

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
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**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF 4/7/2025**

Councilman: Clemente Osso

Rec Director: Dan Conte

Attendance: Ed, Greg, Sara, Dewey, Ann. Rhonda

Council Member – John Ruocco

Sports Association – Kevin Sullivan, Soccer association

Ed called meeting to order at 6:35

Pledge of allegiance

Minutes benched due to revisions needed.

The meeting starts with multiple committee members stating that the sports associations no longer attend the recreation meetings. They all believe that a representative from each organization should be at each meeting. Especially now when major field discussions are happening. Dewey believes this change occurred due to the creation of the field committee. He thinks that the sports associations bypass the recreation committee and goes directly to the field committee. Rhonda understands the scheduling conflicts and suggests bringing in the option of attending the meeting via zoom.

Dan states that he will look into if the associations are required to attend the meeting. He believe dues to the borough holding their insurance it maybe a requirement. He has offered to but them on the agenda first in order to keep it timely for them. John Ruocco mentions that an agreement was created by Mayor Frank regarding the sports association attendance. Ed and Sara both firmly state again that the sports associations should be in attendance and this is an important issue that needs to be addressed.

Clemente mentioned the field committee was put into place for a single project (centennial) and it order to stream line items and make things move faster.

There was a large clay purchase made by the HBSA, Dewey was not happy that this decision did not come through the recreation committee. He would have had recommendations based on his

own experience. There is a discussion over whose responsibility the clay is. Is this a recreation or a DPW item? Is this considered field maintenance? In the past the HBSA has paid for the clay when it should have gone through council. These things will be discussed with the BA. Dewey also prefers to make centennial a premiere little league field and spend more money there. There was a request to have the BA at the meeting however Dan states that usually the BA does not attend these types of meetings.

Dan shows the two types of turfs that are available for the new field. There is the more common type that is made with pellets and there is a new kind that pellets are not needed. The new type comes with a shock pad and no pellets. Sara is worried the environmental committee would not be happy with the pellet type. It is stated that the pellets are no longer toxic. There are pros and cons to each type. There is additional maintenance on the original type of turf but it is proven. The new turf has a longer warranty is about 10% more expensive but very new with not a lot of data around it. Dan will be going to various locations to feel the types of turf in person.

Centennial field is still being updated, the irrigation system is already better. They are hoping the field should be ready by 5/1 based on the weather.

Lacrosse wants to come back to Hillsdale. They are currently playing out of town.

Dewey brings up the field layout. He does not think a 100-yard field is needed for football. He would like to know who makes the decision on that. Clemente explains the history of how the field has needed to increase the size over time and Craig is setting Hillsdale up for that.

The egg hunt has been moved from 9am to 10:15. This is due to the tball schedule. Soccer has pushed their games back to 12 to the kids have an opportunity to play as well as participate in the egg hunt.

Kevin Sullivan – President of Soccer

- Soccer states that they want to stay on the grass field and Soccer will need a new location in the fall due to the GW field not being available.
- Indoor soccer will face the same issue since the gym wont be available. Dan is looking into using PV.

Recreation Director update

- Spring programing is running and has great numbers
- Tennis, soccer and track are in full swing
- Softball registration is now open
- Summer camp is sold out except for Little Hawks
- Rivervale was not happy with the new summer camp registration process.
- Dan offered to run a smaller camp for them, however they turned it down
- Dan will be introducing a carnival at the end of summer camp for the kids
- Cub scouts want to do a trash pickup, looking for the right time for them.
- Summer concert has 3 bands planned, New Jersey concert band, 80's band and a country band.

- The mayor will reach out to ShopRite for a donation. Dan will reach out to various banks and hospitals.
- Dates for concerts are tentatively scheduled for 6/25,7/9 and 7/30. Still looking to secure an indoor spot for the concerts in case there is rain
- Looking to do one concert downtown.
- 5/16 will be the Welcome to Summer festival. There will be a beer garden, food trucks and a band.
- A resident would like to hold a yoga sound healing class

Grant Updates

- Dan might have found someone that can draw up a plan for the bandshell roof. No one will do the work without an architecture plan. Dan is hoping he found someone who can draw up the plan. We can then use the grant money assigned to Beechwood that is expiring soon.
- There was a letter of intent submitted for a Bergen open space grant. The grant was for a pavilion, however if approved it can be used for other things at Beechwood as well.
- Dan is looking into additional grants to update/add a handicap park.
- Mention of trying to add an ADA compliant playground to Memorial.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16