

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

**Councilman:** Clemente Osso

**Rec Director:** Dan Conte

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

**Council Member** – John Ruocco

Ed called meeting to order at 6:32

Pledge of allegiance

Minutes approved by Sara and seconded by Dewey

**Public**

Kristen Martin asks for details regarding the memorial field improvements and their costs. She also wants to know about the plan for an ADA compliant playground. Clemente addresses the cost of the Memorial renovation by stating we are looking to spend 5 million dollars not 7 or 8 million dollars. Clemente says he is against the lights on the field due to resident complaints as well as cost. In terms of the playground there are a lot of renovations that need to be done to make a playground ADA compliant. Dewey doesn't think there is enough money to complete the playground project. His idea is to vote down the memorial plan since it doesn't include lights and spread the money around. The money that is also being touch for this project as supposed to be for field improvements for all fields.

Dewey complains that the sports associations no longer attend the recreation meetings. He believes this was due to the mayor creating field committee. John Ruocco, **as mayor** responds to this comment by stating it is untrue and he rejected the idea of field committees.

Tom Spadafino has a lot of questions regarding the footballs field that will be put into Memorial. He has a lot of experience regarding football from years of coaching. He believes if the plan for Memorial gets approved without lights it is not worth it. Clemente responds to this by stating that the field renovations are not just about lights but about making playable fields. The fields now are not playable after it rains.

### Field Improvement Update

Council will consider all of what was discussed and make the best decision for the town

Centennial soccer field should have the construction finished in May

The HBSA is pairing up with the town to fix Knickerbocker and Cora

### Recreation Director update

- Recreation basketball has ended with t shirts given out instead of trophies.
- Wrestling has ended
- Spring brochure was released, and programs are being promoted.
- Working on softball game schedules. There is a discussion of using Montvale fields.
- Construction on Geoge White will begin in April. Ed Grill said Paramus can work with Hillsdale if they need more field time
- Hillsdale will have priory registration until 3/21. There was a lot of complaints from Rivervale families
- Summer camp registration will begin on 3/11 for Pascack/Hawks and 3/12 for Camp Adventure. Things will open at different times as to not overload the system
- A boy scout will come to the next meeting to discuss their ideas for an Eagle Scout project.
- Dan is looking into an architecture plan for the roof of beechwood bandshell.
- Van Martin will send bands for concerts. Sara wants to have another family concert this year. She will also look into other bands. Sara also requests that the concerts be rain or shine, meaning we find an indoor location if needed.
- There was a request to use the Beechwood bandshell for a 3-day play
- Dan looking to do a summer kickoff event on 5/16. There will be a beer garden and food trucks
- Ramadan event was very well attended
- Need a bunny for the egg hunt on 4/19. Dan will be getting a juggler or ventriloquist for the event.

### Grant Update

- Open space grant due on 4/28
- Dewey suggests the money goes to Beechwood playground. He doesn't think it is enough money but the letter on intent needs to be done
- There are matching grants. Dewey wants to know if we could use the field improvement fund to match open space grants

Clemente states that the BA gave an update on budgets at the last council meeting. The vote on memorial field will be delayed .

Meeting adjourned at 7:28

