

February 13, 2012
19:00

Chairwoman Diane Flannery-Cook called the monthly Recreation Commission Meeting to order noting the Open Public Meeting Act has been honored with notices sent to The Burlington County Times and The Camden Courier Post for this and all meetings scheduled for the Year 2012. A notice of meeting dates has been posted on the official bulletin boards in the Municipal Complex on Old York Road and the Recreation Building on Lake Avenue. A copy is also on file with the Township Clerk.

Commissioners present were Gene Camm, Diane Flannery-Cook, Mickey Foltiny, Anthony Pizzigoni, and Matt Senni. Commissioners Tina Carpenter, Lisa Clotter, Chris Sabatino, and Gary Sharp were not present.

Chairwoman Flannery-Cook noted that Councilman Mike Cantwell and Director of Recreation James Craig were in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Recreation Director James Craig indicated there was no correspondence.

After a review of the January 9, 2012 Commission Meeting minutes, a motion was made by Commissioner Foltiny to accept the minutes. Commissioner Pizzigoni seconded this motion. A unanimous supporting vote followed.

PUBLIC PORTION

Joe DiGiovanni, President of Sports Club, thanked Commissioners Pizzigoni and Camm for their help with a successful football banquet. Hopefully, the function can become an annual event. Mr. DiGiovanni advised the Commissioners of an upcoming breakfast fundraiser to be held at Applebee's on Feb. 25 from 8 am to 10 am. Tickets can be purchased at the door or through Sports Club. Mr. DiGiovanni then requested the quantity and sizes of shirts needed for an upcoming field hockey clinic fundraiser from Chairwoman Flannery-Cook and the same from Comm. Sabatino for the street hockey all-star game. Preparations for the upcoming track meet on May 12, 2012, to be held at Burlington Twp. High School are underway, with parking being a possible issue.

Mr. DiGiovanni advised the Commission that starting in March all Sports Club meetings will be held at the Lake building on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Plans are underway for the 2012 Special Needs Clinic. All programs will be from 10 am to 12 pm as follows:

April 21 – Soccer at the Hopkins Building Soccer Field
April 28 – Track at the High School Track
May 5 – Basketball in the Middle School Gym

This year, the participants will also be offered a chance to participate at the track meet on May 12, 2012.

At this point, Mr. DiGiovanni presented financial documents to the Commission regarding income/expenses, fundraising activity, requests from Commissioners, and payment for officials for 2011, as well as for January, 2012. After some discussion, Chairwoman Flannery-Cook thanked Joe for the information, asked the Commissioners to review, and get back to Sports Club with any questions.

Comm. Foltiny asked Mr. DiGiovanni if anything had been done yet with the memorial donations received for the child that passed away in Burlington Township. Mr. DiGiovanni indicated he would be contacting the child's father with their ideas. Sports Club is thinking about purchasing defibrillators.

Seigha Omuso, 50 Equestrian Dr., approached the Commission regarding The O League, which is a basketball league servicing Burlington Township. His organization is looking to host an outdoor basketball clinic in the summer using outdoor basketball courts within the Township, with LaGorce being the primary site. Mr. Omuso asked what would be required of his organization if such a program could be held in Burlington Township. He is hoping advertising, (i.e., sending flyers home through school) could be done through the Recreation Dept. The program is a day camp for 3rd through 8th or 9th graders.

Chairwoman Flannery-Cook thanked Mr. Omuso for his presentation and asked him to forward the information via email to the Recreation Dept., who would then forward to all the Commissioners for review and discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Camm reported that Spring registration for the youth baseball program has been closed due to numbers. A wait list has been started; however, no more players will be added unless someone drops out. At this time, there are roughly 330 boys registered for the youth baseball program with plans to field 28 teams at five different levels. Currently, the Baseball Association has 24 of 28 corporate sponsors to cover fees for t-shirts and hats. Special thanks to John Evans and the rest of the Baseball Coaches Association for their work securing the sponsors. The draft for the national and majors divisions will be Saturday, Feb. 25 at 3 pm at the Lake Building. Registrations are still being accepted for Babe Ruth and Senior Babe Ruth (ages 13-19). Comm. Camm would like to have a couple of pitching mounds built at Viereck field for warm-ups and practice. Hopefully, they could be placed inside the cages down the 1st and 3rd base lines.

In **Commission Sharp's** absence, Comm. Camm reported the travel basketball teams are progressing well and holding their own. The Championship Game will be held on March 17 and the Academic All-Star Game on March 24. The basketball fundraiser, Breakfast at Applebee's, will be held on Feb. 25. Over 100 tickets have already been sold.

