

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2011 MEETING OF THE BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Chairperson Nanci Schlabig 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, Brian Stucky and Nanci Schlabig. Also present: Mayor Jerry Hruby, Recreation Director Tom Tupa, Clerk of Recreation Commission Kelly McNeill, and Athletic Director Pete Kormos. Brecksville residents also present: Meg English, Mike Harwood and Tony Niccoli.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRARY 28, 2011

A motion was made by Councilman Rex Mack and seconded by Charles Cassaro to dispense reading of the minutes and to approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

OATH OF OFFICE

The first order of business, Recreation Commission Council Representative Rex Mack administered the oath of office, confirming the appointment by the Mayor, of Charles Cassaro, as a Citizen Member to the Recreation Commission of the City of Brecksville for a term of four (4) years, commencing January 2, 2011 and ending January 1, 2015.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Hruby announced the appointment of a new citizen's committee for the development of the Blossom Hill Property. Mayor Hruby stated there are a lot of ideas about what the City should be doing in the community, so much so that he felt it was important to engage the public to get their input. This committee's duties and responsibilities will be to look at the master plan for Blossom, give their input, get citizen input, talk to various groups with interests in the property and then discuss their findings with the Recreation Commission. The Recreation Commission will then formulate the final master plan and take their recommendations to City Council. The plan should include:

- 1. What do we want to do at the site**
- 2. How are we going to pay for it**
- 3. What is the list of priorities**

The committee will be meeting frequently as a group and with the Recreation Commission. Those members include: Ray Andrews, Ken Cunningham, Ken Ganley, Tim Harwood, Joe Kosek, Laura Redinger and Renee Csuhran. The first meeting will be on Monday, May 9th. Mayor Hruby asked the Recreation Commission to start collecting thoughts on what direction the committee should

be going with their recommendations. The mayor did state space must be set aside for the cemetery. Candice Beaver requested to be copied on the meeting dates of the committee.

Finally, the Mayor asked the Recreation Department along with the Recreation Commission to establish a policy for field usage and facility usage.

Rex Mack asked if there is a time table for the citizen's group report to be finalized. The mayor stated he will ask the citizens group to be prepared to present their findings to the Recreation Commission this Fall.

COUNCIL REPORT:

Council representative Rex Mack stated that at the request of the Recreation Commission and due to schedule conflicts, City Council did pass legislation allowing for reduction in the required minimum number of meetings that have to be held from 12 to 10 meetings per year.

Councilman Mack announced that Richard Mannarino has been appointed the new police chief.

Mack reported Council has engaged an architectural firm to put together some alternatives for a master plan for the old bus garage and Home Days area along Stadium Drive.

Mack reported the City received 2010 Census report and the City of Brecksville is one of the few cities in N.E. Ohio whose population has increased. Brecksville increased by 274 people up to 13,656.

Mack announced the dates for the following Bicentennial Events:

- Friday, April 29th from 6pm-8pm "Local Artist Walk Reception" at the Center for the Arts**
- Saturday, May 7th Dolly Madison Presentation at the Brecksville Library**
- Monday, May 30th Memorial Day Parade**
- Various dates in April & May, the Brecksville Little Theatre will be featuring Mayor Hruby in the musical & comedy revue called "CELEBRATE" in which he has a number of solos**

- **May 3rd Election Day (Two important issues on the ballot)**
 - (1) The BBHCSD School Levy**
 - (2) Issue #9, this is a proposed Charter Amendment relating to election filing deadlines. The Board of Election has asked council (the residents) to change the filing deadline to be consistent with the Board of Elections. The city would be moving the filing deadline up that would allow for enough time to get absentee ballots in to the Board of Elections in enough time.**

Brian Stucky asked if there has been any movement on the lights for the soccer fields at the Blossom property. Council Representative Mack stated he will get an answer for him, but he does know it has been allocated for in the budget.

Nanci Schlabig asked Mike Harwood if a copy of the “Usage Study” could be included with the Recreation Commission Minutes. Mike Harwood suggested that Nanci Schlabig contact Mayor Hruby to see if the study could be made public at this time.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Recreation Director Tom Tupa reported, due to the weather conditions, there have only been a few outdoor practices. Next month the grounds crew will be returning from college and hopefully they will have better weather to get the fields in shape for the season.

Tupa announced on May 2, 2011 the gym floors will be redone. The field house at the Community Center will be closed for 10-14 days. From there they will go to the Blossom Gym and re-do that gym floor.

Tupa announced the city will be holding a Document Shredding Day on May 14th from 9am to 12noon at the Municipal Parking lot. They will also be collecting food for the Human Services Food Pantry at this time.

The visit with the Easter Bunny was last Thursday, April 21st. It was a great event which was a sell out. Kelly did a nice job.

The Community Center will be conducting a total maintenance check throughout the facility.

Tupa reported registration for Belugas (the Summer Swim Team) and the summer Learn-To-Swim programs will begin on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 9am (online) and 10am at the Community Center.

Tupa stated ‘Game-on’ was put on Diamond E. It will be put on diamond A as soon as it dries out.

Athletic Director Pete Kormos reported Kurtz Brothers is trying to develop a new “Super Drying Agent/Turf Conditioner.” They are still in the “testing” phase, so they might let us try it out by supplying the material and charging us only for the delivery. Kurtz also helped out on Field E putting crushed brick on the walking paths that lead to the diamond at Field E. Here again, it is a new product that they are trying out so they only charged us for delivery.

OLD BUSINESS

Nanci Schlabig invited Tony Niccoli to the meeting to discuss the letter sent by Brecksville resident Heather Barber.

Niccoli said that Mrs. Barber wants more value (time) for her dollar. She is talking about “clock time” versus money. Niccoli reported the four, five and six year olds at the Brecksville Soccer Academy play for an hour. The six and seven year olds used to play two times a week but he found that was too much for the kids. So they now only meet once a week.

Niccoli stated the kids at the Soccer Academy are moving the entire time. There is a lot of 1 v. 1 play versus the 12 v. 12 play in Broadview. Niccoli reported the number of touches per hour is significantly higher with the Brecksville Soccer Academy program vs. the program at Broadview Heights. Our seven and eight year olds are playing 45-50 minutes in an hour and they are constantly touching the ball and sharing it with 3-4 other kids versus 10-12 kids (in Broadview). Niccoli believes there are a lot of good, quality things getting done within that hour time frame. The value is definitely there.

Niccoli restated a question asked, “Can we increase the time to an hour and a half for the 7 & 8 year olds?” Maybe, but they could not go at the rate they go now at an hour. They would have to slow down the play, give water breaks etc. and then the kids would end up being bored. Niccoli stated there are a lot of reasons that the Academy does the things that they do. Another questions asked, “Can we cut expenses so that we can cut dollars?” Yes, the Academy could use younger instructors that they can pay less. However, because the academy would not be

able to use the higher quality staff, the parents cannot be as critical of the coaching staff. Niccoli stated one of Barber's criticisms was that the coach could not see the faces of all of the kids during practice. Niccoli believes you need upper level coaches to get that type of supervision. Niccoli has tried to meet with Heather Barber with no luck. He will continue to try to meet with her to let her know she has some good ideas, but he also wants the opportunity to explain his philosophy.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Director Tom Tupa asked the Recreation Commission to approve the Statement of Athletic Facility Rentals which amends the following:

- 1. Rentals of athletic facilities may not be entered into by the Recreation Department more than one week before the date in question, by groups other than travel organizations recognized by the City of Brecksville.**
- 2. Individual rentals, such as family picnics and reunions will continue to Follow the terms and conditions set forth in Chapter 911 of the codified ordinances of the City of Brecksville.**

Director Tupa feels, especially moving forward with the expansion of the Blossom Hill property, this proposed amendment will help protect our programs and field/facility availability. This will ensure to help keep the city programs strong. A motion was made by Don Lastoria and seconded by Rex Mack to support the Statement of Athletic Facility Rentals to City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Nanci Schlabig asked to revisit the discussion of the "Suggestion Box" at the Community Center and the responsibility/role of the Recreation Commission monitoring these concerns. Director Tupa believes the suggestion box is a good idea. Tupa stated if a member's request is practical and if the funds are available, then we will do our best to accommodate their request. Council representative Rex Mack restated the role of the Recreation Commission is to represent the residents and to make suggestions to the mayor and Council relative to recreational programs and to meeting the recreational needs of the residents of the city. Mack stated he would like to review those suggestions turned in. It was the consensus that if Tupa sees a particular trend in feedback, he would report that information back to the Recreation Commission. Then the Commission would be in a position to discuss the issue, advise the Recreation Director, provide feedback to the mayor & Council and respond to the public.

Nanci Schlabig gave an update on the race. Schlabig reported there are currently four (4) sponsors for the race (Parma Hospital, Lubrizol, House of La Rose and True North) and they are \$500 a head of last year's sponsorships. The City has done a great job putting together the race form which is on the City website and Hermes website. Race forms have been emailed out to last year's participants. Race registration packets can be picked up at Fleet Feet in Northfield the night before the race on 6/26/11. Schlabig stated she is still looking for someone to be in charge of "course marshals." Candice Beaver agreed to handle the water station and Don Lastoria agreed to provide Vitamin Water for the race. Schlabig stated there is going to be an 8 & under age group for boys & girls. Schlabig is trying to get Honey Hut to donate prizes for this category.

BTBA

Meg English reported race information was sent out to the BTBA & BTSA. This past Saturday and Monday, the BTBA were able to have practices on the turf field.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Brian Stucky and seconded by Candice Beaver to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kelly McNeill

Clerk of Commission