

January 13, 2014
19:05

Chairman Anthony 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 2014. 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

Recreation Director Fazekas indicated there was no correspondence.

After a review of the December 9, 2013 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Commissioner Foltiny to accept the minutes. Commissioner Sabatino seconded this motion. A unanimous supporting vote followed.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Brian Carlin thanked the Recreation Commissioners for volunteering their time for what can sometimes be considered a thankless task and also their families. The Mayor wished the Commissioners good luck and a successful, non-controversial year. The Commission was advised they have the support of Mayor and Council and noted the positive relationship the Commission has with the new Recreation Director.

Councilman Carl Schoenborn thanked the Commission for their cooperation while he was the Council Representative to the Commission. He thanked them for all their support, not only on the Commission, but with their involvement in coaching as well. Councilman Schoenborn believes that is one of the reasons high school sports are so successful, because of the foundation received from recreation programs. The Councilman noted an article in the Burlington County Times regarding the workshop Dr. Manno held over the past weekend regarding coaches teaching children properly. He indicated if anyone was interested in viewing the presentation, they could contact the Recreation Director. Councilman Schoenborn also thanked Recreation Director Fazekas and Barbara for all their help and introduced Councilman Mike Cantwell as the new Council Representative to the Commission.

Councilman George Kozub thanked Councilman Schoenborn for his time as Council Representative to the Commission and thanked the Commissioners for their service, volunteerism, and time. Councilman Kozub wished the Board a successful and healthy season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Camm congratulated new Commissioner John DiDonato, as well as returning Commissioners Carpenter and Clotter. He wished good luck to Chairman Pizzigoni and Vice-Chairman Foltiny and indicated he liked seeing the stability within the Recreation Commission. Regarding the four travel basketball teams, Comm. Camm indicated all are struggling, but none are winless. The non-travel basketball teams are underway and games started last week. The Commissioner is still planning on holding the Academic All-Star game at the end of February, beginning of March.

Regarding softball, Comm. Camm indicated registrations are open and approximately 50 girls are registered to date. He is hoping numbers will get much higher to make better divisions and balance the teams. Burlington Twp.'s high school softball coach, Nicolette Cannizzaro will once again be hosting a clinic with Sports Club to be used as a fundraiser. Comm. Camm also indicated there will probably be a 10 year old travel softball program; however, all have to participate in the non-travel program which would take priority.

Commissioner Angelillo welcomed Comm. DiDonato and is looking forward to a good year. Regarding spring baseball, Comm. Angelillo indicated registrations have begun with over 150 registered to date. Plans are to close registrations on Feb. 14, 2014. The Baseball Coaches Association has decided to self evaluate, based on the previous season for players. Team selections will have equal skills throughout the divisions. If a player is unknown, the player will be evaluated by the BTB Player development staff. The team selections/draft will be the weekend of Feb. 21, 2014. The travel teams will start evaluations/tryouts in March with team and manager selections by the beginning of April for ages 8-13. The 7U teams will be selected in May. Comm. Angelillo would like to see practices start the first week in March. Opening Day will be April 5 for baseball and softball with pictures taken that day as well. Closing Day will be June 7 and the Falcon Frenzy Tournament for 6 and 7 year olds will be June 28 and June 29.

The coach workshop with Dr. Manno was held on Jan. 11, 2014 with over 75 attending, including Council members and coaches. The Burlington County Times reported on the event and interviewed some in attendance. Special thanks to Recreation, Liz Scott, Dr. Manno, Pete Teifer, Tom Cappetti, and Mike Bartram. The material reviewed is available on the BTB website. (<http://www.leaguelineupcom/btbca>)

Commissioner Carpenter indicated indoor track is up and running with practices. Wednesday meets in Moorestown and meets on a couple of weekends will start soon. The Commissioner will forward the schedule when she has it.

Commissioner Sabatino congratulated the Commissioners on their appointments and thanked Dr. Manno and Pete Teifer for their time with the coach's workshop. Comm. Sabatino feels not only coaches, but parents, could benefit from the workshop and thanked Comm. Angelillo for putting everything together. Regarding street hockey, Comm. Sabatino indicated at least 3 or 4 games have been played, but due to the weather, many have to be rescheduled, probably on Sundays. The Commissioner is still looking to hold championship games on March 8, 2014. The 5 and 6-year old clinic being held at Skimmer and Fountain Woods is going well with at least 14-16 participants attending each session. Comm. Sabatino thanked Nancy Mellin and Kevin Triplett for their help with a roller skating fundraiser held on December 29. Spring roller hockey registrations are now going on with the program looking to start late March, early April.

