

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
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**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF 2/5/24**

Councilman: Clemente Osso

Borough Administrator: Mike Ghassali

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

Public: Kevin D, Rob H and Ed R, Ryan S, David S

Minutes

- John called meeting to order at 6:32pm
- John made motion to approve minutes, seconded by Dewey

Mike Ghassali – the borough administrator

- The borough will be adding .5 million dollars every year to a new budget line for field improvements. We currently have 1.8 million in cash for field improvements.
- Centennial field committee met on 2/6. The first plan for this field is to make it playable. All bells and whistles will come later down the line.
- The borough will focus on other field have centennial is addressed speaks to the commission regarding their decision and the plan moving forward.
- There is a candidate selected for recreation director, borough is waiting to hear if they accepted. They went through a panel interview
- The Beechwood grant is extended to this year. Dewey wants input from Sarah and Patty.
- Community center layout finalized.

Remarks from Citizens

- Officer David Sayers came to speak to the committee about an event he is looking to have on 6/1. It is an ultra-marathon to raise money for New Jersey Special Olympics. He would like to request baseball/softball team not use the fields that weekend.
- Ryan Smith came with concerns regarding the batting cages behind memorial field. There seem to be live electrical wires in them. Professionals don't want to go in and fix this due

to the prior work there. There is a possibility to remove them and the DPW will get involved. For now the batting cages should be closed due to the danger. Ryan also brings up the sports association agreements. He states that there are rules of who can use the field when a town recreation and an out of town organization both want it. He states there are no objective rules written for when two different in town associations want the field. He suggested putting one in place. At this time the sports association say there are unwritten rules and it is handled in between coaches.

- Craig Kardell wants the fieldhouse at Memorial to be better utilized. The lights need to be fixed and an exterminator brought in. Craig will send a wishlist. Ed Grill offered up the fields in Paramus for Hillsdale to use.
- Ed R/Rob H have a laundry list of items they need completed before the fields can be playable for the HBSA. They need clay, lighting and netting fixed. Opening day has been moved to 4/6/24

Future Plans

- Sara believes that the future recreation director should not worry about new programs. They need to concentrate on fixing the fields and cleaning up whatever already exists in town.
- Rhonda wants to learn the governance structure and who is responsible for what as it is not clear to the commission. There is only finger pointing. This will be discussed.
- Rhonda wants a live google doc to list all the to-do items with a target date

Jill's recreation report

- Jill presents a report from Kevin D. Kindergarten basketball is wrapping up on 2/10. Thank you to coach Jenny and Justin Jasper. The total basketball session ends on 3/5.
 - There has been approval for pickleball to take place on the GW courts. TGA sports will be handling the program.
 - The courts will be able to be used outside of the TGA program. The town purchased equipment that the residents can use.
 - There is also the idea that the camp kids can use the courts over the summer as well. Dewey suggested pickleball courts at Stonybrook.
 - There will be a chess program in May at Beechwood park. The town will utilize the new picnic tables that have been purchased.
 - Event dates for the remainder of the year have been confirmed. Egg hunt 3/23, Memorial parade 5/27, Fall festival 10/6 (this may change), Halloween 10/26 and Tree lighting 12/9 with rain date of 12/11
 - Camp dates are 6/24-7/26. The pay structure will be updated due to previous years lack of payments.
 - The pay rate for camp counselors are being increased.
- Sara made motion to adjourn meeting at 8:15pm, seconded by John