Commissioner Pizzigoni advised the Football banquet was held on January 28, 2012 in the Middle School cafeteria. Over 250 people attended. The Commissioner thanked Mayor Carlin, Councilmen Schoenborn, Green, and Cantwell for coming out, as well as Joe DiGiovanni, Donna Verrico, and Sports Club for all their help. The banquet brought in just under \$1,000. There was a lot of extra food which was donated to the Home for Aged Women in Burlington County on York Street in Burlington City. This year's banquet will help the organizers gauge how much food should be ordered for next year. Comm. Pizzigoni has only received positive feedback regarding the banquet. The 2012 Football Camp will be held from June 25-28 at Green Acres 2 and the 2012 Pep Rally is scheduled for Sept. 7, 2012 from 6 to 9 pm at Green Acres. The Football Association is hoping to build off of last year.

Regarding the wrestling program, Comm. Pizzigoni indicated their last match was held in Collingswood. The team did well winning 54% of their matches. The Best of the Best Tournament is Sunday, Feb. 19 and four wrestlers will be participating. The final Grapevine Tournament is on Sunday, Feb. 26. It will be held at multiple sites yet to be determined. Comm. Pizzigoni then thanked Kevin Amey for his years of service in the wrestling program, as he will be stepping down at the conclusion of the season. The Commissioner will be interviewing for a new head coach and hopes to work with the High School wrestling coach, William Smith, to get him involved with easy transition from the Rec. program to the High School program. The Commissioner also wished all the 8th graders good luck in High School next year

Comm. Senni indicated there are 19 travel soccer teams (11-girls and 8-boys) ages U9 to U18 registered to play this Spring. Practices will start Feb. 20 with games starting the weekend of March 3 and 4 at Green Acres 4. At this point, there are two U14 girls' teams in the Friendship League and the other age groups are being looked at. Special thanks to Mayor and Council for honoring the U12 Boys Falcons, U11 Girls Strikers, and U12 Girls Falcons soccer teams at their council meeting.

Commissioner Foltiny advised the Commission that Steve Macrae was appointed President of the Soccer Coaches Association to replace Matt Senni. Regarding the indoor soccer, the program will conclude on Feb. 25. Thanks to Commissioners Senni and Flannery-Cook for all their help during the season. Since the first season was a huge success, next year they are looking to add fifth and sixth graders to the program. Players, coaches, and parents were all very supportive of the program. Thanks again to Sports Club for helping to fund the program, especially referees. Regarding the upcoming spring non-travel soccer program, registrations are underway. At this point, approximately 130 children are registered. The Commissioner is hoping to start on or about the third week of March. Third graders and younger will play on Sunday afternoons to minimize conflicts with other sports and fourth through sixth grade will play on Saturday mornings. The soccer clinic will start in April after Easter. Regarding the spring high school age soccer travel teams, the Commissioner is following up with coaches to make sure all players are registered. There will be five high school age teams.

Comm. Foltiny reported the following soccer camps have been scheduled:

1. Challenger Sports-Tetre Brazil – June 25-29 (evening camp)
2. 4th Annual Burlington Boot Camp – Tentative date July 30 – Aug. 3

The Commissioner is also looking into another skills camp during the evening the first or second week of July. The Soccer Coaches Association is hoping to start meeting the end of February to start revising the Player Development Policy. Comm. Foltiny and Comm. Senni are in the

process of selecting coaches/parents to participate with this process. To date, approximately 15 people have expressed an interest and the Commissioners would like to have approximately 7 people representing different parts of the program. Comm. Foltiny also indicated he is in the process of coordinating a 90 minute seminar with the Brain Injury Association of NJ. The program will be available to coaches and parents and will hopefully take place the end of March.

In **Commissioner Sabatino's** absence, Chairwoman Flannery-Cook gave his report indicating there are just a few weeks left in the street hockey season and he is still looking to end the first weekend in March. At a coaches' meeting, the idea for an 8th grade "Winter Classic" game was discussed. The coaches liked the idea so it was added to the last day of the season. The tentative game schedule for March 3, 2012 is as follows:

10:00 am – Junior Div. Mayor's Cup Championship Game
12:00 pm – Minor Div. "Winter Classic" Game
2:00 pm – Junior Div. 8th Grade "Winter Classic" Game

Regarding spring roller hockey, a group of individuals met to discuss the up and coming season, including possible fundraising ideas. Currently, there are 60 children registered, so the coaches are going to email last year's participants to advise sign ups are currently going on. Registrations will probably stay open till the end of February. The Commissioner's goal by the end of March is to have equipment pick up and player evaluations, as well as teams drafted. He is hoping to start the season by the first week of April.

In **Commissioner Carpenter's** absence, Chairwoman Flannery-Cook gave her report indicating the indoor track season is winding down with two meets left: the USATF NJ championship and the annual trip to Harvard University for the Northeast Championship.

In **Commissioner Clotter's** absence, Chairwoman Flannery-Cook gave her report indicating the Unlimited Cheerleading Squad won a bronze medal at the National Cheerleading Championship in Florida. Last year, they finished in 7th place. The JV High School team also placed 3rd this year and the Varsity High School squad won their 2nd National Championship in as many years.

Chairwoman Flannery-Cook reported approximately 120 children have registered for the softball program. Hopefully, the program will start the 2nd or 3rd week of March. The Junior and Senior Divisions will play games against Sacred Heart recreational teams. Regarding the summer tennis program, the past instructor Matt Harrison will be unable to run the program this year due to ongoing health issues. He did, however, recommend another high school tennis coach who Chairwoman Flannery-Cook will reach out to. Regarding field hockey, Chairwoman Flannery-Cook is partnering with the high school team to run an indoor instructional league for Kindergarten age through 8th grade. It will be a fundraiser and, to date, 20 girls have registered.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Director James Craig advised the Commission of the following:

1. The Recreation Dept. will be open on the following Saturdays: Feb. 25, March 17, 31, April 21, 28, May 12 and 26, 2012. The hours of operation are 10 am to 2 pm.
2. Commissioners have received in packs the 2012 Summer/Fall Registration form and program descriptions. Updates and any changes should be forwarded to the Department by March 19, 2012.
3. The Township Administrator will attend the March 2012 Recreation Commission meeting for the purposes of showing a DVD regarding violence in the workplace. There will also be a DVD presentation regarding the "Rights and Duties of a Volunteer in Local Government".

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Councilman George Kozub welcomed Comm. Senni aboard and indicated he hoped dates and times work out for Mayor and Council to be present at the Mayor's Cup street hockey game.

Councilman Mike Cantwell requested Comm. Sabatino contact him regarding trophy plates from previous years. Councilman Cantwell indicated he is sorry to hear this will be Kevin Amey's last season with wrestling; he will be sorely missed. The Commission appreciated everything Kevin did. Congratulations to the recreation cheerleaders and the high school cheerleaders on their accomplishments at Nationals. They should all be recognized at a Council Meeting. At the current time, Mayor and Council are working on the budget. If anyone has any questions, please ask.

OLD BUSINESS

Comm. Foltiny inquired as to whether irrigation at Green Acres I could be added to the next round of County grants.

Director Craig indicated he would ask about irrigation and noted another project being discussed is upgrading the lighting hardware at Green Acres 2 and 4.

Comm. Camm asked if it seems smaller projects, cost wise, get approved before larger ones.

Director Craig indicated not necessarily since the County indicated they would like to see the tennis courts refurbished.

Comm. Pizzigoni asked if the Township was moving forward with the "Green Acres" grant.

Director Craig advised that particular grant is really a low-interest loan for economically depressed areas and funds needed to be matched dollar for dollar, so at this time the Township would probably not be pursuing.

Comm. Camm then brought up registration refund policy revisions put together by the Committee consisting of himself and Commissioners Sabatino and Pizzigoni that were forwarded to the Commission.

Chairwoman Flannery-Cook indicated she had received some feedback from Comm. Foltiny regarding the wording as to when refunds/credits would still be taken under consideration.

Comm. Foltiny thought a particular Commissioner should look at what works for their particular sport.

Director Craig indicated verbiage should be consistent throughout the policy and that “credit” should be used instead of “rollover”. The Director also questioned why the total amount of a registration fee, except \$30 which is the processing fee, be refunded in certain circumstances, due to the fact that some program fees are only \$30.

After some discussion, Comm. Camm made a motion to change “refund/rollover” verbiage to “credits”, on the revised policy, with exceptions for aging out of a program. Comm. Pizzigoni seconded the motion. A vote was taken and tabulated as follows: Comm. Camm – aye, Comm. Foltiny – aye, Comm. Pizzigoni – aye, Comm. Senni – aye, and Chairwoman Flannery-Cook – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Foltiny wondered if a scholarship fund could be set up to help less fortunate with the cost of registration fees. The actual money would come from fundraisers. He thought a committee could be put together to discuss each request.

The Commissioners then discussed the pros and cons of the idea, indicating the idea is great but the actual process could be too hard to undertake due to the criteria that would need to be followed and any possible legal issues.

Comm. Foltiny then asked how Commissioners handle taking children off the wait list.

Comm. Camm added it is done by age and date, at least for baseball.

The Commissioners all agreed that the date the child was placed on the list should always be looked at first.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Commission was informed that \$26,209.77 was turned over to the Township Treasurer during the month of January 2012.

Commissioner Foltiny then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Camm. A unanimous supporting vote followed.

Meeting adjourned at 20:45.

Meeting minutes recorded and submitted by:

Barbara A. Dooley

cc: Mayor and Council
Administrator
Clerk's Office