Commissioner Clotter reported cheerleading squads are doing well placing first in their last competition and also being named Grand Champions. The squads will now be attending Regionals in Ocean City, Maryland and Nationals will be in Florida from Feb. 5-11, 2014. This competition will be on ESPN in April and also on varsity.com. State championships will be held on March 2, 2014 at the Sun Bank Arena in Trenton. Comm. Clotter advised the Commission she is hoping to implement a recreational program or clinic next year with regards to a special needs cheerleading squad. The high school cheerleading coach, along with Dr. Manno, worked to develop the "Sparkle Effect" special needs cheerleading team in the high school and Comm. Clotter would like to develop something similar. The Commissioner will also keep the Board advised regarding a movie made about and including Township cheerleaders as to when it will be shown.

Regarding fundraisers, Comm. Clotter indicated the high school is hosting a purse bag bingo and tickets are \$25 each. Anyone can also buy a full page or lines on a page in a "well wish" book, which will give encouragement to cheerleaders going to Nationals. The books can be made custom for each girl.

In **Commissioner Senni's** absence, Comm. Foltiny indicated the upcoming spring travel soccer program will consist of eight boys teams, which includes three high school age teams, and eight girls teams, which includes two high school age teams. The U15 girls team is currently at 11 players, so needs additional players, as well as a coach. The families of those registered have been contacted requesting volunteers and help reaching out to potential players. The U17 girls team needs a coach, but Comm. Senni is waiting to hear back from a parent. At the Council meeting on Jan. 14, 2014, the following teams will be honored: Mike Pollard's U13 Warriors, Carl Budden's U11 Lightning, and Bob Stankiewicz's U13 Strikers. Special thanks to Rec. Dir. Fazekas, Barb, and the guys for all their help in 2013.

At this time (19:35) Commissioners Tina Carpenter and Lisa Clotter left the meeting.

Commissioner Foltiny wished everyone a Happy New Year. He congratulated Comm. DiDonato on his appointment and Comm. Carpenter and Comm. Clotter on their reappointments. Comm. Foltiny looks forward to working with them in the future. Regarding indoor soccer, games are progressing nicely. Thank you to school staff for accommodating our needs. The program consists of 18 teams in three divisions. Approximately 200 children are in the program. Sponsor tee shirts were distributed this past weekend. Special thanks to Gabriella Senni, Candace Foltiny, and Connor Zatlukal who helped out at the snack table. Thank you to the Camms for assisting with cleanup and breakdown.

On a different note, it was great to see a sense of community and family this past weekend. On 1/11/14, there was a fundraiser for Siani McCurry. It was organized by her brother Davon with help from others, like Steve Macrae. It was nice to see Burlington Twp. come out in force to support this young lady. She truly has touched a lot of people and it is a testament to the people in our community coming together. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Chairman DiDonato had no report at this time.

Chairman Pizzigoni congratulated John DiDonato on his appointment and also thanked him for his valuable service to our country. Congratulations also to Commissioners Carpenter and Clotter. Chairman Pizzigoni noted the 125 lb. football squad will be honored by Mayor and Council on Feb. 11, 2014, for winning their championship game. Regarding the wrestling program, meets were held in Delran and West Windsor, with a meet in Moorestown on Jan. 19 and one at Burlington Twp. High School on Jan. 26. Most of Recreation's participants are first year or young wrestlers, which Chairman Pizzigoni feels is good in order to keep the program going. At the high school's wrestling match on Feb. 12, the "Future Falcons" program will be reinstated, whereby recreation's wrestlers will attend and cheer on the high school wrestlers.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Stephen Fazekas congratulated Commissioners Carpenter and Clotter on their reappointments and John DiDonato on his appointment to Alternate #2. Congratulations also to Chairman Anthony Pizzigoni and Vice-Chairman Mickey Foltiny. Dir. Fazekas then thanked Councilman Schoenborn for all his help and the time he served as Council Rep to the Commission. Welcome back to Council Rep Mike Cantwell; the Director is looking forward to working with him. Dir. Fazekas introduced Public Safety Director Kevin Shoppas and thanked him for attending the meeting. Last, but not least, thank you to Clerk Tony Carnivale for starting the meeting. The Director then went on to advise the Recreation Commission of the following:

- The Rec. Office will be open on Saturdays, Feb. 1 and 22, 2014 from 10 am to 2 pm.
- There was a meeting with PSE&G regarding new lighting at Skimmer Complex. This lighting will illuminate the parking lot and the project should be completed in approximately ten weeks or mid-March.
- Dead trees were taken down and tree limbs cut down around the batting cages at Skimmer. Also, the Department is looking into redirecting water located in the back of Skimmer near the tot lot.
- All were given the 2014 Recreation Commission meeting dates, but please be aware the regular meeting in October will be on the third Monday, with the Budget meeting being held the following week on Oct. 27.
- Changes to the 2014 directory and program responsibilities are being gathered. All will be updated and distributed as soon as possible.
- All were given a copy of the 2013 Recreation Program Participation Report. Thanks to all who volunteered and helped out, coaches and parents as well.
- Please remember to email the Recreation Department any upcoming event dates as soon as possible, even target dates, in order for PSD Shoppas to project for any possible police presence. Per PSD Shoppas, even if it is just a game with a large group attending and not an event, please advise and he will determine if police presence is needed.

