

**Board of Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2019**

The Regular meeting of the Board of Recreation Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 in the Community Center.

Chairman Coiley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone who attended the meeting said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hanover Township Youth Hockey Acknowledgements: From 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. the Recreation Commissioners recognized the accomplishments of the Hanover Township Youth Hockey's participants for a successful season.

At 7:30 p.m. the Recreation Commissioners moved into the meeting room and Chairman Coiley took attendance. Present were Commissioners: G. Salese, R. Brueno, P. Monteverdi, P. Berkenkamp, Chairman J. Coiley, Committeeman Mr. Mihalko, Tom Quirk, Program Coordinator/ Assistant to the Superintendent (PC/AS) , and Supt. D. Brennan.

Commissioner M. Giorgio joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Chairman Coiley read the following statement: Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act by posting written notice of the meeting at the Municipal Building, 1000 Route 10 and posting such notice to the following newspaper: Morris County Daily Record and filing same with the Township Clerk.

MINUTES AND VOUCHERS: Commissioner Berkenkamp made a motion to approve the vouchers from the February 14, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Brueno seconded the motion. All in favor.

Commissioner Monteverdi made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19 2019 meeting. Commissioner Brueno seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: John Scagliozi, 8 Lionel Road, Whippany. Mr. Scagliozi was at last month's meeting on February 19th to comment about plans for the playground and turf field at Brickyard. Mr. Scagliozi asked the Recreation Commissioners if there were any updates since the last meeting. Mr. Mihalko said those items were in his report and asked to jump ahead on the agenda with his report in order to address Mr. Scagliozi's questions.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Mihalko shared a conversation he had with Brian Foran and Jack Koba about the existing playground. Mr. Foran and Mr. Koba have serious concerns about the viability of the existing

playground and feel it may have to be shut down. While it's a beautiful area it has outlived its lifespan and Mr. Mihalko notes it is now 5 years beyond the 10 year lifespan. Mr. Mihalko reviewed options including potentially moving it closer to the pool. He noted there are several good reasons to move the playground to that location, such as proximity to the pool and having a gate, as well as being closer to the building it would be in range of camera surveillance. He also noted Dave Leo, Township Engineer, has a map as to where it is believed the underground tunnels are located and Mr. Leo believes there are little if any in that area. It is outside the power company's right of way. Mr. Mihalko further stated he understands Mr. Scagliozi's hesitation and also let him know how much all he has done and continues to do is appreciated by all. However, the opinion is that moving the playground would create a safer area for the young children. The gazebo could be moved to the new area as would the bricks and any kind of monuments. Both agreed to discuss the best way to handle the gazebo.

Mr. Scagliozi said he also wants safety first, but he has fond memories of the playground being community built and everyone working together to get it done. Mr. Scagliozi thanked the Commissioners for the information and clearing up his questions. He generously offered his assistance with the new playground.

Mr. Mihalko noted that 200K is being put into the budget from open space to replace the playground.

RETURN TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Terri Baird, 180 Parsippany Road, Whippany ask the Commissioners if once the plans are decided on the new football field if there will be time for public comment. Mr. Mihalko answered yes.

Ms. Baird would like the Agenda for the Recreation Commission meetings posted on the Township's website. Supt. Brennan said it could be done.

Ms. Baird asked if since the last meeting anyone has gone to Brick Yard and walked the trail to see it's condition. Specifically, to the end of the trail where the trees were down. Chairman Coiley explained the Township has already said they will be telling people not to use the back of the trail until it has been cleared. Ms. Baird stated she doesn't feel a sign will help. She said she believes the process to get the work started (waiting for bids, etc.) and actual completion of the work will take about a year. She feels strongly it is a safety hazard and continues to press the Commissioners to take a look and see for themselves what she refers to as a "devastation area" it has become. Mr. Mihalko agrees to walk the trail.

Ms. Baird asked how often the football field is used. Supt. Brennan explained they were used for games during football season, lacrosse season, concerts, etc. and estimates about 30 times

a year. Ms. Baird stated the field looks beautiful. Chairman Coiley explained it's because of the limited use. He further explains there is currently a tremendous problem scheduling football and soccer and they are always looking for fields. Ms. Baird asked if there was another location where trees wouldn't have to come down. Her current concern is that the town keeps building and now there are very limited areas of natural space. Commissioner Brueno said it was his opinion that the Brick Yard was the best location choice for a turf field because there is ample parking, a bathroom, and a snack stand. He feels there is less of an encroachment to turf the Brick Yard than anywhere else.

Ms. Baird thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Dan Cassero, 5 Manger Road, Cedar Knolls, stated he had several issues of concern. The first is the San Marco property. Although he acknowledged he hasn't seen any plans as to where the ball field is going he is reminding the Commissioners that when the property was sold it was promised as well as part of the restrictions that there were to be no ball fields. He stated he has reminded the Committee as well, and at some point he would like to see a plan.

Mr. Mihalko said he read the letter from Mr. Cassero and according to the letter it states "other than recreation purposes." Mr. Mihalko said that this was a recreation purpose. Mr. Cassero went on to explain that the Township asked to have the language in the deed restrictions changed slightly in order to obtain Morris County funding. Mr. Cassero said it is necessary to dig deeper than the letter. Mr. Mihalko asked to clarify that it was not the County that would restrict the use, but the deed itself.

Mr. Mihalko stated that regardless of what the Township does they would like the San Marco family's input and blessing. Moving onto the issue of the field Mr. Mihalko explained there is currently \$325K available for the multi-purpose turf field, and another \$300K from open space. As he sees it there are currently 3 main issues, a) where it physically goes, 2) cost, and 3) time frame. Mr. Leo has obtained some prices and just turfing the field will cost \$825K. In addition Mihalkko explained there are some issues with that location such as the field cannot be expanded, there could be permitting issues because it is close to the water, it is quicker to do an existing field and obviously less site work. Time frame is approximately 18 mos. – 2 years and we would be down a field for that time. If we were to go up top and had the money to get started it would probably only take about an additional six month. Time wise it would be longer to do another field, but we still have use of the existing field. Mr. Mihalko explained why he feels it would be better to add a second field but said it comes down to funding. Mr. Mihalko said he asked the committee about short-term funding. The Committee responded they could consider it.

Mr. Cassero questioned if it was the best use of funds to build more fields and asked about the possibility of using the high school fields. A lengthy discussion followed outlining pros and cons.

Will Hegarty, 5 Thea Place, Whippany inquired about the status of his proposal submitted in November, 2018 to have a professional dive in the Bee Meadow Pond. He explained he is an experienced professional diver and his team would consist of other professional divers. They would like to do an exploratory dive to map and take pictures at the bottom of the pond which he believes is 77 feet deep. Mr. Mihalko told him the Recreation Commissioners approved the dive and he brought Mr. Hegarty's proposal to the Township Committee whose members were also excited, but have some safety concerns. Mr. Mihalko said he would reintroduce the request at the next Township meeting.

There were no further comments from the public.

RETURN TO TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

Playground at Veterans Field: Mr. Mihalko reported construction of the playground at Veterans field will begin tomorrow. Weather permitting it will take approximately 3 days to complete.

Budget: Mr. Mihalko also reported on the budget meeting held in January advising the Commissioners that municipal tax will increase by 1.67%. They voted to keep open space the same. With regard to the Recreation budget, it was voted to put \$75K, for the next four years, towards a bathroom/concession stand at Veterans field. With some help from Hanover Township Little League the goal is to have \$400K over the next four years.

Playground at Brick Yard: Plans were reviewed for placement of the playground at Brick Yard field.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supt. Brennan shared the invitation she sent to the family of Pat Sages for the presentation of Pat Sages Leadership award to the winner of the Hanover Township Basketball Leadership Award to be presented at the next Recreation Commission Meeting on April 9th.

