

# Harrington Park Recreation Commission

## Minutes of Meeting

March 21, 2012

### **Commission**

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

Michelle Ryan	(Juniors – President)	Present
Judy Collins	(Juniors – Vice-Pres.)	Present
Lance Symons	(Sports Commissioner)	Present

Town Council Liaison: Glenn Quantmeyer - Absent

Secretary: Michael Amdur

Meeting called to order at 8:25 PM

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Call to order. In compliance with the Sunshine Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was made.

### **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

#### ***Juniors***

Michelle Ryan and Judy Collins from the Juniors asked how they can help the Recreation Commission (fundraising, financial, etc.).

Juniors is trying to raise a lot of money this year by having a carnival. Would ideally like

to use the upper field at Highland. Planning to open it up to different organizations (Juniors only has 25 members) so they can share in the profits. Conservatively, Michelle believes they can raise at least \$20,000. Event would consist of 12 rides and 12 games. Would prefer to have it on Memorial Day weekend from 6-11 PM (Sat-Mon).

Several Commission members expressed concern about possible damage to fields – at Highland – especially if there is rain.

Steve M. suggested that August might be a good time to have the carnival (easier for ground to sustain the weight/construction).

Michelle asked if the Commission could email her (and Judy) as soon as possible so they can have an answer as to whether this all is feasible or if the Commission will nix the proposal.

### ***Lance Symons***

Steve M. says that Tuesdays and Wednesdays were taken off the schedule and left for Recreation, but travel teams need to practice during the week sometimes. Rec set up a schedule on Sunday night for who needs it. Effective next Saturday, when Rec opens, there won't be any Tuesday games. Steve cannot promise Wednesday, because there may be travel practices that may need to go on Wednesday.

### **TO DO**

Steve will send Lance the schedule so he can see the open Wednesday over the course of the next few months and pick those open Wednesdays. Then on Sunday, Lance will be included on emails that indicates what the usage of Pondside will be for the week.

Tom suggested that, next year, the Commission should talk about this issue in the fall so that everyone knows about the schedule going into the season - so it is not a surprise. Steve P. added that Oct/Nov would be a good timeperiod to discuss field allocation.

Tom confirmed that Lance's application has both insurance forms that are required.

### **FINANCE AND BUDGET**

Mickey notified the Commission that Glenn called him before the meeting and mentioned that the town is looking into a bond to replace a fire truck. Glenn suggested that while they are considering that, the Commission should come up with another wish list.

Steve P. - The budget has not been technically approved, but will be approved and available by April. No change in allocations with the accounts.

Maintenance budget:	\$11,350
Special programs:	\$1,000
Sports program:	\$1,000

According to Steve P, the budget has been flat for the last three years. Rec didn't really spend anything in the budget, however, the Commission did spend in the Rec trust. The Rec trust account is depleted and only has \$1,380.

Steve said that \$9,504 was spent by us on Town Day and \$10,495 was raised on Town Day.

## **FIELD REQUESTS**

- 1) Old Tappan Men's Softball would like to use upper Highland Sunday morning 8:30-12:00 on June 3 and June 10. Steve M. spoke with Gary Passek(???) earlier in the afternoon, and there is no objection. Last year, Old Tappan paid the Rec Commission \$60 per day.

Steve M. put a motion in front of the Rec Commission for approval.

\*\*\* Unanimous approval

- 2) The Juniors have a field request for their Easter Egg Hunt on upper Highland March 31. A motion was put in front of the Commission for approval.  
\*\*\* Unanimous approval

- 3) Kindergarten Roundup on June 16 (9:30-11:00) has a field request for "Eggtastic".

### **TO DO**

Mickey will email forms to Tom concerning Eggtastic.

- 4) Mark Torrey(???) put in a request for summer camps. Tom will try to work it out with Ann and try to get some rules out there. On April 1, they'll approve summer camp. The second weekend of the summer is soccer. Tom does not know of any other summer camp that will request use of the field(s).

Considering the wish list for the bond, Jen proposed lights on the walking path, as well as a pavilion. Mickey would like to see lights at Pondside.

### **TO DO**

Mickey will call Glenn and also send him an email about the amount of the bond.

Steve M. would like to see on Lower Highland (*as per email sent two days after Rec meeting*):

*Two new backstops on fields #1 and #3 while moving the existing backstop on field #3 to #2.  
New dugout fencing at all three fields. (Scoreboard not required.)*

A scaled down indoor recreation center at Highland also was discussed by several members and should be considered.

## **SPORTS COORDINATION**

Chris was not present at the meeting; however, nothing is scheduled for April.

### **TO DO**

Steve P. will get in touch with Chris and ask him to coordinate with sports commissioners to get them to an upcoming meeting with the Commission.

## **TOWN PROGRAMS**

Jen will wait for later meeting to talk about Town Day.

## **PRESENTATION FOR MEETING WITH SPORTS HEADS**

### ***POWERPOINT SLIDES – SUMMARY***

***By Steve P.***

“The condition of H.P. fields have deteriorated over the past few years.”

“The return on the ‘investment in the fields’ has not been realized as on-going remediation, rather than maintenance, has resulted in more – scarce – dollars needing to be invested to get fields in playing shape.”

“Sources of the problem are:

- increased scope
- uncertain funding
- Rec taking on additional expenses
- lack of a realistic and achievable on-going maintenance plan”

“Conditions of Fields:

- school soccer field became unplayable three years ago
- Highland 3 was unplayable last summer
- poorly maintained fields represent a meaningful safety risk
- recent public response to Rec: ‘I have never seen the fields worse.’”

“Investments have not Yielded Returns.

- Rec has spent over \$30,000 on remediation over last four years”

“Who Should Pay?

- town Rec budget is limited and not going to increase
- the people (families who use the fields)
- other organizations in town
- Rec’s view is it has to be a combination of all three above, and all sports have to participate”

## **PROPOSED FIELD MAINTENANCE PLAN**

Tom said that there is a need to rebuild the mounds every four years. That cost was not included in the numbers being considered.

Rec will have \$31,000 to spend this year, according to Steve P.

Steve M. proposed a motion to approve Field Pro’s proposal for annual maintenance \$5,200. This includes a chemical program at Pondside.

\*\*\* Motion is unanimously accepted.

## **BLEACHERS**

Seeking a cost near \$30,000, Tom (eventually) got a quote for \$29,600 (from Greg Poliniak???), which is short four sets of bleachers. In particular, this amount would be short four sets of 15 foot bleachers: which would be the two bleachers for the soccer field on fields #1 and #2 and the two bleachers for Upper Highland.

Mary was going to talk to Greg again about it, according to Tom, but no one has heard back from her. Assuming that everyone likes it, Tom suggested that this is the \$30,000 that the Commission wanted to spend on bleachers (and he suggested to order it and get it in). Tom also suggested that the Commission take the 21 foot bleachers that are at Pondside and move

one of those sets over to where the two soccer bleachers are – and get rid of the latter. Then, move the new bleacher set to Upper Highland.

#### **TO DO**

Tom sent a couple emails to Mary and will give her another call. That includes shipping, though the only additional cost MIGHT be some planks. Once there is closure to the issue, Tom will send an email.