

**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
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**HILLSDALE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF 9/9/24**

Council Representative: Clemente Osso

Recreation Director: Dan Conte

Attendance: Ed, John, Dewey, Jill, Greg, Ann, Rhonda

Borough: none

Council Member: Robert Colletti

Public: none

- Ed called meeting to order at 6:30pm

Pledge of allegiance

Minutes

- Approved by John and seconded by Dewey

Dan's Recreation Report:

Introduced Robert Colletti as the interim Council Member replacing resigned member Abby Lundy. He said Bob will be a member of the Field Committee. Bob said he is excited to be on the Council as well as the Recreation Field Committee.

Field improvements - received unofficial bid result. They are at the lawyer's office being reviewed. DEP coming in any week for Centennial. Dakota is most reputable, lowest price. Asked engineers to have value add, not just maintenance to be successful, operating field pickup, lawn clippings etc. So we don't end up in same place in the future. They are testing the bid. Lowest bid if it crosses off everything on our list. State approved vendor.

Dewey – wants to spread more money for Memorial. Spread more at Centennial – water, electric & backstop. Thought we could do more, spend more.

Greg – Should this stay in house. It's on public website. Bid specs are available. Can you add on stuff?

Clemente – 20% add on original items. If under bid requirement \$44,000 we can purchase. This is money we already have in the capital revenue.

Greg – timeline? Clemente – start in October

Dan - HSA wants to get to Columbus Day for Soccer. Waiting on DEP permits than go.

Dan – Memorial – Colliers wants to trim wish list. Ed, John, Greg concept plan not the best. Waiting for another one. They are working on the 2nd version. Second company making a 2nd version.

Dewey – Men's Softball needs priority.

Dan – we need to add Pickleball courts too.

Clemente, Ed and Dan will collect info and pass on to Commission to review.

Dewey is concerned about transparency/input. Lights will be an issue.

Clemente - for the money, we need to use lights to get value.

Dewey - planning board wants to kill the lights. Residents need to be amenable. Hours to shut them off, quality of lights = better for residents. No Sundays, turn off earlier at night option.

Dan – Cookie Decorating classes going well. Code & Control Robo Dozer class needs 1 more sign up to run. Men's Basketball registration is opening. Pickleball – moved location from George White to Memorial basketball court. TGA running the program 4pm-6pm on Tuesdays. TGA running a Youth Golf and Tennis clinics at George White gym.

Recreation looking into entering our Program Brochure into the NJBR? contest.

Ronda – likes variety. What people want for classes. Make a questionnaire to get a sense. Robotics was too high a cost \$130 for 6 classes. Add more classes to the session. Add subsidized or free classes.

Ann – Seniors do not use email. Get copies of brochure and give to Patty to hand out at the 55+ Club.

Dewey – give a list of everything we are offering in January. QR code with questionnaire.

Dan – has set up an apparel store for Hillsdale Rec. merch. Will send link to the commission. Next week it will be live. Recreation will get a 20% kickback off each item. He added the color pink for breast cancer awareness month for October.

Clemente – make sure the product is good quality.

Dan – a lot of the merch is Under Armour while some is less expensive. He said the vendor will be at the Fall Festival. He will have samples and take orders.

Ronda – bring samples plus some to sell. Concerned about quality.

Clemente - asked if he can do stuff for camp.

John – the guys liked the Softball Championship shirts.

Dan – wants to order sweatshirts for the Commission. Needs everyone's sizes and if they want hoodie or crew neck.

Dan – next meeting come up with a wish list for the 2025 budget.

Dewey – asked about grants open matching 50/50 grants. Beechwood \$112,000 – electrical, back room, doors, handles. How much \$ goes back to non-sports parks? Maple Ave. needs a facelift.

Dan – Summer camp will not have space at George White during construction making it difficult to expand. Dewey mentioned the community center at Stonybrook would have been perfect. Building on top of existing SB building. Putting parking underneath. Chris Statile said no. Would also cost \$3.5 million. Industrial zone location won't have enough parking. Only 4 spots in parking lot.

Dan - Movie Night had 200 plus people. Had Conrad's ice cream truck selling candy and ice cream. Showed the new Wonka movie. Due to rain and lightning storm coming had to end the movie early. The equipment also could not be out in the rain. He suggested buying our own movie screen and projector and share cost with Patty who shows movies at Stonybrook 4x a year. Cost estimated at \$2500.00. Ed said we can rent the equipment out to other towns.

Dan - Summer Concert Series had 3 successful concerts. Sara was a BIG help. Each concert attracted more people as we went through the events. Had \$10,000 in donations from Shop Rite, Valley Bank & Pascack Medical Center. Almost all of it was spent.

Ann – suggested we spend less per band and have more concerts next year.

Veteran's Park and West Lot were also suggested.

Clemente suggested smaller, local bands.

Dan said Van Martin can find bands for the price we want.

Ed suggested Battle of the Bands next year.

Dan - Fall Festival – we are working really hard on it. Davey's is doing the beer garden but has their 50th Anniversary event the same weekend. We want someone to check ID's and be a bouncer that will be paid to stay there. Recreation will have a table at the event with flyers, a list of upcoming events.

Ronda wants us to review the fees, operating \$ numbers and grants. Dan will forward.

Next meeting will be in October.

Dewey made motion to adjourn meeting at 7:40pm, seconded by Ann.