

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION  
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**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF 2/3/2025**

**Councilman:** Clemente Osso

**Rec Director:** Dan Conte

**Attendance:** John, Ed, Greg, Sara, Dewey

**Council Member** – John Ruocco

**BA** - Mike Ghassali

Ed called meeting to order at 6:32

Pledge of allegiance

Minutes approved by John and seconded by Dewey – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

Minutes approved by John and seconded by Dewey – 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

**Public**

Chris Martin likes the new design of Memorial field. There are now additional parking spots. There is still concern over the lights for the residents near by.

**Mike Ghassali - Field Improvement Update**

- Everything on schedule, there will be additional meetings with residents. Changes to the plan will be based on the resident feedback.
- There are different financial plans discussed. These plans include improvements costing anywhere from 4M to 6M and the interest associated with it.
- Dewey worried about spending all the available money. Where will we get the money for maintenance?
- Still questions on lights. Looking into high netting for foul balls
- There will be a meeting with the police, fire and EMS to discuss the project, as well as a homeowners meeting.
- 2/11 this will be going to the Mayor and Council.
- Dewey recommended no lights due to the impact on the neighborhood.
- Dewey feels that softball is being compromised by this new plan, but Greg says all sports will benefit from the new field
- John asks if the home plate can be moved to accommodate mens softball.

- Work on the field should hopefully begin in March

#### Kevin Sullivan – President of Soccer

- Will be putting in field requests for Pre-K soccer. Stonybrook floods so will be looking for different fields for them.

#### Recreation Director update

- Winter sports in full swing and doing well. Wrestling and basketball are having good seasons.
- Dan prefers to give the winners of basketball t-shirts versus trophies.
- Spring brochure is scheduled to come out on 2/14.
- Working on a new track and field program
- There will be additional spring programming such as cooking and stem
- Summer camp updates
  - PV is open to having the camp there due to GW being unavailable
  - There will be early bird pricing
  - A pre registration flyer will go out
  - Registration will be open to Hillsdale first then Rivervale and St Johns
    - 3/11 Little Hawks and Camp Pascack
    - 3/12 Camp Adventure and Trip camp
  - Will open to Rivervale and St Johns on 3/21, Hillsdale gets 10 days
  - The Rivervale ½ day camp opens in April
  - Dan wants to remove Rivervale from camp name – motion is approved.
- 2/22 will be the Ramadan lighting ceremony at 7pm
- Egg hunt is scheduled the day before Easter. Should a show be added? Juggling?

#### Summer Concert Series

- Van Martin came by the borough hall to discuss the summer concert series
- He provided options and said he could give the town a deal
- Sara will discuss this with Dan

#### Grant update

- Looking into other grants
- Dewey wants access for all playground at at McSpirit
- Committee doesn't want the access to for all organization to think the borough isn't doing anything to help
- There is flooding concern for McSpirit
- Can grant money be used in a flood zone?
- Others believe Beechwood is a better location for this type of playground
- John Ruocco will speak to the Gross family about funds
- Dewey says the town should always have funds available for matching grants

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 by Greg and Ed.