

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

January 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order by Councilman AJ Ganim 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, Ganim, Hanna, Kern, and Lazaridis,

Absent: Moleski

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

Organization Meeting

Councilman Ganim swore in Charles Boulware and Nick Hanna for their re-appointment to Recreation Commission.

Elections were held as:

Chairman

Nominations were opened by Ganim, seconded by Hanna, and approved by Commission.

Moleski was nominated by Ganim, seconded by Kern, and approved by Commission, Nominations were closed by Ganim, seconded by Kern and approved by Commission A motion was made by Ganim and seconded by Kern to elect Moleski as Chairman of the Commission for 2022, and approved by Commission.

Vice Chairman

Nominations were opened by Ganim, seconded by Firestone, and approved by Commission.

Kern was nominated by Ganim, seconded by Lazaridi, and approved by Commission, Nominations were closed by Ganim, seconded by Hanna and approved by Commission

A motion was made by Ganim and seconded by Firestone to elect Kern as Vice-Chairwoman of the Commission for 2022, and approved by Commission.

The regular meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairwoman Kern at 7:36pm

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Kern, seconded by Hanna to dispense with the reading of the December 22, 2021 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hruby began by congratulating Mr. Moleski and Mrs. Kern, and thanking Mr. Boulware and Mr. Hanna for returning to serve another term on the Recreation Commission. The Mayor touched base on a couple of items. Since COVID many offices have made changes to employee work schedules. Some employees only come into the office a few days a week. This will have an impact on the Corporate Memberships. The current policy states that the employee must be a 40 full time employee in Brecksville to have a membership. The City will like to reconvene the Municipal Facilities Registration and Use Review Board. This Board was originally set up when the Community Center was preparing to open as an advisory board to Council about memberships. It has convened a few times in the about the past 30 years since it was established. The Board will be brought back for several reasons including the pool and Field House. The Board is made up of representation from City Council, Recreation Commission, Human Services Advisory Board and one Citizen Member. They ultimately make recommendations to City Council. The Committee decided the who, what and how for the Community Center and will need to do this again now for the Field House regarding usage. The original intent of the Field House was to serve our internal Recreation Leagues, Travel Leagues, BBHCSD Teams, and then anyone else on a lease basis. The City gets many calls with question about the Field House usage, like can BH students use it, can residents walk in the early mornings. The City will get the building when the school vacates between 3:30-4pm schools, so it won't be open in early morning. The City will have it for their programs after 4pm school days, weekends, holidays, and breaks. Currently Brecksville has no membership policy for non-residents other than we allow corporate memberships up to 500 total annually. Guest Passes are the only options for Non-residents and they must be a guest of a current member. A question that will get brought up to the Usage Board is, should we open our membership up to non-residents, but keep it limited to the 500 total non-resident membership number originally established for Corporate Members.

There have been some post on Facebook about Broadview Heights not being allowed to use the new Field House. That is not true, BH students will use it during school, and they will be able to use it if they play on a teams that use the Field House. The Field House is 100% funded by the City of Brecksville. The school portion of the building is equally funded by school district taxes. The Usage Committee will need to decide if we open to non-residents, especially during the summer or winter, or year round.

The Field House will be a tremendous asset to the Community. It will be a wonderful facility with many possibilities, even outside of Recreation. The City is currently working on outfitting the building and staffing needs. We will be sharing some equipment with the schools. The City has 2 offices, a work room, supervisor area, and a large storage room. The City and schools will share the Cafetorium, locker rooms, shower, concession area and some storage. It should be turned over to the City around May 22 or 30th. We will either open it then or in August with the schools. There will be meetings with travel organizations regarding use of the building, like what types of balls will be allowed outside the pitching area for baseball.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the staff for the remarkable job they have been doing, in trying to get people to work for the department. Many places are down employees and wages are up trying to get people to come work. The Commission will be working closely with the Director and staff the next few months as we move towards to opening the Field House.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim stated that he is excited to serve on the Recreation Commission. He and his family have been involved in the Community Center and its programs.

City Council is excited to work with Rachele as the new Recreation Director and excited about the upcoming new Field House.

At the last City Council meeting, Council approved an addition to the PO for the aquatic locker project for a few additional parts.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle reported that Break-a-thon was well received and the events were well attended. The Noon Year' Eve party very busy. The department is currently looking to hire a new Camp Director and some counselors.

The December and January Membership drive was successful, and currently the Community Center has sold 749 memberships, and there are a total of 1.696 members.

The upcoming Father/Daughter Dance is sold out. Chef Dina will providing all the food and confections for the event. The Dance is Saturday February 12th from 7-9pm.

Jim, Jamie, Luis and Rachele will be attending the Ohio Parks and Recreation (OPRA) conference next week. The conference has a variety of vendors and conference meetings relating to all areas of recreation including, programing, facilities, staffing and management. The conference is being held the beginning of February.

With the Field House opening the summer, there are lots of questions and we will be looking for feedback. There is a meeting schedule this week with school to go over some items, and then we will be able to work more operations and planning.

