

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

January 25, 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 was taken.

Members present: Boulware, Firestone, Kern, Moleski, Redinger and Zenir.

Absent: Barth

Also present: Director Tom Tupa, Meg English, Jim Kolesar, Jamie Mewhinney, and Carolyn Jatsek

Organization Meeting

Councilwomen Redinger swore in the newest member of Recreation Commission Charles Boulware to replace the vacant position left by Candice Beaver resigning from Commission.

Elections were held as:

Chairman – Redinger was nominated by Kern, seconded by Zenir; approved by Commission, nominations were closed by Kern, seconded by Zenir and approved by commission

A motion was made by Kern and seconded by Moleski to elect Redinger as Chairman of the Commission for 2021, and approved by commission.

Vice Chairman – Kern was nominated by Redinger, seconded by Boulware; approved by Commission, nominations were closed by Redinger, seconded by Moleski and approved by commission

A motion was made by Redinger and seconded by Moleski to elect Kern as Vice-Chairman of the Commission for 2021, and approved by commission.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Redinger, seconded by Kern to dispense with the reading of the December 7, 2020 minutes and to approve them as written.

Council Representative Report:

Councilwomen Redinger reported that in the January Council meetings, no business was approved as it pertains to this Commission. The 1st and 2nd readings of the Sherwin Williams rezoning of a parcel that will go to the public on the May ballot to rezoning for Residential to Office Lab.

At the January 7th Planning Commission Meeting, Kevin DiGeronimo shared an early view of the residential rendering, put nothing formal. This area is the Northern most point that backs up to Westview.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Tupa wanted to thank Canace Beaver for all her time on the Recreation Commission and welcome Chuck Boulware to the Commission. There are a lot of great things coming for the Department.

The Community Center is keeping the abbreviated hours for now. Unfortunately the Father Daughter Dance and Aqua Egg Hunt have been cancelled. The visit with the Easter Bunny will be a grab and go style similar to the Breakfast with Santa.

The number of daily visits at the Community Center has gone up slightly, they are at about 55% of the usual for this time, but revenue is at about 30% of normal this year. The December membership drive went better than expected. At this time there is no extra subsidy for the Community Center. In the past the Recreation Department would get about \$900,000 from the General Fund, in 2020 that number was slightly higher to get through the year.

Youth Basketball is going on now through the end of February. We are slowly adding more youth programming, and hope to have full offerings by summer. At this point the Department is planning for all summer programming.

Dan Schrieber is looking for access to the Stadium Drive Fields for practices for youth football. Director Tupa has spoken with them about CVYO, and would like them to come under their umbrella like the rest of the travel organizations. The format for CVYO fee is that they pay a player registration fee and a game field rental fee, then have access to the fields for practice times. This is how it works for BTBA, BSA, and Lacrosse. If they do not come under the CVYO umbrella then they would be charged field rental fees for any use and would have to follow the field rental procedures. CVYO is open to housing any organization that serves Brecksville Youth. By being under the umbrella there is central scheduling for fields, consistency, insurance, accountability through the accountant, and checks and balances on COVID procedures. The CVYO has about .5 Million in receipts annually. Conversations will continue to be has between football, the City and CVYO. The Members of Commission also agree that it makes sense for them to join CVYO.

As far the Stadium Drive property goes, the bleachers will be taken down shortly, the City is looking for money from grants or local business sponsorships. There is currently no time table for the project. CVYO would be willing to help reach out for funding for specific project once they are set. The first priority for the facility is safety, and cleaning things up. The new Field House has been under roof for a while and the framing for the rest of the school is done. The project is on schedule for a 2022 opening, but we are checking to see if the City could take ownership of the Field House earlier, if that portion is complete. As far the usage of the Field House it will be mostly a team facility, for Recreation and Travel teams for practices and games, and can be used for tournaments. The BBHCS D will have access to the building during school days, but after the school days, weekends, and breaks it

will be for City use. The City will work with the school for any special events outside of their usual hours.