- Thanks to Comm. Angelillo for coordinating the coach's workshop with Dr. Manno and Pete Teifer and for the newspaper article.
- Regarding the hockey incident investigation, a penalty letter was sent to the coach in question.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Council Representative Mike Cantwell told the Commission he is glad to be back as he enjoys working with them. Congratulations to John DiDonato; a new person always brings new ideas and that's progress. Congratulations also to Commissioners Carpenter and Clotter on their reappointments. Council Rep Cantwell reminded the Commission to please go through the Recreation Director with any requests/issues for Mayor and Council. The Director will then bring the issues to Mayor and Council. Please keep the lines of communication between the Recreation Department and Commission going well. Once again, thank you for volunteering as it is a big commitment.

Council Rep Cantwell will also advise what is going on in the Township at the Recreation Commission meetings, especially since he is on the Planning Board. At this time, there are many good, positive things happening in the Township, especially with respect to Burlington Center Mall and surrounding area. Also, with any redevelopment in Burlington City and Westampton, the tri-cities will become a very attractive area to both businesses and residents.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Pizzigoni indicated he would like Mayor and Council to revisit the policy of instituting background checks for coaches. Within the wrestling program, it is mandatory, as it will now be with the Babe Ruth program.

Council Rep Cantwell indicated the main obstacle was the cost factor, especially who would pay, but noted it is inevitable.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Comm. Angelillo to have Recreation Director Fazekas prepare a proposal to give to Mayor and Council, after he investigates all sides, to recommend the best way to handle background checks, including whether fees should go through the new Burlington Twp. Sports Club Foundation, Recreation's budget or some other means. Comm. Sabatino seconded the motion. A vote was taken and tabulated as follows: Comm. Camm – aye, Comm. Foltiny – aye, Comm. Sabatino – aye, Comm. Angelillo – aye, Comm. DiDonato – aye, Chairman Pizzigoni – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

PSD Shoppas indicated Burlington Township would be ahead of the curve by implementing background checks on our own through the sports programs.

Chairman Pizzigoni indicated information would be available by the February Recreation Commission meeting to finalize the 2014 budget.

Comm. Foltiny indicated updates to the Policy and Procedures manual should also be available by the February meeting.

Comm. Foltiny then handed out a letter from the Burlington Township Sports Club Foundation which the Foundation would like parents of all involved in Recreation's programs to receive. The letter gives an overall view of what the Foundation is with the hope of finding volunteers to support the Foundation and members to join. Comm. Foltiny indicated effective Jan 1, 2014, the Foundation would be operating as the fundraising entity. However, the Foundation is still in the transition process with the current Sports Club. In conjunction with the letter, questions were raised regarding vouchers for league/referee fees, fundraisers, snack shacks, and financial reports. All issues will be discussed and handled. At this time, the members of the Sports Club are working on putting together an inventory of product and equipment, as well as a final financial report. This will, hopefully, be done in the near future. The Foundation's first public meeting will be Feb. 17, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Lake Building.

The Commission also discussed having high school students work snack shacks for service hours because it is hard to get parent volunteers. Carl Budden, who is on the board of the Foundation, indicated a proposal could be given to the high school asking for help from anyone who needs to do community service.

Comm. Sabatino asked whether any grant money would be forthcoming and was advised, to date, the County has not advised of a new round of grants for 2014.

Recreation Dir. Fazekas indicated once the Foundation's 5013C is obtained, they could pursue grants.

Comm. Sabatino indicated the hockey program is struggling with raising money through fundraisers to pay for officials and wondered if Mayor and Council could look into increasing registration and/or Rider fees.

Council Rep. Cantwell indicated the first action should be the Recreation Director asking for an increase in the programs' line item budget, which was done for 2014.

Recreation Dir. Fazekas indicated the Commissioners need to project what their programs might need over the next five to ten years.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Commission was informed that \$6,090.00 was turned over to the Township Treasurer during the month of December 2013.

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

Meeting adjourned at 20:47.

Meeting minutes recorded and submitted by:

Barbara A. Dooley

cc: Mayor and Council
Administrator
Clerk's Office