

HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
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HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF November 1st 2018

Attendance: Dewey Burluson, Ann Cron, John Noone, John Corring, Rob Ricco, Debra Szabo, Andy Puller

Rec Director: Patty Hughes
Councilman: Anthony DeRosa

Guests in attendance:

Scott P
Rob Harris
Devin F
Ruta Fiorino
Luke Fiorino
John Escobar

Dewey called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for October will be reviewed next meeting

Rec Directors Report

Patty says the tree lighting will be held on 12/5 with rain/snow date of 12/6. The donuts and hot chocolate will be donated by Dunkin and the coffee by Starbucks. We will have Choirlieres and possibly a group from Rockland signing. If we go with the Rockland group the entire event will be free of charge.

Permit Request:

Scout Luke Fiorino would like permission build a dog park at beech wood in-between band shell and football field as his Eagle Scout project. He would build fencing, benches and water it would be a typical dog park. He would raise money through fundraising to purchase these things. Dewey and the committee mention this is a great idea but will an ongoing cost to the town. Luke said he would possibly like to raise extra money that can be donated to the town to use for maintenance of the dog park. Dewey is afraid there will be a negative response to this request and neighbors in the area won't like it. Patty has brought up the idea of a dog park before but it was never supported. It was questioned if this needs to go in front of the planning board, but for sure needs to go to mayor and council. Patty brought up the idea of a different location, Sapienza gardens, there are no neighbors and there is water available to use. Devin tells Luke if this idea doesn't work out he can contact football who will help him come up with something else. Corring believes this is a great idea that should be sent to mayor and council. In the meantime

Anthony and Patty will look into see if there are any stumbling blocks he may face. The project needs to be completed by Luke's 18th birthday.

Chairman Discussion

Dewey provides a drafted version of the Hillsdale Field policy he came up with. This list is attached.

When discussing number 8, regarding coaching certificates Patty wants it to be clear that this is not yet complete and some people are missing parts of their coaching certifications. Dewey mentions that this issue took up time during the meeting they had with the mayor. Devin fights back saying he thinks that the mayor's time should be better used by concentrating on the field's issues and their safety. John Corring agrees that safety should be the priority. Anything that is requested to do the DPW needs to be emailed to them and Patty at their request. In terms of safety there have been padding added to Haradda but it is not enough and the macadam is still on the field.

Dewey asks everyone to give their opinions on the Monday night meeting

Corring – Thinks safety is the issue here and should be the priority. Examples of dangerous items include, asphalt on the field, lips and sprinklers sticking up as well as issues with the fencing. He thinks one field needs to be worked on and focused on at a time. Corring thinks the best field to focus on is Memorial. Puller disagrees and thinks it should be centennial since there are lights there.

Dewey addresses Devin and explains that the group did talk about his proposal but the mayor at the time wasn't interested. We had a grant taken away to be used for veterans park we have since applied for another grant for Memorial. The grant will give money to address the safety issues and possibly build a pathway.

Ann expresses she still would like a community center for the town. Andy suggests using certain fields and telling council this can be used to generate revenue as it can be rented.

John Noone agrees with what John and Andy said.

Rob agrees with them as well but also is interested in the idea mentioned of bringing in a consultant.

Debs says something needs to be done before someone gets hurt.

Anthony agrees that the safety issue comes first. Corring says now that the issues are public they cannot be ignored anymore.

Dewey wants a park to be picked to focus on, he is a proponent for Memorial to be fixed as it is in the center of town and less of a sports complex but more of a location for people to go to as well. He also wants to deal with Knick which is now unusable, possibly the same way they dealt with Cora.

Devin says people are worried about the cost of everything however there has been expensive clay sitting on one of the fields or years, how much of a waste is this? He also says all the

associations are self-funded and all they ask id for the fields to be usable. He believes if we take this to a referendum that it would win. The committee is not so sure about that.

Anthony says we need to stop complaining and start doing something about these issues. He agrees about getting a planner to help decide what needs to be done. He said the borough engineer will look for a free while Rutgers will look for free but more on an environmental level. He is trying to set up a meeting with Patty, the mayor and the BA to make moves.

Anthony requests a list of short and long term goals from the committee as well as a list of items that can possible be done by the DPW. He wants the committee to do more such as look into Activity Scheduler to keep track of the fields. Deb volunteers to take this on. Anthony says he knows this will be a costly job so we have a lot to do.

Patty wants there to be a line item in the budget for these improvements going forward, they are working on 6 year plan.

Dewey also suggest some of the issues could be potentially fixed by volunteers and people in town who know what they are doing.

Meeting adjourned, 8:11 pm Motioned by Corring, 2nd by Deb

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Anides

Next meeting, December 6th 2018, 7:00pm