



Brecksville Recreation Commission September 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order by Councilwoman Redinger at 7:30pm. Please note this meeting was held in person for members of the Commission, and the Recreation Department, and was live streamed for on Facebook live for the public to hear.

Roll Call

Members present: Firestone, Hanna, Kern, Lazaridis and Redinger

Absent: Boulware, Moleski

Also present: Mayor Hruby, Jim Kolesar, Jamie Mewhinney, Meg English, and Carolyn Jatsek

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Redinger, seconded by Kern to dispense with the reading of the August 23, 2021 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor/Director Report:

The new Recreation Director will be here soon, and we are looking forward to her coming. A resident had emailed regarding potential lights on the City Hall Tennis Courts. The resident spoke with Ron, and the City is getting pricing for the project and will bring it to City Council to see if there is money available in the budget. The project has been in the budget for this year, but got cut at the last minute due to budget constraints. The existing poles and bases have been removed in the past week. The Recreation budget is looking to have funds to make some repairs to some of the fields next year, as well as purchase more fitness equipment, and some work down at Stadium Drive.

There will be some additions to the Recreation Department staff in the future. The City is looking to add a second Fitness Coordinator, a 3rd Athletic Staff Member to run the field house and a full time front desk/Administrative Assistant for the new Recreation Director. The City is looking to take possession of the new Field House around the end of May, and will begin using it fairly soon after. It won't take many employees to run it on a daily basis, but when there are tournaments going on up there, more employees, including some concession workers will be needed.

Both the Aquatic's and Fitness areas are looking for part time staff members. The City is looking to discount or waive the fees for the Lifeguarding class for anyone who commits to working for the City once they get certified. We are hoping that, and wage increases will help us grow our staff to have adequate staff numbers.

The school has reached out to the City looking for additional time on our fields, and use of Stadium Drive.

Thanks to everyone again to everyone for the successful, but short summer pool season. Both the pool attendance and concession sales exceeded our expectations. One item that Commission will need to discuss in the near future will be the usage of the field house. Who will be allowed to use it, how will the usage be assigned and what will we be charging for the usage.

Council Representative Report:

City Council recently approved \$19,955 for the purchase of replacement fitness equipment. It included 4 total body ellipticals, 2 lower body ellipticals, a recumbent stepper and a rower. This equipment was purchased with funds from Corporate Memberships. The new equipment is replacing equipment that was originally purchased in 2005 and 2006.

Last meeting we discussed Corporate Membership, and we have an update on those numbers. Corporate Memberships began in the summer of 2012 as a pilot program for Lubrizol, JLL, BF Goodrich, and Promerus. In 2013 it was expanded to all Brecksville Companies, and in 2019 it was expanded to include not just people who work in Brecksville, but also their immediate family. In the past 4 years, 2018 was the peak number for corporate memberships with 186 members, down to this year with only 32 members. There are still a lot of employees working from home instead of coming into the Brecksville offices, therefore not joining the Community Center. The City plans to strongly market the Corporate Membership again for 2022 as businesses are starting to bring their employees back to the offices.

There was an email going back and forth from Meg English regarding a way to make it easier to access or prevent foul balls on Fields E & F. It began with a request to trim back the brush on the edge of the woods up along those fields so the access to the woods would be more accessible to retrieve the balls, however that is not an option. The second thought was to put up nets along the 1st and 3rd base lines to try and stop the foul ball from leaving the fields, but those nets can be very expensive. The latest thought was to place a snow fence at the edge of the brush to catch any foul as they roll down towards the woods. Although this would not stop all the balls as some would go over, it would help, and is much less expensive. No final decision has been made as of yet, more to come.

Athletic Report:

Youth Basketball registration is currently going on through mid-October, but our numbers are down slightly. If numbers remain low, we may partner up with Broadview Heights for grades 1st & 2nd if we do not have enough for an in-house league. 3rd and 4th grade numbers are lower, but the Department is working on promoting it through Facebook, and the school PSO signs and email blasts. Travel basketball tryouts are also going on over the next couple weeks, and some will register for Rec after tryout results are posted.

The Youth Volleyball League is underway. We ended up with 9 3rd & 4th graders, and 12 5th & 6th graders for our first year of this league play. The teams have been practicing for the past couple of weeks, and had their first set of games this weekend at the Community Center. The games went well and there were many fans in the stands. Adult Coed Volleyball will begin this Sunday evening with 5 teams playing weekly double headers, and wrap with tournament play in November.

Men's Basketball League registration will begin on October 1st. We will offer leagues for 35+, 50+, and 60+ again this year. We are hoping to get about 20-26 teams again this year, and have been receiving lots of inquiries about the league. Games will begin after the Holidays in January.

The Athletic Department recently hired 2 new Building Supervisors for Blossom and Fields. They are in the process of being trained to help build the staff numbers up. A few other staff members will become available again late October once football season wraps up. The City has been posting these jobs on Facebook and on the City website through the payroll supervisor.

CVYO Report:

Many of the travel softball and baseball teams are holding fall practices and some are participating in fall leagues or tournaments. The teams are not hosting any games, or tournaments, just some scrimmages. We have been trying to consolidate the field usage to Blossom if there are enough fields available to simplify things with the reduced staff so all activities are on one campus. Some of the teams have been utilizing lights to help assist in the scheduling as well. Both football and soccer are up and running. Basketball was able to secure gym time from the schools again this year. Tryouts will be going on in the next week or two.

Run 4 Your Life was able to donate \$2000 again this year to Kick it for Cancer. The Home Run Race raised about \$5000 again this year. In addition to the donation toward Kids Cancer, the money also helps fund annual scholarships for the High School.

Old Business:

Corporate Membership updates and Basketball usage of the school gyms were addressed in other reports. The Recreation Department is hosting BooVille on Sunday October 24th from 1-4pm at the Community Center. The Department has asked if the members of the Recreation Commission would like to serve as judges for the Costume Contest. The Contest begins at 3:30pm, and we would like for them to be at the event by 3:15pm.

New Business:

A question was brought to the Mayor about when the members of Recreation Commission might be able to get a tour of the new Field House to see the progress. Hopefully after another month or so, it would be at a point when the Commission could go and see the progress.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Redinger and seconded by Hanna to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek