

Harrington Park Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023

Call Meeting to Order Rob Hwang called the meeting to order at 8:15 with the following announcement: In compliance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of the scheduled meeting was made. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center. Copies have been mailed to the BERGEN RECORD, SUBURBANITE, and THE NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS. A copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk, and copies have been mailed to individuals requesting the same.

Roll Call

COMMISSION Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Thomas Donnelly	Via phone	
Jennifer Fischer	Via phone 8:39; in person 9:20	
Steve Howe	X	
Robert Hwang	X	
Mahdad Parsi	X	
Ashley Plescia	X	
Matthew Saland	X	
Councilwoman Chung	X	
Lara Toomin, Recreation Director	X	

Mahdad Parsi moved to open the meeting to the public, second Matt Saland. All in favor. Carried.

Several members of the public came forward to discuss pickleball. Several made comments, including feeling that tape may or may not be enough for lines.

The meeting was closed to the public.

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Members of the Recreation Commission voiced their support for pickleball courts in town. Councilwoman Chung shared that the money for the resurfacing of the Highland Field lower basketball court was allocated last year. She also shared that the company contracted for the Riverside Cooperative Paving (D&L) has extra asphalt and is willing to pave, provide nets, and stripe the court. Discussion of creating a happy medium between pickleball and basketball. Two proposals were put forth—one with one pickleball court (option 1) and one with two pickleball courts (option 2). Mahdad suggested a third option of one pickleball court with the provision of a temporary court on the basketball court (option 3).

The meeting was opened to the public.

Comments of the public included that a fence is necessary for pickleball. Councilwoman Chung said that an 8” fence is being considered. A Recreation Committee member asked whether it was a concern that the fence might be in places needed for events like Town Day. Questions came up about the possibility of a moveable fence and perhaps pickleball at the tennis court area.

Brian Hutchinson (a resident) asked about a shared leadership structure for town sports, as well as a possible affiliation with Little League. He spoke about wanting to improve facilities, painting the fieldhouse, and replacing rusted fences.

Matt Saland moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mahdad Parsi. All in favor. Carried.

Rob Hwang posed the question of having the pickleball at Highland. All Rec members were in favor. The Commission discussed the different plans.

The meeting was reopened to the public. Then Mahdad Parsi moved to close the meeting to the public, second Matt Saland. All in favor. Carried.

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Rob Hwang asked all members to voice their preference for option 1 (with the inclusion of portable nets for the basketball portion) or option 2

Vote

Jen Fischer	Option 1
Mahdad Parsi	Option 1
Ashley Plescia	Option 1
Rob Hwang	Option 1
Tom Donnelly	Option 2
Matt Saland	Option 1
Steve Howe	Option 1

The Mayor and Council will be asked to approve the recommendation of Option 1 at the next Mayor and Council meeting.

Approval of August 23 minutes Jen Fischer moved to approve the minutes, second Matt Saland. All in favor. Carried.

Town Day Recap We made \$775 in the sale of wristbands. Rob mentioned that he liked having one food vendor.

Ragamuffin Parade Ashley spoke to the Junior Women about spearheading the Ragamuffin Parade, and they said that they could not this year. It will begin at 10:00. No end time will be stated.

Park Monitoring (Prior to Meeting Each Month to Allow for Reporting at Meeting)

Pondside

Highland Field The benches are not in good shape.

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George Street The construction is impressive.

HP School

Beechwood

Don Horsey

Columbus

Grants/Budgets

Other Items/Updates

The town is considering closing part of Hackensack Avenue for a couple of hours after school on Halloween.

Basketball courts

Grants

Pickleball

Adjourn Mahdad Parsi moved to adjourn, second Ashley Plescia. All in favor.

Carried,

NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is October 11 at 8:00 pm