Athletic Area Report:

Basketball season for grades 1-8th is about midway through. Thank you to all the coaches, athletes and families for understanding the COVID protocols that were put in place in January. Last week, the protocols were relaxed to allow 2 spectators per player, and as the case counts trend down, hopefully we will be able to relax the protocol further. The season is going as well as hoped thus far. This week is the rescheduled picture day, and teams will be able to get their team photos taken at whatever facility their game is scheduled at since the entire league uses the same vendor. After the season finishes up in February, Pee Wee (grades k-2) and Little Dribbler (ages 3-5) will begin in March. Both sessions of Little Dribblers are full, and Pee Wee currently has 60 kids enrolled with registration open until February 20th. Both Pee Wee and Little Dribblers will be led by Mike Tartara and his team. In the past the programs were led by Johnny Bolan.

Jamie has been taking our current programming schedules and mocking it up in the new Field House to visually see how our internal programming looks and see availability of court space. Men's Basketball is currently underway at the Community Center on Sundays from 5:30pm-9:30pm. There are 8 teams in 35+ division, and 6 teams in the 60+ league. There were only 5 teams in the 50+ division so it was canceled.

The Youth Volleyball Clinic for grades 3-8th will run February 28- March 2nd on Monday and Wednesdays from 5:30-6:45pm. It will be run by the Cuyahoga Hts. Varsity Coach and her assistant. We currently have 10 girls registered with registration open for another 3 weeks.

March 1st will begin registration for summer programming, including Baseball, Softball, Tee Ball, Camp, Adult Bocce and Softball and Little Hitters. Machine Pitch might be changed up a bit this year. There is a meeting scheduled to discuss ways to improve the program.

Pickle Ball will begin February 4th at the Community Center on Fridays from 6-8pm they will get half the Field House and on Sunday from 2-4, they will have the whole Field House. Members will be free and others can purchase a punch pass for 8 visits. Open volleyball will continue Wednesday and Friday evenings, and has a punch pass for non-members as well.

Meg, Jim, Jamie and Rachele met with the CVYO program directors for Spring-July field scheduling. Lacrosse is schedule to begin on February 28th and Soccer is scheduled to begin March 14

Aquatic Area Report:

The High School swim season is underway. There is on home meet left on Tuesday for Senior Night. This will be lived streamed on Facebook. Practices will continue through February weekdays from 3:15-5:15pm. Winter Swim lessons began this Saturday from 10am-1pm, and will continue for the next 7 weeks. Most classes are full and the department is fully staffed for programs. The next session will begin April 4th and will run Monday and Wednesday in April.

The Aqua Egg Hunt will return this year, and will be held in the Activity Pool and Competitive Pool. The next Lifeguard Training class is scheduled for afternoons during Spring Break, we are looking to use February to update current staff members' CPR certifications.

Staffing has been better this sports season, and we are continuing to build numbers for spring and summer. Bob Pliske complemented Luis on staffing, where other surrounding departments are struggling, and having to close their pools some, we have been able to keep our regular hours. We have gotten some former adult staff members to return.

There are lots of new staff members, and it has been an effort to train, and retrain some of our newer staff on teaching Learn-to-Swim. Having the new activity pool to teach the lower level swim classes in a pool they can stand in has been wonderful. The new staff is doing a wonderful job teaching. Currently there are 48 lifeguards on the schedule, and there will be some returning in May as we head towards the outdoor season.

We have begun the installation of the lockers and cubbies on the Activity Pool deck. There was a change in the locker arrangement from the initial order, so a few additional parts needed to be ordered. As soon as those arrive, the project will get completed. The keys for the lockers will be handed out from the guard office on the pool deck. The Bench cubbies have been getting used. There were a couple small changes made to the ladies locker room design. Hopefully the final layout will sent this week.

Fitness Area Report:

Fitness Coordinator Miko reported that Gina Imrigotta has recently brought her studio following with her the Community Center. She is currently offering 2 classes a week and will increase it to 4 classes a week in February. In addition a new Yoga and a new spinning Instructor have also started new classes at the Community Center. A fourth senior class was added, and all the senior class are getting good numbers. Jazzercise has also added a new class, meeting on Sunday mornings.

Taekwondo is going great and selling out at the younger ages. A second offering of Tiny Tigers has been added for the spring to try and accommodate more students.

The Fitness area has been receiving positive feedback on the new Ellipticals.

CVYO Report:

Basketball is up and running. They are utilizing the schools and St. Michael Woodside this year, and are looking forward to the new Field House.

At the last meeting there was conversation about more unified information for CVYO Travel Programs. Meg has begun to put information together about programs and tryouts. She will work on the graphic, and make it available on the websites for all the CVYO teams, as well as the City and BBHCSD websites. The City is also able to blast it out as well as the program directors for CVYO.

Meg has reached out to her different organization looking for information relating the new Field House and how they would like to utilize it in a perfect world. Meg will share that information with Jim, Jamie and Rachele.

New Business:

The Recreations Commission will be asked to gather feedback on people's overall experience with the Recreation Department and Community Center. This will include staffing, marketing, website, program offerings and concessions. More information on this will be coming.

The Recreation Department is looking for grants to help with funding on larger ticket projects including Kids Quarters and Stadium Drive. If anyone knows of or hears of any grant opportunities, please pass along the information.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Kern and seconded by Hanna to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm.

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

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek