

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION  
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**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF 1/8/24**

**Councilman:** Clemente Osso

**Borough Administrator:** Mike Ghassali

**Rec Coordinator:** Dan Teefy

**Attendance:** John, Dewey, Rhonda, Ed, Sara, Jill, Greg, Justin

**Public:** Kevin D, Rob H and Ed R

Yearly Reorganization

Motion to nominate Ed as president – approved

Motion to nominate John as VP – approved

Minutes

- John called meeting to order at 6:34pm
- John made motion to approve minutes, seconded by Dewey

Dan addresses the recreation commission.

- Dan explains that he was let go by the borough. He believes he was not given a good reason and is very surprised by the decision. He thanks for the commission for all of their hard work during his time at the borough.
- Dewey thanks Dan his time in his position and thinks the decision to let him go was premature.
- Ed and John agree with Dewey

Mike Ghassali – the borough administrator

- speaks to the commission regarding their decision and the plan moving forward. He states that Dan did not hit the ground running. He moved forward with the current events

and ideas the borough had already executed. He wanted someone with more fire and motivation to get the job done and bring fresh ideas.

### Fields Discussion

- There was 138k spent on a project that will no longer be taking place
- Clement Osso (new council liaison) says they are looking to get additional quotes for the work that needs to be done
- No work will be done this year at this point, there will be meeting with additional engineers
- There is 1.3 million of tax payer money that is being held for this project and field improvements
- Dewey has issues with the current process and the plans not coming through the recreation commission
- Rhonda wants the environmental committee to have a say in the planning process
- Mike agrees to share the list of items regarding the fields with the rec commission

### Future Plans

- Ed wants to know which way the department will be going with Dan gone
- Per Mike they are looking for a new leader to lead the rec department not a follower
- They will advertise for the position and Patty will step back in to help

### Jill's recreation report

- There will be pickleball at GW. Balls and rackets have been purchased. Need to figure out how to protect equipment so it is not stolen
- There have been requests for kickball adult/co-ed/ kids
- Possible chess program in the summer at the park

### Comments by the public

- Rob – registration for baseball is now open. Opening day is scheduled for 4/6 with a rain date of 4/7
- Kevin – mentions he is disappointed to see Dan go. He would like a new recreation director who will be with the borough long term and be able to provide the best help possible. Basketball kicked off its first clinics with one of them being cancelled due to trainer having the flu.

### Additional discussion

- Jill states that there is no parks and rec logo, she suggests a contest similar to the one that took place for Hillsdale's 125 anniversary

- Dewey is still looking for clarity on what the recreation trust fund can be used for, what happens if we raise money for the general fund
  - Dewey is still interested in pursuing a borough newsletter with all of the recreation events
  - Sara asks if she is able to recruit volunteers for future events, Mike states that the borough would their information first
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- Ed made motion to adjourn meeting at 8:00pm, seconded by John