

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

December 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Roll Call was taken.

Members present: Boulware, Firestone, Ganim, Hanna, Kern, and Moleski

Absent: Lazaridis

Also present: Director Rachele Engle, Luis Pena Ochoa, Jamie Mewhinney, Meg English, and Carolyn Jatsek. Members of the Community were also present in the audience.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Hanna, seconded by Kern to dispense with the reading of the October 23, 2022 minutes and to approve them as written.

Council Representative Report:

Councilman Ganim updated Commission on Kids Quarters noting that the next step is to have the area surveyed and mapped out. This weekend is the 51st annual Childrens Christmas Play at Old Town Hall on Saturday and Sunday with performances at 11am and 2pm. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Community Center for reservations.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Engle began by reminding everyone that the annual membership drive began on December 1st, and all residents will receive a \$10 discount on their annual membership if they purchase it in the month of December. The Blossom Hill Field House had been very busy on week night evenings and weekends with Basketball, Pickle ball and rentals. The Recreation Brochure, and Field House Brochure are both available online and at the Front Desk of the Community Center. Some programming highlights in the new brochure include new art classes being offered in partnership with the Human Services Department for all ages. There are two new instructors each offering a couple classes this month, and will continue into the New Year. The winter Break-a-thon schedule is also out for this year and includes, Ornament making, treat making, late night swim, and half price guest day along with Breakfast with Santa.

The game room at the Community Center has new updates including Pac Man, Pinball, shuffleboard, a dartboard, new seating, and a variety of new games.

A question regarding the use of the Cafetorium during the weekends was brought up. It was mentioned that the bathrooms, and the lobby/hallway of the of the Field

House is very crowded between games, and there is not room for people to gather between their games if they have more than one. At this time Cafetorium will remain closed on the weekends.

Athletic Area Report:

The youth volleyball league wrapped up its second session with 3 teams and 36 boys and girls participating this year. Basketball has gotten off the ground, and registrations are up 50 players from last year. Coed Volleyball is going on up at the Field House. Some program highlights for the rest of the winter and early spring include the youth volleyball clinic for youth grades 3-8 on Mondays and Wednesdays, Little Dribblers basketball for ages 3-5 as a parent child class on Tuesdays at the Field House, PeeWee Basketball on Saturdays in March and April for Kindergarten through 2nd grade as a clinic based program with scrimmages, and Adult Men's Basketball on Sundays with 35+, 50+ and 60+ age divisions on Sunday evenings.

Recently athletics met with Center Court Tennis to discuss summer programming for tennis, and also discussed options for pickle ball lessons, and adaptive tennis. There are also plans to have more adult offerings after the success of last summer's adult camp.

Meg and Jamie have already met to begin planning for spring field allocations, and there will be a meeting with all CVYO teams next week to finalize field times. A question was brought up about allowing other clubs, ie CVYO teams, to man the concession stand at the Blossom Hill Field House if the no one else is available. It was explained that the City plans to have concession stand open Saturdays and Sundays, and is finalizing the hiring and training new employees.

Aquatic Area Report:

The fall session of learn to swim wrapped up a couple of weeks ago, and the next session will begin in January, with some of those classes already full. The activity pool ceiling has been painted, and is back open 4-7pm weekdays. The high school swim team had their first home swim meet of the session on the 30th, and have 3 more planned. The Natatorium and therapy pool will both closed for a week for some plumbing and deck repairs. The therapy pool will be closed for 2 weeks for a seasonal shutdown and some repairs. We are currently still looking for some morning and daytime lifeguards.

CVYO Report:

Soccer, Football, and fall baseball has wrapped up. Basketball season is underway, and they are very appreciative of the new facility. CVYO is made up of 8 groups, BTBA (baseball & softball), BSA (soccer), Lacrosse, CVSA (soccer), Basketball,

Football, Run 4 Your Life, and newly added Cheer, with over 1000 youth participants and bring in over \$35,000 in revenue for the City of Brecksville. The CVYO is supportive and appreciative of the City of Brecksville and work together to try and keep cost down. The first Basketball Tournament will be hosted by Brecksville in the end of February. Other sports are looking forward to getting into the Blossom Hill Field House for some off season workouts.

Old Business:

A group of residents were in the audience to discuss the Pickle Ball proposal that had been submitted to Recreation Commission for their review. Scott Campbell of 8315 Sunnysdale Drive spoke to point out some of the highlights of the proposal. Scott started off by thanking all of those who did the research and put the proposal together.

