

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
380 HILLSDALE AVENUE
HILLSDALE, NJ 07
201-666-4800 X1560**

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF 10/7/2024**

Councilman: Clemente Osso

Rec Director: Dan Conte

Attendance: John, Ed, Greg, Rhonda, Ann, Sara

Council Member – John Ruocco, Robert Colletti, John Escobar

BA –Mike Ghassali

Public – Rob Harris, Craig Kardell, Nikesh Shah,

- Dan called meeting to order at 6:33

Pledge of allegiance

Minutes

- Approved by Sara and seconded by John

BA discussion on fields

- Board approve 374K for Centennial, waiting on DEP approval. Need this by Nov 4-5 to move forward or a rebid is needed
- BA presents blueprint of Memorial field with two options a 50x70 and 60x90
- Craig states that recreation football might be moving to needing a larger size based on new regulations
- BA would like to hold a townhall meeting. He wants to get the publics opinions on the new field and their needs. Looking to do this 2nd week of November
- BA states he will clean up the blue print and add color for the townhall meeting.
- Rhonda requested a line item for each cost
- Per Dewey once a plan identified it will need to go through the planning board
- Rhonda states she wants an environmental study/review since the children will be using the turf and since it is near a residential area

- Dewey is concerned about the lights. He and others believe lights are needed in this new space. The concern is that it is changing the vibe of the neighborhood. There will now be noise, lights and sounds.
- Council states they are looking at turf due to the inability of the town to keep the fields up
- Craig thanks Dan and the DPW for their hard work on the fields and keeping them up this year

Dans recreation Report

- Basketball for the youngest grades sold out within 15 minutes. Two additional sessions were opened to accommodate this.
- 3rd grade and up had decent registration as well.
- This year there will be a draft where the kids do drills and the coaches observe.
- Due to the referendum the GW school will not be available to use for camp this summer
- Dan is looking into other options. His first choice is to use PV and also having discussions with Meadowbrook and Smith
- Last year there was a large amount of Hillsdale children on the waitlist. Dan wants to find away to change that this year. Trying to up the number of kids they can hold
- Other ideas are release the registration to Hillsdale residents first.
- Dan says there is a handshake deal with Rivervale saying they would run the half day camp in exchange. Dan will look into this.
- The recreation budget meeting is on 10/24
- Budget discussion will include the 112k for beechwood. Sara thinks the stage at Beechwood should be used for plays as well as concerts
- Last meeting there was a discussion about expanding the concert series
- Sara believes the best way are 3 solid concerts versus multiple mediocre concerts
- Discussion of moving the concert to Veterans park, maybe just for one concert. There was some pushback from residents in the past due to the location being potentially dangerous for children.
- Everyone thanks Sara for her hard work
- Fall festival was a success and looking for dates for next year
- Octoberfest scheduled for 10/18. Nikesh's band will be playing, there will be games and a beer garden from Daveys
- The Halloween parade is scheduled for 10/26. Dan looking to add a caricature artist if it is within the budget.
- Sara believe we should not be putting the sticker on the pumpkins. It creates garbage as it dirties the park when the garbage isn't picked up. Dan will look into painting a pumpkin instead.
- She also thinks candy should be handed out. That the candy is not needed as the children will receive it in other places.

Council Comments

- Clemente agrees regarding turf, as it does not need to be maintained the same way or need to “rest”
- He too believes that lights are needed at the new field
- He would like the commission to put together questions for the engineer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56