

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERSON RECREATION COMMISSION WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2018, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE RECREATION CENTER.

Alternate Presiding Officer David Cannici opened the meeting and called the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday November 15, 2018.

Roll Call: Alternate Presiding Officer David Cannici, Mike Graham, Paul Coombes, Rich Solimando, Wilfredo Ortiz and Gerry Falotico arrived after the start of the meeting

Excused Absence: Eilish Viggiani, Anthony Gismondi, Bob Quinones, Afrim Hoxha,

I Christmas Tree Lighting Event wrap up

Everything is proceeding well. If Councilman Downing requires any help or resource he will let the Board know and they will provide any resource requested. Nicole del Grasso will be taking pictures. She will provide 3 hours' time, unlimited 4x6" prints and the back drop for \$350. The pictures will be taken inside the Rec center. The event will be publicized by the photographer, on Facebook and in conjunction with the town when they are the tree lighting. The same person will be Santa.

II Baseball Issues

Dave drafted a letter for Afrim to send to Ken Benkovic copying the mayor, Councilman Downing and the Rec Commission. The communication was a recap of the discussion about Ken Benkovic at the November 1 meeting. Specifically regarding an email that he sent out to a wide audience rather than coming to the Recreation commission to voice his concerns. The letter informed him that he should attend a Recreation Commission meeting to explain his actions and provide clarification on what his issues are and the agree what steps should be taken. No decisions have been taken regarding a suspension and this meeting is an opportunity to come forward before any action is taken. Ken has been given two possible dates to attend. If he does not attend either of these dates this will be discussed at future meeting and the required action agreed. Ken will then be notified of any action.

Rich attended Baseball meeting the previous night and they had two concerns that they wanted bringing to the Rec Commission.

The baseball board would like to start charging a returnable deposit at the start of the season. If families work on the snack stand during the season they will have their deposit refunded. This is quite a common procedure in other towns in the area. The baseball board wanted to know how the money would be handled, specifically who would the checks be made out to. In other towns the checks are held and not cashed until families have worked the snack bar and when they are returned. The checks are usually collected when players pick up their uniforms. This would seem to be a good process for

the Emerson baseball league to use. There was a concern about the legality of holding checks and not cashing them. The meeting agreed to ask other towns how they do this and check with the CFO.

The Baseball board had a second question. The parent of a special needs child emailed the board to ask if her child who doesn't turn 4 until May 2019 would be eligible to play in the pre-K team. The initial suggestion was that the child should go along to a couple of practices/games without registering and if they were able to participate they could sign up. The issue with this is that if the child is hurt then they are not covered by the Borough's insurance. After some discussion it was agreed that the Baseball Board should tell the parent to register their child and then waive the fee.

III Sport-by-Sport Review

Wrestling

Nothing new to report. The wrestling board needs to be made aware that from January they will have to attend a rec commission meeting and publish their calendar.

Baseball

The Board reacted well to the new process which will require one of their members to attend Rec. Commission meetings.

Softball-

Registration has been opened up and everything is going smoothly.

Soccer

No report

Football-

No report

Fields

The ordinance is being rewritten and needs input from Rec Commission. Rich requested this be provided by email rather than waiting until the next meeting. Of particular interest is the definition of what a rec team is vs. what a travel team is vs. what a club team is. Traditionally first rights to the fields are high school followed by Emerson recreation teams then Emerson travel teams then everyone else. The definition of an Emerson recreation and Emerson Travel team needs to be clearly defined in terms of the roster. The parameters for outside entities that want to use the fields also need to be clear. It was agreed that recreation commissions view is that Emerson recreation teams are 100% Emerson kids and Emerson travel teams are 80% Emerson kids and this should be the recommendation for the Ordinance. However if other rec members have a different idea they should share it in the email conversation.

The meeting also expressed a view that renting out the fields to other organizations is not what the program is about and as such should be limited. There is a discussion about

including lights for Memorial field in the Board of Ed budget. Dave will update the recreation commission when decisions are made.

Rich requested an updated program for the field management. Dave reported that a team will be created to support Rich with the field management. Eilesh will help with communications and scheduling. Bob will act as an advisor as soccer is such a large customer for the field. There is money to be available to purchase a new system and Rich would like to use the same program as the high schools.

Dave requested that Rich produce a standard operating procedure which lays out exactly what happens when a request for a field is made. He should also provide the name of the software and the price for the next meeting.

IV Open Public Session

Willie asked where does the money raised by the recreation get deposited? Gerry was asked to find out.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Willie Ortiz, seconded by Rich Solimando, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Morris
Recreation Secretary