MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2012 MEETING OF THE BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission Chairman Brian Stucky called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Roll Call was taken. Members present: Pat Barth, Candice Beaver, Charles Cassaro, Don Lastoria, Recreation Commission Council Representative Rex Mack, Nanci Schlabig and Brian Stucky. Also present: Mayor Hruby, Mike Harwood, Recreation Director Tom Tupa and Clerk of Recreation Commission Kelly McNeill, Athletic Director Pete Kormos, CYVO President Meg English, Blossom Hill Advisory Committee Chair Joe Kosek, Blossom Hill Advisory Members Tim Harwood and Ken Ganley. Brecksville resident also present: *See attached*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2012

A motion was made by Recreation Commission Council Representative Rex Mack and seconded by Don Lastoria to dispense reading of the minutes and to approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Hruby reported the Blossom Hill Master Plan Surveys are slowly coming in and are being compiled by Carolyn Jatsek and Jinny Farr. There has not been much activity on the Blossom Hill project other than getting the site prepared for the legal issues (topography & wetland).

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Council Representative Rex Mack reported there were a few items relevant to the Blossom Hill Property that were recommended by the Utilities Commission and further approved by City Council at the last meeting. Councilman Harwood, chairman of the Utilities Commission reported the following three things were approved for the City Engineer:

1. **Staking of property and putting targets on the ground for aerial mapping**
2. **Proposals for an aerial flyby (aerial mapping)**
3. **Delineation of the wetlands**

Mayor Hruby added, anything that has a pink and white striped piece of fabric indicates "wetland areas" and just because these are wetlands, does not mean this area cannot be developed.

Councilman Harwood also reported the stakes across from the soccer field are for the storage facility building (in the process of finalizing design) which has been put into this year's budget. They will be staking for various locations to make the roads work and will also be taking in to consideration this Blossom Hill Master plan.

Councilman Harwood stated he went to the BSA meeting and presented the status of the lights. All the transformers have been installed by CEI (100% complete). The design for the lights and the light poles are done and are waiting for Council's approval. Mayor Hruby believes by the next Council meeting the lights can go out for bids. Three weeks after this, Council should be able to accept the bids and the lights should be installed by the middle or end of May.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Recreation Director Tom Tupa reported City Council approved the installation of new countertops throughout the Community Center. Delaware Builders will be starting the installation the third week of April and will take approximately two weeks to complete.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chair Brian Stucky reported on last month's meeting and stated tonight's discussion will be in regards to the Field House. Per some residents' requests, Stucky passed out and discussed the drawings of other area field houses in the area. Those field houses being:

1. **North Royalton**
   -25,000 sq. foot steel structure
   -used for lacrosse, football and baseball
2. **Independence**
   -48,000 – 50,000 sq. ft. building
   -used for 8-10 different types of sporting activities
3. **Proposed Blossom Hill Field House**

Nanci Schlabig asked if the operating expenses of these facilities are known. Brian Stucky responded by saying "no" those expenses are not known; however, it will be up to our administration to look into the operating costs of the proposed facility, not the Advisory Committee or Recreation Commission.

Joe Kosek stated the new field house could be rented out to generate revenue during "off peak" times. Brian Stucky agreed but also stressed the importance of first, meeting the needs of the City of Brecksville's recreational programs and the community, second meeting the needs of the travel programs (basketball, baseball, football and soccer) and finally allowing rentals if there is additional time.

Brian Stucky reviewed the participation numbers from the last Recreation Commission Meeting so the Commission could see need numbers of kids/adults that are utilizing and could be utilizing these additional facilities.

- **<u>Recreational Teams</u> (88 teams between Youth, Pee Wee & Men's Basketball)**
  Athletic Director Pete Kormos stated Independence's Field House is a beautiful facility. He likes the overall layout of the building, the telescoping basketball hoops and the overall flow of the facility. He noted there are some areas which he feels can be improved upon. Those being:

  -the heating & cooling systems
  -flooring quality
  -size between basketball courts (too close together)

  Nanci Schlabig asked Kormos if he feels, based on pure numbers, four basketball courts are needed. Kormos said he feels all four courts would definitely be used. This would allow the recreational leagues to be able to have 2-3 practices throughout the week versus the one a week that they typically get. It would also prove valuable for increasing the practice times for the 88 travel teams. Currently these groups have to spend additional money to rent practice facilities. Mike Harwood stated this would not only satisfy the program needs but it would also relieve the stress on the Community Center, allowing for more "open" gym time for its residents.

  Commission Member Don Lastoria asked if the new field house could be used for shelter in case of emergency. Mayor Hruby said the Human Service Center and Community Center are historically used for places of shelter in case of a disaster. But yes, if needed, the field house can be used.

  Brecksville Resident Beth Coronel asked if the City has considered renovating the school at Blossom, making it more functional for the community. Mayor Hruby stated that building is not in good enough condition to do that.

- **<u>Lake Erie Basketball League/Hotshots League</u> (Tim Harwood reported there are 120 total participants)**
  ***620 total participants (Rec & Travel)**

- **<u>BTBA</u> (Meg English reported there are 172 participants)**
  ***Meg English stated this number remains pretty constant since the BTBA has an agreement with the City allowing only one team per age group. English believes the City of Brecksville needs to be proactive in trying to**

meet the needs of the community. She cautions the city about relying on the usage of school facilities due to the ongoing financial problems of the school district. English said "for us to lock in our programs and the things we want our children to do, based on the schools keeping their doors open I feel is not a wise decision." She also reminded the commission, if there is a snow day and the school is closed, then the school is not open for practices. Finally, she stated there are many times practices are cancelled at the last minute because of school evening events.

Brian Stucky reported there is a new agreement between the BTBA and the BBHHS. The BTBA pays approximately $65/hour to use the High School gyms. (Sundays 9am-6pm/November through-April). Of this six hour block, four hours are used for baseball and 2 hours for soccer) The BTBA also uses Fielders Choice and The Dugout for batting/pitching practices. The Dugout charges $55 for 1 ½ hour sessions. Many of the BTBA teams have used the North Royalton Field House. English stated the BTBA has tried to be flexible over the years and uses the stage at Blossom, for example, for pitching practice. English feels the turf field that is being proposed at the proposed Blossom Field House would definitely accommodate their needs.

Brecksville resident Beth Coronel asked if there would be an opportunity for BBHHS students to use the proposed Blossom Hill Field House for practices. Both Rex Mack and Mayor Hruby stated only if there was a documented agreement between the two groups.

Mayor Hruby emphasized that there are also those residents who are not involved in organized sports but who would still use the facility. Mayor Hruby believes if you build it they will come. The following are examples of just a few activities that could be added:

- **Men's pick up basketball league (which they organize on their own)**
- **Adult tennis league**
- **"new leagues" (i.e.: flag football (kids & adults), adult soccer, men's & women's volleyball leagues)**
- **open time to use the turf (i.e.: if a child wants to practice punting)**
- **Zumba class or any other large exercise class that can be done on a basketball court**
- **running, walking**

Mayor Hruby said what we have now is not meeting the needs of our community. In terms of size, the mayor believes the Commission should determine what the needs of the community are and what can be developed. Maybe the City of Brecksville needs something bigger than other cities because there are more needs and there is room to grow our programs which will require more space. Mayor Hruby feels the city needs to look to the future. "We have one good shot at the Blossom property and we should try to get the best and the most that we can get out of it within reason, meeting the needs of the community."

Recreation Director Tom Tupa added he was just at the Cloverleaf facility over the weekend where they have four basketball courts in their Field House. Tupa reported all four courts were being utilized. Two were being used for two different basketball practices, one was being used for an open shoot and the fourth one was being used for a Zumba class. Tupa stated the Zumba class stood out because the Community Center currently has to limit the number of participants in the Zumba classes because they are so big. They have outgrown the space at the Community Center. The field house can definitely be used for multiple things, not just for athletics.

<u>Southern Hills Football</u> (Ken Ganley reported there are 420 participants, Brecksville kids only and the numbers continue to grow.) Ganley reported they use 5 different fields for tackle football and 4 different fields for flag football. Ganley also stated "Indoor" flag football leagues are very popular right now for "every age group" during the winter months. These groups would love to use an indoor turf field.

- **<u>Bees Soccer Association (BSA)</u> (Brian Stucky reported there are 22 soccer teams) The BSA currently uses the Richmond and the Warrensville facilities of the Force as well as the North Royalton indoor facility. Spending $25,000/year in indoor rentals. Twenty-two teams (220 children) participate in the indoor soccer league. They play one game a week and have two practices per week. North Royalton charges $150/hr (rent 6 hrs/week).**

<u>COMMISSION ROUND TABLE:</u>

Pat Barth said without question, the demand speaks for itself. He believes Pete Kormos has some good ideas regarding the types of improvements that can be made when designing the new field house. Barth thinks the proposed field house should be built as large as it can be, because the demand is obviously there. He believes there are endless possibilities for its use and the need is definitely there throughout the community.

