.

## **TENNIS REPAIR**

1. Uncertainty among present members as to whether the bills have been paid or not.
2. Jerry would like to put a lock on the tennis courts – at least until the Spring when the badges are established.

## **ACTION ITEM**

By December 15, a lock will be put on the tennis courts & signs posted why they are locked. If there are any questions thereafter, people should contact Jerry Esposito.

## **FIELDS MAINTENANCE**

1. Steve M. suggested that the chemicals issue something that Mickey had a proposal out. Do we want to test the fields and are we beyond the season when we can do that?
2. Steve M. would like to bring Bob W. to the field, get an analysis and proposal (along with Brian Fitzgerald). Would like to bring him to the field on one of the Saturdays in November.

### **CONCLUSION/ACTION ITEM – FIELD MAINTENANCE**

Commission has agreed to have Tri-State inspect Highland Field's upper and lower and (only) school infields, then have them prepare a proposal for field remediation at a cost to be done in either the Fall 2011 or Spring 2012.

## **BLEACHERS**

1. Tom circulated an email about that issue.
2. Tom is still waiting for a response to the ADA issue.
3. Tom would personally like the "4" level for adults

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Chris A. is going to look at the bleachers issue. Tom will send him an email.

## **SPORTS CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 1) Steve M. pointed out to Jennifer that Softball has not paid the Commission their requirement. ("We just need someone in Softball to recognize this!")
  - a. School remediation is the single most expensive part of what we do.
- 2) Jennifer proposed to follow-up on this issue. Steve said that the Commission is being denied the \$3,000.

## **FOLLOW-UP; MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1) We were informed by Tom of several issues:
  - a. The 5K is being run on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. The Running Club is an H.P. Rec Sports group and Sports Boosters is not. Tom looked into insurance issues concerning the two groups and the 5K (the running club is involved in the 5K).

- c. Summer basketball is also an H.P. Rec Sport. For those who are involved in tournaments and other related things, perhaps the Rec. Commission needs to consider our liability for that. Flag football and basketball are rec sports.
- 2) Tom saw in other town ballots that the penny tax would be suspended until 2014.
- 3) Concerning the trench dug up in the outfield, it was supposed to be fixed as part of the "punch list", Tom hadn't heard that it was done.
- 4) Concerning the lights on the soccer field, perhaps by next week it might be done.
  - a. Jennifer spoke to the Mayor about the issue with the lights.