

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION**  
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**HILLSDALE, NJ 07642**  
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**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

**Attendance:** John Noone, Andrew Puller, Rob Ricco, John Corring, Ann Cron, Dewey Burleson, Deborah Szabo, Jenna Szabo, David Dembrowski,

Councilman: Anthony DeRosa  
Director Patty Hughes

Guests in attendance:  
Soccer: Andy Pearson  
Baseball: Abby Lundy

Dewey called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and John Corring seconded this motion

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion: Ann Cron accepted. Dewey Burleson seconded this motion

**Permit Approval**

Permit approved for soccer to use stonybrook and centennial field from 4/22-6/10. They will coordinate with lacrosse in order to use these fields.

In terms of permits going forward Denise Kohan suggested the recreation committee be in charge of all permits and dealings with everything associated with them, such as police and DPW.

**Topics for Presentation/Discussion:**

Dewey starts meeting by reading a quote from Roosevelt that he likes.

Patty then talks about the various sports. For basketball the space at George White will hopefully be ready end of next week. The girl's teams have been playing against River Vale in the café.

The wrestling season is going well, there are 89 participants. They have had the same coordinator for the last four years and its going well.

Indoor soccer has moved from January to March due to lack of participants. Patty will put an ad in the paper

Girls volleyball start date has moved due to lack of enrollment

Mens basketball is off to a rough start due to the lack of gym at George White. They have missed a few games so moving end of season to April versus March. They have played a couple of games at PV.

The upcoming events are a 5k run in March and an Easter egg hunt on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

There are two hot lunches on the 50 + club, one at St Johns and the other at United Methodist church.

Dewey would like each committee member to take on different events in order to help Patty throughout the year. He also would like to create subcommittees for various events such as Memorial Day parade and town day. The committee can have up to 3 people.

Dewey brings up the coaching certificate and says this needs to be taken care of by opening day of each sport. He says a list should be sent to Patty a month and then a week before opening day so she can check to see who is certified. He would like to tell the coaches as early as possible if they are missing paperwork. Abby says registration closes on February 22 and she will send the list over right away. Patty says she can send over whatever paperwork is needed for the coaches to be certified. She will need their name, address, DOB and email. Abby suggests pulling a report from community pass. Andy from soccer says due to the timing of their season they have a lot of late sign up and will do best they can to send over coaches. Dewey warns there could be trouble if we have coaches that are not certified on the field.

Dewey calls his ideas for raising money, bowling for dollars. He talks about the time he sat in a room and made phone calls asking for money. He wants there to be a committee to help earn this money however Ann mentions that the recreation commission cannot raise money. So who can? It is suggested the associations raise the money or make a friends of recreation group that can raise money. John Corring asks what the actual statute is and DeRosa says he will look into it.

Dewey then hands out napkins and chocolate kisses; we have a quick break and makes roses out of the napkins.

Town Day is brought up and Patty mentions it will be on September 16<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of September 27. The budget increased from one thousand to five thousand. DPW is looking into a firework donation, and it will now take place at Beechwood park. They also want food trucks and vendors at the event. We should start reaching out to the trucks to book them now.

Dewey created a category called Patty's closet where potential ideas will lie. They will be on the agenda every week. One thing mentioned is doing something similar that was done at Sapienza Gardens with the dog contents, Dewey wants to have a valentine flower sale where flowers are pre order and we buy them at cost and then sell for a profit.

Different Eagle Scout projects were mentioned, for example one in Westwood with a historic plaque, cubby in dugout and planters. Abby would like a trophy case built as a project. DeRosa says project for girl scouts should be considered too.

The topic of fixing Memorial field is brought up and Dewey's suggestion is that we take the year to figure out our wants and needs and then put a dollar amount to it. He wants to meet with DeJoseph and Dan from DPW to pick their brains about what to concentrate on for various parks as well as if they should redirect their time, effort and money onto one specific park a year. John Corring suggest we focus on Memorial Park, Dewey said he was just there and did notice the sloping of the field.

Andy Puller mentions we can possibly get donations to fix parks and offer a plaque in return. He then suggests tarp dugouts; they are cooler and less expensive. He also says park should have running track, dog path so appeals to whole community not just sports.

There is a mention of United Water getting an open space grant to link the parks in Woodcliff Lake, Parkridge and Hillsdale.

When talking about what the park should look like, Patty compares it to Westdale Park in Westwood. She is hoping the town engineer will have the blueprints and surveys of the various parks around town.

The idea of creating a rec center comes up again. Some ideas on its use would be for seniors, kids and the ability to rent it. It is understood this is on a wish list and a lot of money would be required. The idea would be to take the existing building at stonybrook and build up from it.

## Memorial Day Parade

DeRosa gives an update on the Memorial Day parade. He is still in talks with various military organizations trying to see who he can get to come to the parade. He has been filling out forms for fleet week and seeing how many people we can get from there. He found out all bag pipers are booked and so are the motorcycle riders from the American Legion. He still has Uncle Sam on stilts in the works. He did speak with the leaders at American Legion or want to make this parade a solemn occasion and not have fun activities. DeRosa wants to try and convenience them otherwise and also explain it's a way to get kids to the parade and convey the proper message. Floats were mentioned again however there was not much discussion around that. A subcommittee for Memorial Day parade consisting of Dewey, John and Ann was formed.

DeRosa also suggested going forward we should take notes and critique the various events so they can be done even better the next time. He also likes the idea of getting feedback from the public via surveys. The idea came to him from Bergen County who is conducting meetings and surveys regarding what the public wants in their parks.

The High School liaison report was that the coed soccer played by 10, 11, and 12 grades and followed by pizza were very successful. They will be doing this again. Patty suggested something similar for night volleyball at stonybrook. Also at stonybrook is the idea of a beer garden on Saturday nights. People will pay to come into the club and it would be held from around 5-8.

Ann mention the seniors and the rec center again saying she is really the only one left doing the lifting and carrying of the various items the seniors need at their meetings. The other active members are either ill or away. They just want a place with table, chair and an area to store items.

In the comments from the commissions, David says he is coaching basketball and sees that a few of the coaches are not doing a great job. Patty said she will go and observe and say something. She has gotten an email in the past about a coach and she spoke to them and gave them a guidebook and things got better. David also suggests there be two referees at the basketball plays off versus one.

Jenna says the PV sports teams would love a table at town day to sell PV gear. Patty thinks great idea since there is nowhere else to really get it.

DeRosa wants new shirts for the committee that can be worn at various events.

Ann motions to close the meeting and seconded by John.

Meeting adjourned, 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Anides

**Next meeting, March 2, 2017, 7:00pm**