Don Lastoria stated he feels the city should entertain the idea of sponsoring big tournaments. The revenue it can generate for the town is amazing. He feels if a field house this size could support large tournaments, it could be a great asset to the city.

Candace Beaver stated there is obviously a demand for additional facilities. However, she feels the Commission needs to not only look at the definite needs and the numbers that drive it but it is important to also look at the Community's needs. Need to make sure the facility is very accessible for the Community as a whole.

Council Representative Rex Mack said he is still extremely curious about the financial sustainability of this project. If money is being spent in our city, through tournaments, those dollars brought in will enable us to have this sustainability. However, Mack feels the city needs to be careful and conscious of the impact to our residents and community when considering revenue generating events with outside entities.

Nanci Schlabig has a concern regarding the turf portion of the field house. She cannot justify building the turf field which is geared for the elitist type sports that one has to spend a lot of money to participate in. Athletic Director Pete Kormos believes if the turf portion is built, it will get used. He reminded the commission that the surface is just as usable as any other surface. He believes there can be just as many "recreational" activities on that surface as there are travel activities; it is just a matter of putting programs in place and getting them up and running. Some of those recreational activities might be: Recreation Flag Football, Adult Soccer, Adult Flag football, aerobic classes, Zumba classes, recreation baseball etc. This would also give those kids, who participate in the recreation baseball league, an opportunity to use the facility for individual practice.

Charlie Cassaro restated what Mayor Hruby suggested "Expanding as much as we can (within reason monetarily) the first time, rather than add on at a later date. Cost wise the city does not know what the money situation will be in the future. Cassaro reminded the commission when new families come in to the area, they are looking at the city's amenities: "What's in it for our family, education wise, recreation wise etc?" Cassaro's concern is the dilemma in using these facilities do we only allow Brecksville residents to use our facilities or do we rent them out to bring in money to be able to operate the facility properly. But in doing so, he fears this will eliminate time that our residents are able to use the facilities.

In response to Cassaro's concerns of rentals taking hours away from the residents, Don Lastoria stated most rentals can be done "off-peak" hours, keeping the core hours for the residents and the recreational teams.

Stucky said the Commission needs to come up with a set of guidelines stating who can use the facility and when. For example: 1st Residents, 2nd Recreational Use, 3rd Local Programs (BTBA/BTSA,) and 4h Rentals. The Commission will be asked to submit and present these guidelines within their proposal to city council.

In wrapping up, Stucky asked the commission members to look at the field house drawings before the April Recreation Commission Meeting. The first fifteen minutes of the April meeting will be spent going over those things the commission definitely wants in the field house, definitely wants to change and then those things that we the commission feels they can compromise on. The rest of the April meeting will be dedicated to discussing the pool.

Brecksville resident Margaret Ritzman questioned whether or not the city needs a facility as large as the one proposed. Brian Stucky stated the Recreation Commission is going to put together a proposal with what they think will meet the needs of the community. From that point, the commission will try to reach a "happy medium" by and have what we want and what is best for our community when it is done.

Brecksville resident Beth Coronel is concerned about the "turf side" of the proposed field house facility. She feels the commission needs to look at the proposed hours of operation for the field house and whether or not the turf portion would be utilized at all during the day during the week. Brian Stucky asked Tom Tupa and Pete Kormos to look at other programs that could be run on the turf side during the day.

Resident Margaret Ritzman asked if a dome was ever considered as an option. Brian Stucky said "No, dome facilities do not last. They are a temporary fix."

Mayor Hruby asked the Recreation Commission to consider the following when looking at the proposed plans for the outdoor pool:

1. **The City of Brecksville has committed to the High School to be the BBHHS Swim Team's facility.**
2. **The Community Center's pool availability for its residents is greatly reduced because of the high school's use. Limiting "lap swim" for our residents.**
3. **Should we consider taking the outdoor pool at the Community Center and enclosing it? So the younger children have a place all year round to go to.**
4. **Should we consider tearing out the outdoor pool and building a larger indoor pool to accommodate the "competitive" swim group and build more of an outdoor water park at the Proposed Blossom Facility?**

Mayor Hruby stressed that someone needs to look at all the options and to look at the whole picture.

Brian Stucky reviewed comments made by Facility & Aquatics Coordinator Bob Pliske at last months Commission meeting.

1. **Pliske said he could move the Summer Beluga Swim Team to the proposed new outdoor pool which would open up more lap swimming for the residents in the indoor pool at the Community Center. Pliske said you could not do both the High School Swim Team and another Competitive "indoor" Swim Team (i.e.: USA Team which includes ages 5yrs+ swimming "Year Round.)**

Mike Harwood said when designing the outdoor aquatic facility, the Recreation Commission needs to look at how we can get the best programming for that facility. Whatever that combination is should be the recommendation of the Recreation Commission.

Joe Kosek commented publically for the record, "I implore all of you to resist the urge to cut down on the size of what was recommended by the Advisory Board for the following reasons":

- **When looking at going with the proposed field house size or if you are looking to reduce the size of the facility, the incremental costs for the types of materials that would be used to add on are negligible.**
- **The only area that could perhaps be slightly reduced in size without Detracting from the facility would be the middle area/common area.**
- **The field areas, that were recommended, were thought through based on the research gathered including:**
  - **-noise levels**
  - **-seating**
  - **-multiple sports going on at one time & netting dividing these areas so each area is still useful in and of its own**
- **Kosek assured the group that adults (not necessarily of organized sports) will want to use the field house during the late evening hours of 9pm to midnight.**

Kosek reminded the group that the one sport not mentioned at all this evening was Lacrosse and the growing demand of this sport. The Advisory Board recommended that the tertiary lines on the turf field be lined for Lacrosse. To Kosek's knowledge, the only field lined for lacrosse in the area is currently at the high school turf field.

In response to the expressed concerns of empty times during the day, Kosek responded by saying typically people are working during the day so there will be empty times in any kind of facility that you have. Kosek believes those people who will utilize the field house during the "off hours" will help generate enough revenue to help support the use for the non-busy times during the day. In regards to the heating and cooling issues, the Advisory Board did not envision heating the facility to a comfortable 70 degrees. Heating the facility to 50 degrees will be plenty comfortable for those sports participants. As far as cooling the facility in the summer months, the board envisioned using large commercial fans to help circulate the air. Indoor air conditioning is cost prohibited.

Brecksville resident Kathleen Deuch said she feels until studies are done to see the number of programs that are needed to support a facility of this size, these things are really a "wish list." Her other concern is that this facility is being put in a residential area, not in an industrial area or near a freeway. How much traffic is this going to generate and what are the residents going to think of the late night traffic.
In response to this concern, Joe Kosek stated the facility is going to placed so deep back on the property, well beyond frontage requirements, it might be visible through the trees during the winter but it will definitely not be a distraction. Kosek stated traffic studies will have to be done by the Planning Commission, but the Advisory Board has proposed to have another entrance cut into the property off of Glenwood. Kosek feels this will be a big help in terms of traffic flow. Mayor Hruby also said the City of Brecksville has the right to cut in another drive-way off of the Valley Parkway, helping with the traffic flow. The mayor said this property will be bordered by the City of Cleveland's tree farm and on the south side the Metro parks Golf Course. The only areas where there will be residential areas are the few houses on Barr Rd. and the housed along Oakes Rd. Mayor Hruby remarked, in response to Mrs. Deuch's very valid comment, the City of Brecksville may need to consider putting another entrance off of the parkway, trying to split the traffic.

Brecksville resident Beth Coronel asked 1) how can they get firm numbers to present to the Recreation Commission and 2) what type of information would be helpful to the Commission when evaluating the pool? Recreation Director Tom Tupa said Bob Pliske has compiled all of the numbers regarding aquatics programming/activities. Those numbers that would be hard to gather would be for those people who swipe in to use the Community Center (gym, game room, workout areas) as well as the pool. Council Representative Rex Mack said it would be helpful to him to see what other communities, similar to ours, have and what their usage is and do these communities allow non-residents.

In closing, Chairperson Brian Stucky reported at next months meeting the first fifteen minutes will be spent reviewing the field house recommendations and the remaining portion of the meeting will be spent discussing the outdoor pool facility.

Brecksville resident asked, in regards to the survey, is there a cutoff date for submitting these surveys and is there a limit to the number of surveys a household can submit? Recreation Director Tupa said he would check to see if there was a limit as to how many surveys a person/family could submit. Nanci Schlabig reported the cutoff date for submitting the surveys will be April 30, 2012.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Council Representative Rex Mack and seconded by Brian Stucky to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kelly McNeill
Clerk of Commission