

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Minutes – November 2, 2011

Next Meeting: January 18, 2012 7pm

Minutes from the Sept. 7th meeting were distributed by email and are posted on the township's website under meetings and agendas.

In Attendance: Liz Ouimet, Bert Barrier, Alex Roman, Hannah Marshall, Jim Farley, Mary Gallagher, Brigitte Geiger, Jim Lynch, Jill Daggon

- Committee Reports:

- MOHS Student Liaison: Hannah Marshall – *The Fall Play is scheduled for 11/18-19 "Lost in Yonkers". Check the MOHS website or call the school for details. There is a rummage sale at the high school also from 8am-4pm. The Jr Class Bonfire at Drakes Brook Park went well. Jim L mentioned that there was a lot of administrative support for the event and it went very smoothly. It took a bit of extra effort to get wet pallets to ignite, but when they caught fire – it was impressive. There was a strong MOPD presence, there were shuttle buses from the high school to the park. Jim commended the volunteers, parents, athletes and others for a well run event.*
- Open Space: Jim Farley – *will send along information by email*
- Parks, Buildings & Grounds: Jim Lynch –
 - *At TBP, the AVM flag burning vault will have a pit and grate installed behind it, to better facilitate proper burning of flags. It will also be able to be used for skating events at the pond as a place for a warming fire. Benches will be installed around pond too.*
 - *Jim spoke with Matt from Petillo about the work needed to put in parking at the new LAX field at TBP. They will be able to put in about 125 parking spaces along the wood line along Flanders Road, between the entrance and exit points. The pad for the concession stand will be prepped. Still need weather cooperation and manpower to make the trenches for water access and electric service from the baseball restroom building.*
 - *The October snow obviously impacted sports associations' use of fields. Winterization of facilities as weather and manpower allow. Gates will be installed at the entrance/exit of TBP to prevent cars from entering during snowstorms or other times when the park is closed. Parks are not a high priority location for snow removal during storms. This last storm had many cars stuck, which tied up assets and resources during the storm.*
 - *Flanders Park restrooms are closed and will be winterized.*
 - *2012 budgets are being prepped and submitted. Jim has submitted a capital request to have the restroom buildings painted. The sports associations that use fields have agreed to continue collect and donate \$10 per player per season to provide funds for a full time parks staff for 3 seasons of the year. He plan is then that the township would make budget plans to fund the position for winter. (Alex asked about the flag that needs to be removed from the flagpole at the baseball fields. Jim has not yet been given the key to access it.)*
 - *At the morning Mutual Facilities and Sports Associations' meeting, it became apparent that we still need more practice fields. Jim will look at the Turkey Brook Greenway (former B&H property) open area that already has some parking available. The Middle School multi-purpose field will be marked for lacrosse in the spring for the freshman team. Discussion was held concerning other properties the township has, that have lease agreements with local farmers. The farmers need to be informed by September that the lease will be terminated, to allow sports field development. The committee passed a motion to send a letter to Administration recommending the termination of the lease agreement on the property on Smithtown Road (Simsbury-Newfane property), so work can be done in the fall of 2012 to prepare the fields as practice fields for sports.*
- Board of Ed/Mutual Facilities: Liz Ouimet –
 - *Liz encouraged Jill to copy her on emails going to the BOE, so she can follow-up.*
 - *Mary asked about getting approval from the Superintendent concerning the electronics recycling program proposal that was sent in September. It was recommended that Mary attend a BOE meeting. Liz mentioned that it will probably be up to each school principal to decide if they want to participate. Each school will need to have a designated person to check on the box receiving cell phone, etc. Brigitte offered to be the pint person for the high school.*
 - *Community Pass has been working well for the BOE with getting forms to families, etc.*
 - *Jill was reminded to think about Project Graduation Locations to be passed along to the Parents' Club.*
- Mt. Olive Senior Club: Ron Perry:- *no report*

New Business:

- Sponsor Signs at Township Fields: MOBSA – Dave Jeska – *No presentation. Discussion was briefly held concerning issues that were brought up in 2006 when Jack Kroff/Babe Ruth Baseball asked to put up sponsor signs at Russ Nagle. Discussion was held concerning the possibility of the Rec Dept taking over the coordination of the sign production, to ensure consistent design, etc. Recreation would then retain a % of the donation. Maintenance and*

replacement signs (due to vandalism) is an issue. Considering this as a Public/Private partnership as a fundraising source for their materials needed at parks/fields.