ENGINEERING REPORT:

Bee Meadow Pool Lifeguard Stand Installation- Phase II: RFQ's due March 21, 2019.
Installation required to be complete by May 10, 2019

Bee Meadow Pool Dual Slide: Under design and anticipated installation in the fall of this year.

Basketball Court: Completion of plans and specifications anticipated by the beginning of April with installation this summer.

Malapardis Park Tennis Court Resurfacing: Completion of specifications anticipated by the beginning of April with installation this summer.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Pat Sages Basketball Leadership Award: The Pat Sages Basketball Leadership Award will be presented at the April 9th Recreation Commission Meeting. The winners of this year's award are Katie Steinberg and Aakash Karlekar.

Basketball End of Season Wrap-Up: Quirk reported a good season and thanked Jay Hersh as well as Matt Millichap for a great job. Equipment return is going well this year

Girls Lacrosse: Florham Park was approached by East Hanover to join our league. If the relationship continues next year there would have to be a discussion about expectations. Currently there are 6 registrants for grade level 5-6 and 23 registrations for grade level 7-8. Although registration is good we only have one coach for all teams. Our coach will attend all games because she has the certifications but she will need help with practice. Coincidentally our coach was approached by Jerry O'Loughlin from Building Blocks Lacrosse and offered to come in to help out at practice. He was at the first practice last night and did an outstanding job. He agreed to come back. Supt. Brennan and Quirk discussed the possibility of having him do a Lacrosse Clinic during Spring Break. It would depend on cost.

The first game of the season is Wednesday, April 10th.

Spring Permits: Spring and summer permits have been approved.

Bee Meadow Swim Team: Quirk and Brennan met with the swim team board and discussed preliminary dates. They will contact the pool manager to confirm availability. The board will be at camp registration on May 4th, however they may start registration earlier than that date.

Go Fund Me: The tremendous response to the "Go Fund Me" for Pat Sages AEDs in the parks will allow for defibrillators in other areas that don't already have one. Commissioner Brueno suggested working with the Board of Education as their fields do not have them.

Quirk reported to the Commissioners that the expiration dates are coming up on the pads for the AEDs. The cost is \$1,000.00 for all 10 units. Deputy Mayor Ferramosca will approach the family to see if they would be open to funding the next set of pads.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

King Kong On Broadway: Due to hazardous driving conditions on the two prior scheduled dates, King Kong has once again been rescheduled to Saturday, May 11th.

Pool Membership Update: Supt. Brennan passed out a sheet with the comparison of registrations to date as compared to 2018. She pointed out registration numbers are all very preliminary as registrations have just started.

Summer Employment: Supt. Brennan starts interviewing for camp counselors beginning tomorrow. She also reported there are applications coming in for lifeguards at the Bee Meadow Pool.

OLD BUSINESS: Tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Date Change April Recreation Commission Meeting: The date of the next Recreation Commission Meeting has been changed from Tuesday, April 16, 2019 to Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Name Basketball Courts in Honor of Pat Sages: Chairman Coiley made a motion to name the forthcoming basketball courts at Malapardis Park in memory of Pat Sages. Commissioner Berkenkamp seconded the motion. All in favor.

Scenic Selfie Spots: Supt. Brennan attended a marketing workshop at the NJRPA convention about getting people into your parks. One idea she particularly liked was to designate selfie spots to draw people into the parks. Our local girl scouts are looking for a project and have agreed to visit the parks and take photos of themselves to be advertised as “Scenic Selfie Spots”.

Shakespeare in the Parks: Supt. Brennan was approached by Sierra Miliziano, who is running the summer drama camp about having Shakespeare in the Park at Central Park. They will be putting on Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night on Friday, June 21.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, Commissioner Berkenkamp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Salese seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Schill