A few of the highlights include:

Page 3 - The group is dedicated to improving and making new pickle ball courts here in Brecksville including 10-12 outdoor courts with lights.

They would also like to expand the pickle ball schedule for the indoor season.

They would like permanent markings on the wood floors in the Community Center Field House. Currently they are using markers which is not ideal and there are no lines.

Page 5 has some estimate for their proposal based on research from other communities. The estimate is a range of \$350,000-\$400,000 based on where the courts would be located and what type of infrastructure and grading would need to be done. They are hoping that their estimate is on the high side.

Pickle ball would like all 4 courts at the Field House in the evening and all 4 courts at the Community Center with lines during the day. The nets at the Community Center are already well worn, and need to be replaced. (The department has already purchased a new net, and will look into purchasing more with the new budget year.)

Page 6 Pickle ball is a social sport. Many pickle ball players have made new friends from playing, and it has become a social group. Many times plays will go out on Friday evenings after games.

There are economic benefits to Pickle ball facilities. Other towns host tournament and events that raise funds. Independence Kiwanis host an annual event.

Page 7 – There are currently no outdoor facilities in Brecksville. All of the surrounding communities have outdoor facilities.

Page 8 – The number of courts in the proposal came from comparing Brecksville to other communities such as Hudson, Beachwood and Independence for courts per capita. The 10-12 courts in the proposal is comparable to what the other Cities have.

Page 10 – The temporary markers currently used in the Field house instead of permanent lines tend to move and can be dangerous. In addition, only having 2 courts is not enough, many times there are more people waiting to play than actually playing.

Lisa Payne 7885 Oakhurst Drive

Lisa mentioned that Community Center indoor courts are not even to regulation. She was corrected by another audience member, that they are to regulation, however there is not enough room behind for a foot fault on the one side.

Commission member Boulware asked if there were any multipurpose courts anywhere around. The response was that North Royalton currently has some courts that are dual lined for tennis and pickle ball, but there has been talk that they were going to be converted to just pickle ball. Brecksville's outdoor Basketball and pickle ball Courts at kids quarters are the only other dual purpose that anyone is aware of.

Independence has the best courts locally with not just lines, but also color blocking. The surface is good, asphalt painted.

Commission Member Kern inquired about the maintenance of outdoor pickle ball courts. It was mentioned that it is the same as any other outdoor courts, such as tennis or basketball.

A question was posed about how it works at other outdoor facilities. Locally at North Royalton, Independence and Broadview Heights there is no fee, anyone is able to show up and play. It is really hard to limit by residency or charge a fee unless the location is manned.

Director Engle made a statement that the Mayor, Service Director, and herself are looking at locations at City Hall Blossom and Stadium Drive to figure out where courts could be built. There are currently no funds in the budget for 2023, but they are working to see if they could build 2-3 courts without lights in an area that already has bathrooms and parking lots for 2023.

Director Engle also read a statement written by Commission Member Lazaridis who was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Councilman Ganim told the group in the audience how much he appreciated the thoroughness of their proposal, and was glad to see them back again. He went on to note that he sees the want and need for these new outdoor pickle ball courts.

Conversation was had about the lining of the indoor courts at the Community Center. The City has looked at different types of tape, but at this time is hesitant about using tape for lines. The field house floor is budgeted in Capital to be resurfaced in 2024 and lines could be permanently added at that time. It was also discussed about the feasibility of adding lines to the outdoor tennis courts, but the group does not think it is a good idea, as the tennis courts are widely used as well throughout the season. With the Kids Quarters revitalization project, the outdoor basketball court may be resurfaced and could remain a shared basketball and pickle ball court. The City is waiting for the results of the survey to see if they be expanded or if the new courts could back North/South instead of East/West as they currently do, which makes the sun an issue.

Commission member Hanna stated he appreciates the commitment and passion that this group has for the sport. He asked if there were any other similar projects going on in the area. It was stated that Strongsville was in the process of adding 10 courts for a population of 50,000 along with some outdoor volleyball and basketball courts.

Currently the pickle ball schedule changes some month to month as programming changes. In times when there is less indoor programming, pickle ball should be able to get some extended time at the Blossom Hill Field House. The group uses an app that has over 85 people on it to quickly communicate and scheduling changes. The group has been flexible with the scheduling changes, and the City appreciates their understanding.

New Business:

There is no new business tonight, but would like Commission members to come to the January meeting ready to brainstorm. In addition, at the January meeting we will review the 2023 department budget and capital budget items.

Public Comments:

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Kern and seconded by Hanna to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek