

**BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**July 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Brian Stucky at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call was taken.

**Members present:** Barth, Kern, Lastoria, and Stucky.

**Also present:** Recreation Director Tom Tupa, Athletic Facility Coordinator Jack Abbruzzese, and CYVO President Meg English.

**Absent:** Beaver, Ganley, Redinger

**Approval of Minutes for April Meeting:**

Motion was made by Barth, seconded by Kern to dispense with the reading of the May 23, 2016 minutes and to approve them as written.

**Mayor's Report:**

N/A

**Council Representative Report:**

N/A.

**Recreation Director Report:**

Recreation Director Tupa reported the Home Days went well. Padmini Patnaik ran the game booths on Saturday and Sunday. This year they were held in the new Horticulture Garage down on Stadium and it really worked well having everything set up inside. Dog Jog was on the Saturday morning of Home Days and had a great turnout and a nice day for everything. The 5K on Sunday went off without a hitch and the staff did a great job.

The summer Concerts on the Square have been going well. This Thursday is the Cleveland Tops at the Humans Services Building, and Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup> are the Pop Tarts on the Square. There has been a good response to the Concerts on the Square this year.

The Baseball season has concluded and Jack and Jim did a great job getting the fields ready this year. A couple projects for the season were fixing the lips on Fields E & F, and staircase to the scorer's booth. There is a new net on the tennis courts. Jack and Jim will be using crack fill on the Basketball court up at Kids Quarters and a quick fix to get through to next year's for the refurbishment of the tennis courts at City Hall and the basketball court at Kids Quarters.

At the last Council meeting, City Council approved the repair the north basketball hoop in the field house at the Community Center. The bracing needs to be fixed. The north half of the Field House will need to be closed for a few days while they

do that repair, so notices will go up as soon as we have the dates scheduled for the repair.

Another project update is the Men's and Women's locker room tile repairs. Right now it is tentatively schedule for September 6<sup>th</sup>, during the pool shutdown, and should hopefully only last the two weeks. The carpet in the fitness area under the clock tower is starting to fray. We have pricing to replace the carpet, but are waiting to replace it until after the clock tower repair is done first, which has been leaking for a long time. It has been repaired many times, but this time we have called out an engineer to look at the clock tower repair, it is going to be a more involved project. Pool shutdown is scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup> for two week, possibly three, but hopefully only 2 weeks.

The Blossom Property wetland walk thru has been completed, and we are awaiting the write-up on it. The City is in the process of writing up to RFQ for the project, one for the Aquatic portion, and on for the Field House portion of the project. There are 21 trees that have been identified on the Blossom Property by the existing ballfields that need to come down to make for safe playing conditions. The Service Department is taking care of getting the quotes for the project and seeing it through.

The last drive-in movie for the summer is August 5<sup>th</sup> and is the Avenger- Age of Ultron. The first two of the summer were geared more towards families with little kids and we are trying to get some older kids, and tweens to this one. The first two have gone well and hopefully this one will to.

We are in dire need of Lifeguards, we started the season with a large roster of 37 guards, but have had a number of them leave recently for different reasons, including family vacations, better paying jobs and going to college, band, sports and other clubs. We are looking into a new pay scale that will be more competitive and help retain the guards. This will be a sliding scale and allow for merit raises. We spoke with Hastings, and he said other facilities are having a hard time. They have about 200 guards that they provide to other facilities, but they are charging \$20-25 an hour to provide guards which is cost prohibited at this time. If you know of anyone who is already certified or needs to be trained let us know. We offered one class in July and are offering another class in August.

There will be a weight loss challenge offered in the fall and will run through the Holidays. We will pass along information as we get it.

At the next meeting we should have some items to present as ideas for the 5 year capital budget the department is looking at. One suggestion that came up is some type of canopy over the Blossom Field House doors so rain doesn't come in when those doors are open for air flow.

### **CVYO:**

Baseball wrapped up except for one game which is playing tonight. There were many teams that had a lot of success this year and tryouts begin July 26<sup>th</sup>. The

Lacrosse program is having a Parent's meeting in September. High School Soccer team is having a meeting to get up and going shortly. Nothing to report on Basketball, they will get up and going in late September/October. They will see how tryouts go and what types of numbers they have, but they would like to stick to one team per age group as they have pledged to the City of Brecksville and not go beyond that. The grounds crew did a great job getting the fields ready this season. The City of Brecksville hosted three travel tournaments this year, two 10 year old girls' tournaments, and one 10 year old boys' team. There was a lot of activity during the tournaments, had they heard a lot of positive comments from all that attended. They really appreciate all the hard work by the grounds crew that allows them to be able to hold the tournaments here.

