

HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
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HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2012

The Hillsdale Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on February 2, 2012 with Ann Cron, Rich Gazzillo, Frank Pizzella, Andrew Puller, Peter Scandariato, Dawn Timpanaro, Sara Petro, and Patty Hughes in attendance.

Absent from the meeting were Bob Darcey, Michael Holmes, and Michael Giancarlo.

Chairman Peter Scandariato called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

The minutes of January 5, 2012 were approved (Cron/Timpanaro)

Topics for Presentation/Discussion

HBSA – Frank Pizzella did some research with regard to Recreation Commission and HBSA. He discovered that HBSA is a separate, autonomous, 5013C status organization. The Recreation Commission is administrative and supervisory in nature with regard to public parks. It can propose rules and regulations to the mayor and council and make recommendations administratively. It can also approve or disapprove field permits so it can deny or approve use of fields. Currently, Recreation Commission cannot and does not have the authority to dictate to the HBSA or any other autonomous association such as, HSA and HFA. The Recreation Commission cannot force HBSA to change the new age rule and make accommodations for 5th graders. In the future, the commission could propose to mayor and council that these associations follow certain procedures before being approved to operate in town. They can also determine that HBSA manage baseball and softball rec programs and that they follow certain procedures.

Remarks From Citizens

Chris Loos stated that the age based rule was not applied to 7th graders because there would not be enough boys to field a team so some 7th grades left program to play club. She stated that her son is much larger than other boys his age and this would definitely be a safety issue. She also stated that rec and travel are intertwined and connected.

Kim Saul stated that she just wants an exception for 5th graders as was given for 7th graders. She researched Little League rules and discovered that exceptions are allowed. She also questioned why a field was denied to the rogue team. Her 2nd grader is large for his age so safety is an issue. She went to the Dec. 15th HBSA meeting and asked for statistics regarding safety issues since that was cited as reason for change.

Michael Foudy asked about field usage. Asked, hypothetically, is there anything preventing him from forming a team and putting in a field request. Answer is yes because right now a blanket

permit is given to HBSA, but going forward that might change. He also stated that a boy does not have to play by age during year to play by age during summer according to Little League.

Kristin Donaldson felt that it is a shame and there seems to be a simple fix, just start with kindergarten and go forward. Rule should not be applied across the board.

Sean Donaldson stated that the HBSA is not really listening to them and he read a letter against the rule change. He said new rule should be for new players.

Jesse LoGrasso read a letter to the commissioners asking why 7th graders received an exception and not 5th graders.

Abby Lundry, president HBSA, said that a Little League rep would be attending the Feb. 5th HBSA meeting. She said the age rule issue was voted on three times. As far as she is concerned, it would be okay if rec is by grade and travel (summer) is by age.

Commissioners respond - Frank Pizzella stated that the HBSA was presented with a few options which were rejected and he agreed that there should be a grandfather clause. Peter Scandariato stated that it was too late to do anything about it this year since HBSA is an autonomous organization. Rich Gazzillo stated that the rec program should be by grade and travel program by age. An individual can be looked at for safety and have them play up or down on an individual basis. Dawn Timpanaro felt that the new age rule was wrong. Patty Hughes is going to a district Recreation Association meeting on Feb. 7th so she will see what other towns are doing with respect to independent associations.

New Business

Camp 2012- Kelly will be starting in March. Camp will be Hillsdale/RiverVale and held at White school.

Coaches Conduct Policy – a policy has been written and will be given to all coaches

Bank Sponsorship – Rich Gazzillo reported that TD Bank is willing to sponsor the summer concert series, just have to fill out an online form and acknowledge them during the concert. CareOne may also be willing to sponsor a concert.

Frank Pizzella volunteered to draft a written proposal regarding association policy changes. It could be an update to an ordinance giving the Recreation Commission supervisory authority over the sports associations.

Meeting adjourned, 8:35PM (Gazzillo/Cron)

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Reich

Next meeting, March 1, 2012, 7:00PM