

Harrington Park Recreation Commission Meeting
November 8, 2023 MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hwang opened the meeting at 8:00 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.

COMMISSION Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Jennifer Fischer Resigned	—	—
Steve Howe (SH)	X	
Robert Hwang (RH)	X	
Mahdad Parsi (MP)	X	
Ashley Plescia (AP)	X	
Matthew Saland (MS)	X joined during park monitori ng	
Councilwoman Chung (JC)	X	
Lara Toomin, Recreation Director (LT)		X

Approval of minutes from October Mahdad Parsi moved to approve, second Ashley Plescia. All in favor. Carried.

Ragamuffin Parade Update Teens for Tomorrow were awesome. They were there at 8:00. They could have come later. They stayed for cleanup too. The turnout was lower in terms of people marching.

Fall and Winter Soccer (MP) Fall season is about to end. There were a lot of weather issues. There were whispers about unbalanced teams and unfairness. A ref program has been established. The soccer budget is at good levels. The indoor

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season will limit itself to 12 teams. Mahdad will be stepping down as commissioner and Rec member in March. He has documented everything. He highly recommends creating a small working group. RH shared that LT would like to set up a Zoom call to discuss soccer. Everyone thanked MP for all of his work.

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

Pondside SH asked about the possibility of offering Pondside space for Raiders flag football game. Discussion (but there are no lights) and need to make sure space is available. JC shared that there was a meeting with Norwood Recreation Director and a Council person. They wanted HP to pay a large amount of money for the Raiders and for field use. JC shared with the Rec Commission that it is not legal to create shared services with an independent organization. Norwood has been asked to create a proposal and present it. Discussion of what HP could do to help instead. Perhaps we could offer field space without fee.

Highland Field JC will check with Neglia about estimate for backstops, etc.

George Street AP wrote out the two playground pieces that need to come out. Neglia will create a bid package. The project will probably exceed \$44,000. JC shared that there a temperature-related issue with the tennis courts. A meeting will be set with the engineer. Discussion about who should be allowed to use the tennis courts and the lock system. The permit fee for residents will be \$50. The Recreation Commission has the authority to set the fees. Discussion of fees for trainers. Also, maybe there is an app that would allow people to sign up for times.

HP School MS explained the days/times he has requested school times. MS and MP are coordinating times. MS brought up that kids should not be playing sports if they are suspended. He asked if Rec has authority to keep them from playing. Discussion. Rec does not have to get involved in that.

Beechwood nothing

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Don Horsey nothing

Columbus nothing

Grants/Budgets The basketball paving did not get done. The paving company is not responding. The Riverside Co-op expires this year. Discussion about bids. JC asked MS to check with the CFO. Brian Hutchinson suggested getting volunteers to paint the fieldhouse.

Re Waterline going to the middle and far field—JC will look into.

Discussion of how to best coordinate with the DPW.

Discussion of field maintenance at Highland

Discussion of money in various accounts

Discussion of inviting sports commissioners to a Rec meeting

Other Items/Updates

Lauren Pribila is being appointed to Rec. There is another opening at present.

Open to the Public

The person in the audience suggested giving vendors credit for part of the fee for next year.

Re tennis court—is there any consideration for kids playing without parents. Maybe there could be registration required but no fee. He also asked about the occasional player. Discussion of who enforces use. SH said that some towns have everyone use fobs.

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What is being purchased at George Street? Two pieces of playground equipment will come out.

Pondside Park—the visitor said that the pond is terrible and needs to be dredged. Other towns have received grants to dredge.

Paving and lines for pickleball—will be next spring. The permanent pickleball court will be painted with the traditional colors.

Adjourn MP moved to adjourn. There was a second, but I could not hear. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Francis

Recreation Commission Secretary

NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is December 13 at 8:00 pm