

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
380 HILLSDALE AVENUE
HILLSDALE, NJ 07
201-666-4800 X1560**

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF 5/5/2025**

Rec Director: Dan Conte

Attendance: Ed, Sara Dewey, Ann

Sports Association – Kevin Sullivan, Craig Kardell, Lou Casale

Council – John Rucco

Ed called meeting to order at 6:33

Pledge of allegiance

Open to public

Mike Ghassali the borough administrator, starts off the meeting with updates on Memorial and Centennial fields. He has stated that unfortunately people have been jumping the fence at Centennial, using the field and allowing their dogs on them. There have been 225 tons of clay delivered and spread around various fields. The beechwood bandshell roof has been removed and a new roof will be put on. Dewey supports the money being put towards beechwood. The borough is keeping 300K for matching grants they are applying for next year. We learned that there are multiple open grants, and the BA has requested that they be put on a grant tracker. Tests are currently being done at Memorial to see what type of drainage is needed for the field. The type of turf that will be selected is being discussed with the committee as well. There are two types of turf being considered. Regular and Pivot. Regular contains black pellets and comes with an 8-year warranty. The pivot turf is slightly more expensive, no pellets and has a 12 year warranty and the newest on the market. This type of turf is now being used in East Brunswick (this was visited by Dan and Clemente) Dotterweich field and expected in Harworth. A video from Rice University was played, promoting the pivot turf. The commission is leaning towards that one.

Dewey is upset that the sports association heads still did not attend the meeting. Kevin from soccer did attend the meeting. He believes that they need to be involved in the decisions being made such as the clay being used and the turf selected.

Kevin Sullivan – President of Soccer

Kevin Sullivan from the soccer association is questioning the upgrading of the lights at Centennial. The DPW is looking into fixing this as well as looking into LED lights. He also would like to know if they are allowed to have banners on the fence during the soccer season to get sponsorships.

There is a concern about the usage of centennial fields mostly by adults. It is a public park so people are allowed to use the field without permits. A way to avoid this is schedule the field so that if anyone is on it during a scheduled duration, they can be asked to leave. Kevin also states that he is happy to have the middle school use the field as GW will not be available.

Recreation Director update

- Track was a huge hit. The numbers are growing weekly. Dan hopes to grow the program and eventually compete in meets.
- STEM classes have many registered students
- Summer recreation brochure due to come out around 5/15
- Summer camp is mostly full. There were some people who pulled out.
- Summer camp locations will now be in Meadowbrook for grades 5-8 and PV for grades K-4.
- Summer concerts will take place on 6/25, 7/9 and 7/30 all at Beechwood.
- Dan is working on donations from banks and ShopRite
- The summer concert has 3 bands planned, New Jersey concert band, 80's band and a country band.
- 5/16 will be the Welcome to Summer festival. Davey's unable to attend, Cornerstone will be there.
- The egg hunt went well. Thank you, Greg, for being the bunny!
- Memorial Day ceremony and parade is scheduled

Meeting adjourned at 7:34