

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION
January 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Councilwomen Laura Redinger at 7:30pm.

Roll Call was taken.

Members present: Barth, Beaver, Ganley, Kern, Lastoria, Redinger and Stucky.

Also present: Mayor Hruby, Recreation Director Tom Tupa, Athletic Facility Coordinator Jack Abbruzzese, Jim Kolesar, Meg English, and Carolyn Jatsek

2017 Recreation Commission Organizational Items

Brian Stucky was administered the Oath of Office by Laura Redinger for his new term as Citizen Member of the Recreation Commission. Nominations were made for the Officers, and Elections were held as:

Chairman - Stucky was nominated by Ganley, seconded by Beaver; approved by Commission

Vice Chairman – Ganley was nominated by Redinger, seconded by Lastoria; approved by Commission

Secretary – Kern was nominated by Lastoria, seconded by Beaver; approved by Commission

The 2017 Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule was approved and is attached to the minutes.

Approval of Minutes for December Meeting:

Motion was made by Lastoria, seconded by Redinger to dispense with the reading of the December 5, 2016 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor had several items to report to the Recreation Commission. The first item was that Then Design had been hired to design the Pool and the Field House on separate accounts. They are the firm that has built the SPIRE Facility and many other field houses and aquatic centers all over the country and have a great reputation. For the Aquatic Facility they have been asked to look at two considerations; one to expand and redo the current outdoor facility and the second option would be to build the outdoor aquatic facility at Blossom. The growing sentiment in town is to have it all at one location and make it a multi-use facility. The Mayor has also asked council if they would consider an indoor facility or a partially outdoor facility.

The Mayor stated they are confident if they decide to expand at the Community Center they could break ground this year. Any expansion at Blossom is taking a

little longer. The Army Corp of Engineers is looking at the wetland on the Blossom property, but the process may now take a little longer, but we are hoping to solve the situation this summer and be able to see where the building could go. The Police Department is planned to go out to bid in the next few months and work will begin immediately.

The City has an aggressive plan to continue to improve the Community Center. It will be 25 years old this fall and needs some work, and the City has put aside the monies to do a lot of upgrades. Most of the fitness equipment has been replaced and there have been not complaints about equipment, but a few new piece may still be added this year.

There has been some discussion about putting a seasonal dome on the turf field at Blossom to allow the facility to be used more year round. A dome for that field would cost around one million dollars and there is a cost to put it up and take it down each season. The next two ballfields to be built will be up at Blossom, there is room for two larger size fields up there. The Community Garden is looking to expand so we may lose the field at Stadium in the future.

There are two issues that have come to the attention of the Mayor's Office by residents concerning the Community Center. The first issue concerns the availability of the pool and field house to the members of the Community Center. Back when the school was planning the new High School there were many discussion between the School Board, City Council and Committees regarding whether or not a pool was going to be part of the new High School. The City stance was that they would prefer the school build a pool of their own, however Council at the time voted to allow the school to use our pool for a school swim team until they built a pool of their own. Soon after that, the pool was removed from the plans for the new High School, and left it so if we wanted to have a high school swim team they would need to continue to use the Community Center Pool. The program has grown into a fine program, recognized at the state level, with many records and there have been a great deal of scholarship monies received by its members as they have gone on to college. City Council has re-affirmed its commitment to the program, but some of the residents feel like we have given the schools the pool. Recently three residents have spoken up about the pool and field house usage. They feel like everywhere they go in the Community Center it is being used by the schools; what can our kids do up there; we renewed our membership but the field house and pool are always closed. These residents have been reminded that we have been telling the Community that there is a need for these additional aquatic and field house facilities. Unless we cancel our own in-house programs we cannot make the field house available any further hours. The pool is open a reasonable amount of time, and is only closed ten hours a week for swim team practice, and most likely if we did not have a high school swim team we would have a USA swim team instead. The field house is not used at all by the school, only for in house programs. Some of the residents complain that

they are given wrong information about when the facilities are available but the information is posted online, on the doors, and available for members to take home with them as well. Both the Field House and Pool Schedules have recently been given a make-over to the layout. Commission members were given copies of the new format and agree that it is easy to read. The Mayor is bringing this to the Recreation Commission to see if they have any suggestion to help reduce this issue. Conversation was had by the Commission, but the decision was that the way it currently is, is the best way to have it. As we expand the facilities, Team Sports would belong at Blossom and recreation/kids playing would remain at the Community Center.

The second issue that the Mayor brought to the Recreation Commission would potentially reduce the revenue of the Community Center by \$14,000 if a change was made. Several people have been inquiring as to why college students cannot be considered part of a family membership, since the majority of the year they are at college and only use the facility on their breaks. The question the Mayor posed to the Recreation Commission is should we be charging college kids that are living in the house a separate membership, or should they be part of the family membership? Discussion was had by the commission and the points were brought up that we do pro-rate our memberships quarterly so they could wait until April or June to purchase their memberships at a discounted rate, we have the guest fee options for those that do not come that often, they can pay \$4 each time they use the facility, and we have a grace period in January for all members to renew, which goes until the college kids go back to school. Statistic show that the college students do use their memberships regularly. The Commission decided to leave the college membership in place and decided that maybe the best solution is to make sure those with college aged kids are properly educated on the 3 options they have: 1. Full year membership; 2. Prorate memberships at with April or June 1st; 3. Pay the Guest Fee each day they use the facility.

At the end of the Mayor's report conversation was had regarding the new aquatic facility. Commission is in agreement that a centralized location for the pool as an addition to the Community Center is the best option as long as the space is there to do it correctly; however the Commission is split on the idea of an all outdoor facility vs an indoor facility.

Council Representative Report:

Councilwoman Redinger brought it to the Commission's attention that there will be an ordinance on the May Ballot for the rezoning of Route 82 from Residential to Office Building with an overlay for office/lab. This would allow the continued development of the land adjacent to MetroHealth.

Recreation Director Report:

The Recreation Department has hired Richie Brown to replace Karl Evele who left the position of assistant building supervisor in September. Richie will be supervising the Blossom Facility on afternoons/evenings, and weekends as well as teach our Little Hitters Baseball Program for 3-5 year olds.

Membership number in December went very well with the December incentive to purchase your membership at the 2016 rate before the rates were raised slightly in 2017. This year's membership numbers might be a little light because of the high number of renewals at the end of last year. Memberships will have to be re-evaluated as the new facilities are built.

There are a number of Capital Projects for 2017 including the clock tower repair, replacement of the carpet in the passive lounge area of fitness upstairs, regROUT of the indoor pool and spa, outdoor tennis courts and basketball court resurfacing, wallcovering and carpet replacement in the Community Rooms, and painting in the Community Rooms, Locker Room and Entranceways.

A copy of the Recreation Department's Annual Report was distributed to commission members to review, overall 2016 was a very positive year.

Athletic/Facility Coordinator Report:

The Athletic Coordinator stated that they were still tweaking a few of the different baseball leagues and rules. This year the biggest restructuring will be 3-6year olds and hopefully this restructuring will continue to grow as these participants age up. The tee ball program this year will change to the Indians Rally Cap Program that had been presented to Commission over the past few meetings.

CVYO:

All is well.

BSA:

Winter II is in session.

Run 4 Your Life:

The Home Run 5K flyer was sent out to all prior participants in preparation for this year's run on Sunday July 2nd.

Other Business:

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 7:30pm

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Ganely and seconded by Redinger, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek