

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
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**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF 3/11/24**

Councilman: Clemente Osso

Borough Administrator: Mike Ghassali

Rec Director: Dan Conte

Attendance: John, Dewey, Rhonda (left early), Ed, Sara, Jill, Greg, Ann

Public: Rob H and Ed R, Craig K, Nilesh, Drew M
Council : John Ruocco, Abby Lundy

- John called meeting to order at 6:32pm

Mike Ghassali – the borough administrator

- Introduction of Dan Conte the new recreation director. Mike also thanks Jill for filling in.
- Approval of renovations to centennial field. Looking to fix drainage to the middle field. It will cost around 50K, timeline is to start work in August. Takes about 3 months, field will then need to rest for 6 months and be able to be used next season.
- Waiting on budget approval at the end of April to see what can be done on Memorial field. Dewey requests the recreation committee gives their end user opinions before work starts. Mike will put together a meeting prebid.
- Clay has been ordered for the fields and they will be ready for 4/6.

Dan's recreation report

- There was a list shared with the DPW of things needing to get done – the fields will be ready for 4/6
- Beechwood field will be worked on, Dewey brings up the grant we still have from 2021.
- Bathrooms at Memorial are almost complete. The dugout will be power washed. An exterminator came in to address the mouse problem
- Dan will continue to work on the list of issues he was provided.

Remarks from Citizens/Sports Association

- Nikesh asks about the timeline of the Centennial renovations and doesn't understand why it can't be completed on the off season. He also requested that the sprinklers are fixed and only go off when needed. Would also like to know how the borough will make sure residents stay off the field during its rest period.
- Ed R is thankful that the clay is coming
- Rob H says opening day is 4/6 with a rain date of 4/7. Some games may start before opening day.
- Craig K is grateful for the exterminator. Football needs to get things done before the start of the season. They are working on the fieldhouse themselves and would like to be reimbursed. They feel the fieldhouse is a great building that is currently being wasted. He would also like Beechwood to be treated better in the off season. Dan and Mike respond by saying they will help get the fieldhouse and kitchen ready to use.
- Drew M wants the expectations to be clear so no one is disappointed with any results. Also says thank you to the town for searching for field alternatives during this time. Drew requests that the fields have lights.
- Meredith brings up the idea of track and field for Hillsdale residents. Dan will look into starting a program like this.

Future Plans

- Additional discussion over bandshell how the grant from 2021 can be used.
- Sara would like to see some work done on Ralph park, Dan plans to meet her there. Sara also questions where the swings Patty ordered are.
- The new camp fee structure was approved
- Dan shows a draft of a brochure he created with all recreation programs
- Dewey brings up his idea for a mailer again. Another idea of a mailer just for seniors was brought up
- Salary of recreation director currently coming from rec trust, committee wants the salary to come from the line item that other boro employees get paid from.

Jill's recreation report

- Pickleball sold out right away and there is a waiting list for adults – Ed says there should be resident and non resident fees
- Bringing the idea of a recreation logo contest, can sell apparel with new logo as a fundraiser
- All Winter programs have ended smoothly
- Event dates for the remainder of the year have been confirmed. Egg hunt 3/23, Memorial parade 5/27, Fall festival 9/29 with a rain date of 10/6

Council comments

- John Ruocco asks if there was ever a discussion of renovating more than just the middle field of centennial. He also thinks that the sports associations should put in a small percentage of money for the fields. Dewey believes that it is the towns obligations to make the fields safe.
- John questions Mike mentioning of council putting in .5 million into the budget every year.
- Clemente clarifies that this .5 is not in perpetuity but more of a catch up from years past.

Both Dan and Jill complement each other and have enjoyed working together thus far.

Minutes

- Approved by John and seconded by Dewey
- Ed made motion to adjourn meeting at 8:30pm, seconded by John