### **BSA:**

BSA finished tryouts with about 200 people in the program again this year, not many new kids or kids coming over from Broadview Heights. Not quite sure where they are going, but they are not coming over to BSA it seems. Josh Thacker is starting his High School camps at Blossom. High School Girls numbers are down this year. It seems BSA kids are staying, but others are disappearing, and realize they cannot compete. It used to be that High School would get some other kids back from other clubs, but now they aren't and numbers are down. High School Teams and BSA will both be beginning in August.

### **Run 4 Your Life:**

It was a great day for the race, and numbers were good. Lots of thanks to all of those that helped including Tom, Jack, Jim, Bob, Carolyn, and Pete even came back to help. Thanks to Don for the Gatorade, Meg was there, and Nicole ran the race and placed. There was a great turnout – lots of families and little kids running it which is great to see. Makes you feel good to see so many kids, and lot of them have come up through the running program. There are lots of repeat runners which goes to show what a solid program we have. Everything went really well this year.

This summer has been the biggest numbers for the workout and running programs. It is a nice diverse group of kids. This summer averaged 60-70 kids for the workout programs, and 30-40 for the running program.

### **Community Garden**

Don Lastoria has heard great feedback on the Community Garden. This has been an excellent addition to the Community and the response has been amazing. The gardens are beautiful, the people are amazing, it has become a great social experience for all of the members who have learned a lot about gardening from each other. The City is doing a fabulous job. The only complaint people have heard is the need for additional water ports, that during peak times people have to wait

and hour to an hour and a half for the ability to water their plot. We also need more gardens, there are many people who would like to have more than one plot. There are currently 80 plots (2 for the garden, 78 for residents and a waitlist of over 20 people). Nicole Kern has also heard many positive things about the garden.

### **Other Business:**

Jack Abbruzzese came to the meeting to pass along a few updates. Jack has been here about 2 months now, and he and Jim have sat down and talked about some ways they can streamline some processes. Currently they use SSCI to perform background checks on their volunteer coaches, now the coached can go online through a private link just for the City of Brecksville to do the background checks. They are exploring Ref Pay with the finance department. This would allow them to pay certified refs online through Arbiter. If we went this route we would no longer need to collect tax for from each ref and would be more efficient to just pay one place and then they in turn pay each ref. This would eliminate paperwork for the finance department and us. Hopefully this will be able to be in place for the winter season.

We will be using a new sports photography company starting in the fall. We have been using Future Stars out of Tiffin, Ohio but will now be using Visual Sports out of Brunswick who specialize in sports photography and leagues. Jack had used them in Fairview Park, and they, along with a couple other companies have come out to present to Jack and Jim. They feel that they will do some good things for us including offering lower rates for are participants and providing the City with team pictures that can be displayed in some of our facilities to show off some of our teams and volunteer coaches.

Pickle ball is one of the biggest users of the basketball court at Kids Quarters. As Tom mentioned, the cracks have been filled with a product recommended by Pioneer Sports that should last about 6-8 months depending on usage and weather until the court is resurfaced.

We will be evaluating our youth in-house baseball and softball program along with Meg and Tom English soon after the season is wrapped up. We are looking at 2 groups to possible come in and give some help with the younger age range of the program, the 3-6 year olds one is the Cleveland Indians and other is Bo Jackson Sports. They do a lot at the clinic level both for the kids and volunteer coaches. Looking at things closely and seeing if any changes need to be made. This season went very well, especially with all the moving pieces we have in the programs. We are considering adding a 3year olds soccer program for 2017 which would be a parent involved program. This will help bring the younger kids into our program and also help train future coaches at the same time with the parents having to be involved from the beginning. It would be an instructional type program. Had done

this in Fairview for about 6 years and maxed out at 40 kids and sold out every season. The idea was well received by the Commission. Conversation was had regarding the policy of background checks for coaches and in regard to the Soccer Academy and Run 4 Your Life. The City only currently runs a background check for the head coaches, not the assistant coaches. This led into a brief conversation regarding First Aid and Concussion Training for coaches. At this time the City only requires Concussion Training for our coaches. Jack also mentioned that the field house floor at Blossom is schedule to be screened and recoated on Monday August 29<sup>th</sup> by Ohio Floor Company and should hopefully be back opened by Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Roundtable-

Pat Barth- Thanks to Meg, Jack and Jim for all their hard work and help with the fields this season.

The Mayor's Volunteer Cookout is Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm and is always a good time.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, August 22, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Lastoria and seconded by Barth. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Carolyn Jatsek