- Committee member Recommendations(s) for 2012: Need to fill Melissa's remaining 1 year term. Don, Ron & Mary's term's expire 12/31/11. The RAC may have 4 members that they have selected on the committee. Bert & Jim are RAC recommendations, so we can recommend 2 people to fill the 4 vacancies. If we have suggestions for the new mayor, we can pass those along. John Ferrante offered to serve last fall, after recommendations were submitted. Mary asked to be recommended to be reappointed. Don & Ron were not present. Jill will ask them if they want to be re-appointed. Alex suggested Aaron Allen may be interested in serving. Jill will send out an email with the interested parties and members can send back their votes for recommendations. Then she will pass along the recommendations and other suggestions to Administration.
- Meeting schedule for 2012 – The dates for 2012 have been approved: 1/18, 3/14, 5/2, 9/5 and 11/7
- Special Events planned for 2012: PowerWheels Races in April & May Thursday afternoons, Fairy and Pirate Festival on 5/19; Sunday Flea Markets in June, July & August (6/30, 7/28, 8/25) Green Summer Fest at Vasa (Sun 5), Taste of the Highlands (maybe Tuesday 10/16)
- Other: (from Dan Weiss, not present): Interested in bringing the carnival or other large twp event to Turkey Brook. Discussion was held about Utilizing Turkey Brook Park fully. Jim would like to see the MOPD PAL fishing Derby be moved to the irrigation pond. (The PAL Pond is usually choked with algae and undergrowth. It takes quite a bit of parks staff man hours to prep the location.) MOPD is considering hosting a "Turkey Trot" 5K race. We should be able to generate rental income from fields to help provide funding for the Recreation Dept.
- Jim also mentioned that 2013 will be the 10th year Anniversary for Turkey Brook Park. We should start planning now, to raise funds to have a spectacular anniversary event. The sports groups that use the park to help, they could have games/activities on their fields, perhaps it could coincide with the Mt Olive Week Carnival in 2013. Ideas were discussed concerning the 10th Anniversary. Council could make a proclamation to the people of the township, recognizing their support for 10 years. A budget line item/dedicated account could be set-up and budget funds earmarked for the event. Brigitte offered to sell commemorative t-shirts. Maybe donation cans could be set-up in participating stores, at games and the schools. Jim & Jill will look over the Opening Day festivities notes from 2003. We could honor the key people involved in the development & support of the park, as well as politicians, etc. We'll need a stage. We could set-up a link on our website for donations for the event, add to "shopping cart". Ask the sports groups to do the same with their on-line registration process. The committee passed a motion to generate a letter of Recommendation from the RAC to the Council to endorse/support this special event.
- Recreation New Logo – We have chosen a new logo to reflect that we incorporating enrichment and other educational programs that had been offered through Community School. The background color will change for specific uses – such as camp will have a yellow background and red lettering (or the reverse) and the beach can have a teal background, etc.

Old Business

- Taste of the Highlands event highlights: About 150 people attended and 13 restaurants, 5 sponsors. Chamber of Commerce helped to publicize the event and 2 members stayed for clean-up. 2012: No Kids' Taste. Change to a Tuesday or Thursday evening, not Columbus Day.
- Community School – Update: We are in the process of hearing back from 80 instructors who provide 130 courses. A press release and Flyer insert has been sent to Mt Olive News for publication in 11/16 issue.
- Viridian Fundraiser – moving slowly forward.
- Electronics Fundraiser update – Mary Gallagher: Letter to Dr Reynolds
- Other:

Committee meetings:

- Mutual Facilities & Sports Associations' Committee – was held at 7am 11/2. Notes from the meeting will be sent to the sports associations and RAC.

Continuing Concerns

- Suggestions for future programming, facilities, special events, Trips –
- Community Service recommendations for Winter
- Recommendations for Agenda – please e-mail me!

Special Events & Trips –

- 11/5 Sister Act and Memphis Broadway shows \$113
- 12/3 NYC Holiday Shopping and Lights Tour \$35
- 12/22 Trans-Siberian Orchestra at the Prudential Center 8pm show \$103

Enclosures:

RAC Minutes (blue)

2012 Calendar dates for review (pink)

Electronics Fundraiser letter (Green)

Recreation & Community School press release and Mt Olive News Winter programs insert (yellow)