

# Harrington Park Recreation Commission

## Minutes of Meeting

December 21, 2011

### **Commission**

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

Town Council Liaison: John Roth

Secretary: Michael Amdur

Meeting called to order at 8:15 PM

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Approval of last month's minutes as amended.

### **TENNIS COURTS**

Discussion about the locking mechanism on the courts and how (tennis) badges could come into play.

Locks were attached to the gates because – supposedly – kids were riding bikes on there, skateboarders were using the surfaces and there were other trespassers.

Jerry observed that the Rec. Commission had the locksmith visit - and the gates are in no condition to have a lock added to it. In fact, a whole section would have to be taken out and a new frame or jam put in. He suggested that we need a new door to install something that can be locked (and used with a key). In addition, Jerry suggested that we hold up until we sell some badges. Jerry thought that the Rec. Commission should keep trying to grow the badge business so that people take notice of the system – complete with self-policing.

## **ACTION ITEM**

Jerry offered to follow-up on – come next season – he will ensure that the signs and the information where the badges are sold will be tied together and reflects badgeholder rights.

John R. suggested that it may be worth considering re-allocating funds (from the bonds) towards getting a quote on replacing that section and having a self-closing door that has a key (one that needs to have a pass to get that key). John suggested that it might be worth using some of that money to buy new nets - potentially new nets, new surface, new locks and new rules (with everything posted).

## **MONEY IN RESERVES AND MONEY SPENT**

John R. commented that the Rec. Commission had \$65,000 in total – of which \$35,000 was spent on the tennis courts.

## **TENNIS BADGES**

There was discussion about the difficulty in finding a new source to produce new (and good) badges for purchase by town residents. Agreement by commission members that issue should be solved by February.

## **ACTION ITEM**

Jen will arrange to have the newsletter alert residents every month that 2012 badges are available at Borough Hall.

## **TENNIS NETS**

John and Jerry agreed to take the nets down at some point soon (communicated via email).

## **ACTION ITEM**

Jen has a contact at the swim club who she plans to ask concerning production of their badges (perhaps adopting their system).

## **FIELD MAINTENANCE - FINANCES**

The Rec. Commission considered a proposal from Tri State Athletic Field and Services Supply to conduct annual field remediation work at Highland Field. Total cost will be \$13,318 covering annual field remediation work as well as improvements on the lower Highland Soccer fields and lower Highland field #3 through heavy seeding and use of turf blankets. (All work outlined in vendor's proposal). Tri State offers a few thousand dollar savings through completion of this work in the late Fall / early Winter as opposed to the early Spring. The Commission considered then approved the proposal and will pay for the work with funds in the Field Maintenance portion of the Rec. Trust Fund. Current balance of the allocation to Field Maintenance is \$19,650. Tri State will be notified of the approval and asked to begin the work pending completion of a town PO.

### **ACTION ITEM**

Steve M. offered to email Soccer for the purpose of determining how many Rec Commission Trust payments for field maintenance they've made to date. The group was uncertain if their last payment covered their 2010 or 2011 contribution.

### **ACTION ITEM**

John R. will discuss and request to Ann (at Boro Hall) cut a purchase order.

Tom will send an email to Chris concerning the bleachers and to see if he has done anything.

Tom will talk to John about what the boosters are doing.

Tom will send a note to Greg about the ADA compliant bleachers and to get a definitive answer on that.

Tom suggested that – with the quotes we have – the Commission should present its bleachers plan and vote on it in January (to see if they can deliver it in March for April).

### **JANUARY MEETING PREP**

Michael mentioned that Steve P. started a calendar and he (Michael) would like to have a list of things we do on a yearly basis. Concerning that yearly basis, Jen read off a list of events: Ragamuffin, Derby, Town Day, Opening Day Parade, Concert in the Park.

It was agreed that the Commission would defer the Meeting involving Sports Commissioners and Town Organizations for the purpose of discussing “project priorities” until the February meeting date. The reason for this delay is to allow the Rec. Commission to use the January meeting date to review its own project priorities. (Also, an invitation going out during the holidays could risk going unread – thus, an additional reason for the delay.)

### **POINT OF NOTICE – REFERENCE FOR REVIEW**

Steve M. attached a master plan summary spreadsheet to an email that was sent to all Commission members. It will likely be discussed in the January meeting.

### **ACTION ITEM**

Jen offered to double-check with the Boosters to see if there is any feedback from them concerning Town Day.

### **DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATES FOR THE COMMISSION**

John R. re-explained (from previous meeting) the alternates designation. It is an appointed position that must follow strict bylaws. If a member misses three meetings in a row, the Mayor has the right to remove that respective member from the Commission.

### **ACTION ITEM**

There will be some research done on whether or not we can actually have alternates. We will make a decision one way or the other.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Tom remarked that basketball and soccer have already started their winter sports.

In addition, there is a new basketball commissioner – Sean Fales.

Tom mentioned that there is a conflict with HAS (Home School Association). HAS does have priority over us. The school has a priority over everyone else.

Jerry noted that there is a DEP grant available but is not enough to link Upper and Lower Highland Field. The contractor suggested that approx. \$60,000 would be needed for the bridge and walking path – much higher than the \$25,000 grant.

John R. remarked that grantwriters get 10% of the cost of the grant, assuming that the grant is successfully awarded.

### **ACTION ITEM**

John R. will ask Marlene Kasey if she will come to the March meeting. Marlene would be invited to a later meeting, at which time the Commission would discuss grant eligibility and how best to apply.

John R. reminded the Commission that she (Marlene) should have a solid list available for her review (when she attends the meeting).

The 2012 budget request was due on December 12, 2011.

John R. commented that there were hundreds of challenges to tax appeals within the last couple of years.

Steve M. inquired as to what the penny tax pool is for 2012.

John R. believed that \$100,000 came out of the penny tax pool. Tom thought the exact number may have been \$104,000.

### **ACTION ITEM**

John R. will look through his email to see if he can find the information on Rec. Commission membership.

Steve M. read information - from a list he has – of groups with key contacts who are coming to the upcoming Meeting in addition to the sports boosters. 5K – Scott Litchfield, Seniors - Club 60, Historical Society – Jerry Giveny, H.P. First Friends, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Juniors Women's Club!