The Aquatic Facility is going through some final inspections and punch list phases. There had been some delays from material suppliers.

If members of the commission are at the facilities or hear comments from the public about any of the facilities or programs, please let the department know. We are open to feedback and input as to what people are looking for from the department.

Athletic/Facility Coordinator:

The athletic department is currently in the middle of its basketball season, and it is going very well. The department is very grateful to all the coaches and parents for their understanding of the policies, and changes this year due to COVID. The 3rd-9th grade teams are playing with other communities and everyone is going a great job working together to make sure the kids get a season. The men's 35+ open division is currently going on up at Blossom this year, and there is a no spectator policy. We will be offering a 50+ and 65+ season in March if they have enough teams interested. The Blossom Field House has been packed with practices, and the staff has been doing a great job sanitizing between each group, and at the end of the night.

Run 4 Your Life is currently going on Saturday mornings in the Blossom Gym. They are running 3 sessions to keep the groups smaller.

The City has applied for a grant for Batting Helmets, and it was accepted and approved. We will be receiving 180 helmets for baseball and will get girls fast pitch helmets. The department will work on distributing them to kids who are registered in the summer rec leagues. We are working on how to handle distribution if the enrollment exceeds the number of helmets received. The thought is to possibly distribute them to the younger players coming into the programs since as the kids advance, many of them have their own helmets. The department also has some used helmets they could distribute as well. All equipment bags also contain sanitizer for any shared equipment which the coaches must sanitize.

Registration is currently open for Little Dribblers, and Peewee Basketball which will both be led by Johnny Bolan. The girl's youth volleyball clinics have been pushed back to March due to field house scheduling and is currently open for registration for girls in 3rd - 8th grade. Spring soccer academy is also currently open for registration for ages 3-8.

Summer programming including little hitters, tee ball, baseball, softball, tennis and summer camp registration will open on March 1st for Brecksville Residents.

Brian Smallwood from Center Court who runs our tennis camps wants to expand programming by offering an adult program as well which will meet one night a week for a month. He is also interested in running an adaptive tennis program at our facility. He works with participants in wheelchairs, with Parkinson's, Autism, and Wounded Warriors, and is working on a proposal for the summer. Summer Camp numbers will be most likely be lower this summer due to COVID protocols.

CVYO Report:

Meg began her report with a brief overview of the Cuyahoga Valley Youth Organization (CVYO). The CVYO houses all youth travel organizations for the City of Brecksville. It includes BTBA for Baseball and Softball ages 8-18, BSA for soccer 8-14; CVSA for soccer ages 14+; Basketball for 8 year olds- middle school; Lacrosse for ages 8- middle school, and Run 4 Your Life which does fitness training, and holds its annual 5k race as part of Home Days.

Meg's responsibility is to make sure all the sports are playing nice together and overseeing field scheduling with the athletic department, and she handles all things related to BTBA. Basketball season has been a little challenging without the use of the schools this year, but the City has been able to offer practice times at the Blossom Gym when it has not been schedules for recreation programming. Everyone has been working really hard to get spaces, and give the kids a season. All the other sports are making plans for the upcoming season. The CVYO is collecting one COVID waiver per child per sport to make sure they have everyone covered.

Meg will be meeting with Jim and Jamie to walk the fields and come out with layout for players and spectators for the upcoming season, to make sure they are maintaining social distancing. Meg plans to be at as many games as possible again this season for COVID enforcement. Currently all sports are working together to come up with a uniform COVID Policy including how to handle different situations that may arise.

Roundtable:

During the Commission Roundtable, Director Tupa announced that the Aquatics Department is working with the new lifeguards to go over policies, and procedures and training on the features at the new Aquatic Facility. Programming is scheduled to begin slowing with small classes in the current Natatorium in March with registration in February. Commission Member Moleski commented on how great the recreation staff has been at the Blossom Gym during practices.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:30pm.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Redinger and seconded by Zenir to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek