

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order 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, Ganim, Hanna, Kern, Lazaridis, and Moleski

Absent: Firestone

Also present: Mayor Hruby, Director Rachele Engle, Luis Pena Ochoa, Joe Radloff, Jim Kolesar, Jamie Mewhinney, Tom and Meg English, and Carolyn Jatsek.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Moleski, seconded by Boulware to dispense with the reading of the January 24, 2022 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hruby began his report by speaking about the concerning lack of Community Center Members, which is not helping the budget. Corporate membership area all down. The original legislation allowed for 500 members, and at the time there were over 100, mostly Lubrizol. Lubrizol is discontinuing their stipend they paid the City each year, but the talks are still ongoing. The Mayor is raising the topic to Commission to discuss opening the Community Center to non-residents. Other facilities, including Strongsville, Westlake and Broadview Heights allow non-residents. Some of the questions that need to be discuss include how many should be allowed, and what rate should they be charged.

September 26th will mark the 30th Anniversary of the Community Center, and the 50th Anniversary of City Hall, and celebrations will be planned. The first year the Community Center opened there were an average of 2800-3400 memberships. One of the concerns when the Community Center opened in 1992 was that there not many other indoor facilities in the area and we did not want our members to have to wait in line to get one equipment. Now most communities have Community Centers or Fitness Facilities.

Another question to Commission is when to open the Field House. The building will probably be handed over to the City in June. The school is planning a grand opening in early August. Should we wait until August to open the building or should we try to open in June or July. The opening of the Field House include more staffing needs for cleaning and supervising. We are looking to have shared cleaning responsibilities between Recreation and Service. The cost to bring in a full time cleaner is about \$60.000 per person with benefits. The schools are looking to use the City's Tennis Courts again this spring season while theirs are getting rebuilt.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim shared that there is a Council Meeting tomorrow night, and that there is a meeting of the Streets and Sidewalks Committee on March 23rd about the Connectivity Project.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle shared that the Father Daughter Dance on February 12th was sold out. Chef Dina and Carolyn did an excellent job preparing for the event and the fathers and daughters had a good time.

New mats have been installed in many areas of the Community Center, including new logo mats at the front entrance and the aquatic concession lobby.

Pickle ball began this month. Currently on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-11am they have been averaging 6-10 player, Friday evenings 7-9pm, 12-18 players; and Sunday afternoons from 3-5pm, 20-24 players.

The past few weeks the game room at the Community Center has received a few updates.

The pool table has been re-felted, and a new ping pong table was delivered.

Looking ahead, the Aqua Egg Hunt will be held in the Activity Pool on April 8th, and the Visit with the Easter Bunny will be held at Human Services on April 13th. Registration for both events will begin March 1st and will fill up quickly.

Gina Imbrigotta classes are filling up and she has added 2 more classes per week. Spin Classes have been selling out recently. We are looking to add a few more bikes to the room and possibly adding a few additional classes.

The BBHHS has inquired about using the City Tennis Courts during the months of March, April and May. There are a total of 24 dates they would be using it from 3-5pm while the school is getting their courts resurfaced.

Director Engle opened the floor to discussion on opening the Community Center to non-residents. The Commission had an open discussion regarding opening the Community Center to Non-residents, with possible preference to BBHCSD families first. The number of non-resident memberships would still be capped at the 500 currently open to just Corporate Memberships, but be extended to those outside the Corporate Community at a different rate, with possible restrictions. In addition conversation was had about opening the Corporate Membership to include those employees who only work part time in Brecksville in addition to full time employees. The Commission asked the Recreation Department to run some numbers on what cost would look like, and how much revenue could increase with the proposed rates.

This conversation was followed up by one regarding the operations of the new Blossom Hill Field House. The planned order of availability for the use of the Field House is:

1. Rec League Programming
2. CVYO Travel Teams
3. BBHCSD Teams
4. Rentals to outside organization – including usage for tournaments, different types of shows or events – creative usage

The Field House will be available for City use after 4pm on school days, and all day on any non-school days, including summer, breaks, and weekends. There has been concerns about

open gym usage. At this time, all open court usage would remain at the Community Center with the majority of court programming being moved to the Blossom Hill Field House to free up the Community Center Field House for residents.

Staffing for the Blossom Hill Field House will involve one full time or 2 part-time Field House Operations Coordinators, and several part-time building supervisors. Decisions about the opening time frame of the Field House need to be made, whether to open it in June/July when it is handed over to the City or wait until August when the school opens their facility. Maybe a soft opening for internal programs in early summer with a full opening in August.

Athletic Area Report:

The Athletics Department has taken the current court needs for the City and mocked up a schedule for the new Field House to see how much availability there will be for other organizations. For example, a normal Saturday during basketball season ties up the Community Center Field House from 9-6pm, would be able to fit from 9-1pm at the new Field House using all 4 courts and spreading games out with space between.

Current program updates, Basketball for grades 1-6th wrapped up this weekend, 7-8th grade have some playoffs over the next 2 weeks with other Communities. Little Dribblers for ages 3-5 has 2 sold out sessions with 61 kids total and begins tomorrow, March 1st. Pee Wee Basketball begins Saturday, and has 103 participants. The 5 & 6 years olds will play during the 9 and 10am sessions, and the 7&8 year olds will play at 11am. There was a meeting for Pee Wee Basketball coaches this evening. Pee Wee is run as a clinic style with drills and then some scrimmage time at the end of each session. Mike Tartara will be running both programs for the City this year.

Girls Youth Volleyball Clinic for grades 3-8th began today with 35 girls registered.

February 1st began registration for the Spring Soccer Academy. Registration numbers are currently U3 20, U5 45, U7 36, and U8 22.

The Athletic Department has started working outside to get fields ready for spring sports practices. Lacrosse began tonight, BSA will begin March 21st. The restrooms at the comfort stations are still closed for winter, so Port-a-pots will be at the fields for now.

March 1st registration begin at 5am online, and 5:30am in person at the Community Center.

This includes Summer Camp, Tennis, Softball, Baseball, Tee Ball, Easter Events, Adult Summer Bocce League, Adult Coed Summer Softball, and Little Hitters. There have been many inquiries about camp, and it is expected to fill up quickly. Field Trips are slowly coming together. Currently looking to hire a new Camp Coordinator and counselors.

Looking to hire different positions including ground crew members and building/field supervisors. In addition conversation was had about how to get people certified and willing to umpire and referee. Over all shortage of both throughout the area. Looking at ways to bring it back to Community involvement.

This Thursday there is a meeting schedule to look at ways to improve or revamp the U8 baseball and softball machine pitch league, looking at possibly going back to coach pitch.

Aquatic Area Report:

Spring programs begin April 4th and will run Mondays and Wednesdays for 4 weeks. The month of May will be a brief break from programming to focus on staff training for the summer season. Programming will resume on June 4th and go through July. Aquatics has already begun preparing for the summer season. It is going to be a long summer with BBHCSD not going back until after Labor Day. We are looking towards incentives to keep lifeguards working until school begins. We are working on staffing and limited programs in August. A comment was made about their being a captive audience in August in general since kids will be off the whole month, and most activities end in July. It was mentioned that although school won't begin until September, college staff will still begin to leave in mid August and student athletes will begin the beginning of August.

CVYO Report:

There was a scheduling meeting for all field usage for spring and summer sports. There are really a massive number of fields that are maintained and operated by the City of Brecksville, especially Jim and Jamie, and the CVYO appreciates all the City does for them.

Old Business:

The recreation department did apply for the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Delays Grant.

New Business:

Commission Chairman Moleski does strategic planning for UH and would like to have the Commission do some strategic planning for the Recreation Department to help keep the department moving towards the overall vision. Some of the areas that might be focused on would include facilities, program offerings and overall user experience.

The Recreation Department will be sponsoring the games, and inflatables again this year at Home Days which will be June 24, 25, and 26th. We are in need of Adult Supervision on Saturday and Sunday from 4-7pm and are looking for Commission Members to possibly volunteer and give back to the Community. Please mark your calendars.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Moleski and seconded by Kern to adjourn the meeting at 9:14pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek