

*Burlington Township Recreation Commission  
851 Old York Road  
Burlington, New Jersey 08016  
609-387-2775*

March 14, 2016  
19:00

Chairperson Pizzigoni 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 2016. 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 at start of meeting were: Matt Addiego, Jim Angelillo, Tina Carpenter, Anthony Pizzigoni, and John DiDonato. Commissioners Gene Camm and Lisa Clotter entered late. Commissioner Matt Senni was not in attendance.

Council Representative Mike Cantwell was not in attendance. However, Recreation Director Diane Flannery was.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

At this time, there was no correspondence.

After a review of the February 8, 2016 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Commissioner Angelillo to accept the minutes. Commissioner DiDonato seconded this motion. A unanimous supporting vote followed.

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

**Steve Macrae**, President of the BTSC Foundation, advised the Commission that, as of the end of February, the balance for all sports programs is approximately \$77,000 and the Foundation is happy with the lead time everyone is giving them for fundraisers. Mr. Macrae noted that on March 19 the Foundation is hosting a bowling event from 7 to 10 pm and all lanes have been sponsored. He also indicated scholarship applications will be going to the high school on April 1 with a deadline to apply the first week of May.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Commissioner DiDonato** reported Winter track is over and congratulated two athletes who set meet records for the shot put. Spring track registrations are currently underway and field hockey registrations will be starting in April.

**Commissioner Angelillo** indicated baseball participation is an estimated 285 players, which is more than expected and also includes 12U and 13U travel teams participating in the TSE League. There are a total of 22 teams in the Spring program made up of 9 travel teams and 13 recreation teams. The teams have been created, players and managers assigned, and all games and practices scheduled. The recreation practice schedule has been uploaded to the BT Baseball website. There are less than five players on the wait list at this time but, unfortunately, accepting more players would un-balance the divisions. The league did place late registrants two weeks after the registration end date. Comm. Angelillo advised the Winter session is complete and noted the following dates:

- March 26 – Recreation practices begin for the Hi Rookie/Lo Rookie Division
- April 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> games for older divisions (Majors/AAA/Minors)
- April 9 – Opening Day Ceremony/Pictures for all divisions
- April 16 – 1<sup>st</sup> games for Hi Rookie/Lo Rookie Division
- April 29 – Designer Bag Bingo Fundraiser for Travel and Cooperstown Teams
- May 14 – Pancake breakfast at Applebee's
- May 21 – Tentative Date for Championship Games (Majors/AAA/Minors) and Season Ends for the Hi Rookie/Lo Rookie Division

**Commissioner Camm** reported that regarding Recreation basketball, the girls program ended two weeks ago. This was the first season where the girls were involved with Florence Township in a joint rec program. The majority of the feedback received was very positive. Special thanks to the head coaches for the season: David Richardson, Brian Nippins, Dave Cullinan, and Bonnie Mazza. One of our girl's NCAA teams won the Championship, coached by Brian Nippins. Both of our WNBA teams advanced to the semi-finals. The boys Rec program ended last weekend. The NCAA Champs were coached by Charles Santos and the NBA Champs were coached by Sam Boone.

Regarding travel basketball, the program ended this past week with all teams fairing very well. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys program won the league championship. Congrats to Coach Will Felder, who also coached last year's boys 8<sup>th</sup> grade team to a league championship. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys team, which is predominately made up of 6<sup>th</sup> graders, advanced to the semi-finals and was coached by Tarea Morton. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys team, which moved up a division due to last year's success, made the playoffs but lost in the first round. They were coached by Rob Ray. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls team earned a first round bye in the playoff but lost in the semi-finals. Their head coach was John DiDonato.

Regarding the upcoming softball season, Burlington Twp. is once again competing in the Riverfront League. Practices will be starting this week. Player evaluations were held two weeks ago to equally divide the teams at the same age group. This year there will be a total of ten teams: 1-6U, 3-8U, 2-10U, 3-12U, and 1-15U. Special thanks to the coaches who volunteered this season: Sash Bhuta, John Weinczyk, Dave Cullinan, Mike Diccianni, Kim Gray, Ross Kownatsky, Mike Bartram, Chris Ent, and Mariane Lyczak. Thanks to Diane, Barb, and the rest of the Rec crew for organizing the equipment and getting the fields ready for play. Thanks to the baseball program for putting up the majority of funds to have Skimmer Field #2 refurbished.

Last, but not least, congratulations to Craig Cook, a high school freshman, who qualified to be in the State Wrestling Tournament.

**Commissioner Clotter** advised the cheerleading season is over and once again congratulated the Jr. Rec. Squad who placed first at Nationals and the Jr. High Squad who finished in sixth place. The coaches recently held their monthly meeting to start preparing for next season.

**Commissioner Addiego** indicated street hockey finished with championship games the weekend of March 5 and 6. The Hockey Association would like to thank Mayor Carlin for presenting medals at the Winter Classic Game and Councilman Cantwell for officiating that game. Thanks also to Councilmen Kozub, Jung, and Schoenborn for helping with trophy presentations. Thank you to the BTSC Foundation for supplying the medals and covering the snack shack, especially Steve Macrae and Jason Parsons. Thanks also to the Rec. Dept. for their efforts throughout the season. Comm. Addiego reported registrations for roller hockey are currently underway with the deadline being April 1, with equipment pick up and evaluations to follow. The Commissioner is hoping the program will be finished by the last week of May since they will be starting right after Easter. A possible date for jersey pick up is April 9.

In **Commissioner Senni's** absence, Chairperson Pizzigoni read his report as follows:

Regarding travel South Jersey soccer, both the boys' and girls' teams are underway with league games officially starting the weekend of March 5. There are several changes being made for the upcoming Fall season. The biggest change is that the age brackets will be different. The new cut off date will be Dec. 31 as opposed to July 31. This means that many of the current rosters will change and there probably will be a need for a tryout for most teams. Coaches are attempting to explain the new rules to the parents but there will probably be a lot of questions. The league is also going to now require three different field sizes for games; basically, a small, medium, and large field depending on the age group. Due to the fact that there may be more tryouts than usual, registrations for tryouts have started earlier. The time line to register for Fall tryouts is March 7 to April 15. Tryouts are tentatively scheduled for the weeks of April 25, May 2, and May 9. This would give everyone at least six weeks to register. The schools have been notified and the information has been posted on the Township's and soccer websites. Regarding the Friendship soccer program, rosters are in the process of being finalized. The League hopes to begin games in early April. At this point, it looks like Burlington Twp. should have four teams participating.

Regarding indoor soccer, the program concluded on February 27 with 72 games played over nine weeks. The final weekend concluded with participation awards for all players. Awards were presented by Mayor Carlin, Councilmen Cantwell, Jung, and Schoenborn, as well as Councilwoman Howell. Thank you to them for spending their Saturday with us. Thank you to Mrs. Jaime Lee and the Key Club/National Honor Society from Burlington Twp. High School for volunteering to work the concessions over the course of the indoor season. Special thanks to senior Jack Moir who showed up early on many Saturday mornings to help set up. Thanks, too, to the Hendryx family who helped pick up trash and put things away the last week. All players seemed to have a positive experience.

Regarding the Spring non-travel soccer season, registrations were closed on Friday, March 11. Numbers are light on 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older, so former players will be contacted to see if interested. Martin Poethke will assist with putting rosters together with a projected start being the end of March/beginning of April. The goal is for each team to play a minimum of an 8 game season.

Also, the Tetre Brazil Soccer Camp will be held the week of June 20 to June 24.

**Commissioner Pizzigoni** reported Spring football registrations are underway for the junior high level only through the South Jersey Independent Youth Football League. Practice will begin Tuesday, March 22 with games starting on April 16. Regarding wrestling, congratulations to Anthony Cook for going 3-2 in his five matches at the State Tournament. He was one win away from placing. Congratulations also to the Best of the Best wrestlers who will be recognized at the Council meeting on March 22 at 7 pm:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Logan Kahrs
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Kevin Arline, Cole Cook, Anthony Cook, and Ethan Wisnewski
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Josh Byrd

Congratulations to Craig Cook for making it to the State Wrestling Tournament as a freshman at Burlington Twp. High School. It is always nice to see someone who went through Recreation's programs do well at the next level.

Regarding the upcoming tennis program, the Cherry Hill Health and Racquet Club will be back for a second year to instruct the children. The schedule is being finalized and the program may have to be capped at around 50 participants.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Recreation Director Flannery advised the Recreation Dept. will be open on March 19 and April 16 and 23 from 10 am to 2 pm.

## **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

There was no report at this time since Council Representative Cantwell was not in attendance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Chairperson Pizzigoni asked the Commissioners to comment on the proposed elimination criteria that was forwarded to them regarding background checks from Rec. Director Flannery. After some discussion, noting a difference of opinion with all, a sub-committee was formed to go over the criteria, who will review the information, who will do the record keeping, how often a background check should be done, and who actually will need a background check. The sub-committee consisting of Commissioners Addiego, Carpenter, and DiDonato will meet and advise the Commission of their suggestions before the next Recreation Commission meeting. By doing so, it is the hope of the Commission to bring their recommendation to Council Rep Cantwell at the next Commission meeting so he can bring to Mayor and Council.

Comm. Clotter thought that a basic letter should go out to anyone who has to get a background check explaining what the criteria would be and also to allow anyone that fails to explain themselves.

Comm. Camm indicated that whoever is in charge of record keeping should be the one to advise someone if they failed and cannot coach. The Commissioners would only get an approved list of coaches.

Chairperson Pizzigoni asked if on-line registrations are still being looked into.

Director Flannery indicated she would have more information at the next Commission meeting and there is the possibility of having a pilot program for Winter registrations.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Comm. Angelillo asked if raising the registration fees from \$30 to \$60 is a possibility.

Director Flannery indicated it would not happen for Fall programs, but could be looked at for Winter registrations.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Commission was informed that \$13,040.00 was turned over to the Township Treasurer during the month of February, 2016.

Commissioner Addiego then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Comm. Angelillo. A unanimous supporting vote followed.

Meeting adjourned at 19:50.

Meeting minutes recorded and submitted by:

*Barbara A. Dooley*

Barbara A. Dooley

cc: Mayor and Council  
Administrator  
Clerk's Office