

TOWN OF NEWTON
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING February 15, 2012
6:30 PM

The regular meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:30 PM on February 15, 2012.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT was read by Chairman Don Meng.

Present Members: Don Meng, Hank Smith, Jim Schmitt, Ludmilla Mecaj, Frank Sebastiano, Kerry Deckert

Also present: Albert Kaiser, President, Newton Youth Football, Sergio Borja, President, Newton Soccer, Steve Manning, incoming President for Newton Soccer and Voytek Dworzycski from Newton Soccer.

Approval of January 18, 2012 minutes. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Sebastiano seconded the motion.

Mr Borja gave an overview on his soccer program. His main concern is field availability and field maintenance. He made a suggestion of having portable lights on the fields which would increase the playing time and alleviate the immediate need for an additional field. He turned in his financials for the Town's contribution for the NJAL Soccer program. Mr. Borja mentioned the gates by the Memory Park field. It is a dangerous situation with the through traffic. He also mentioned if they could get a few good size recycling containers and 2 port- a- johns at Pine Street Park.

Mr. Kaiser spoke on his football program. He turned in his financials for the Town's contribution for their NJAL football program. He reviewed them with Kerry and pointed out that they are breaking even. They rely heavily on fundraising. He mentioned they are having a beefsteak dinner at the Hillside in Andover on March 30, 2012. All are welcome to attend. He talked about their concussion policy and the importance of getting a baseline concussion check. He brought up the idea of getting the field reseeded and that now is a good time to do this. It needs time to root itself.

Background checks were discussed. Kerry said Sagem Morpho located in Sparta will be doing the finger printing. The goal is to keep the process simple so it is convenient for the coaches to get this done.

It was also discussed to have fall sports signups at the pool. Kerry will reach out to the NJAL members and get their input as to what date would be good. The idea behind this is that any kid that signs up early for a fall sport on that day would get in to the pool free.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior Luncheon, March 25th. Discussion ensued on the caterer for the event. We obtained three quotes. One from Café Nico, one from Kathy Citterbart's husband and Ludmilla met with Dominick's. Kerry decided to go with Café Nico this year. Commission talked about polling the

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seniors about changing the menu from a turkey dinner to an Italian dinner. Kerry and Suzie will meet with Hayek's to discuss their pricing and let them know we are going out to bid.

Still looking for high school members for the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Sebastiano spoke about the Battle of the Bands. It was decided that we will start planning for next year.

Mr. Meng spoke about Newton Day. He stated that it is a Chamber of Commerce event. Volunteers are needed.

Miss Newton was discussed. A subcommittee of Suzie, Kerry and Ludmilla was set up. Our first meeting will be March 9. We will meet and report back to the commission.

Poster Contest: Everything is on schedule. Helen Le Frois will emcee. Mr. Meng asked if the commission could meet and judge the posters.

Easter Egg Contest: March 31, 2012, rain date April 7, 2012. The eggs are ordered.

Background checks: moving forward. It was suggested that all the Recreation Commission get a background check.

Recruiting new members: Kerry made a flyer for new Recreation Members. She gave to Commission members to post throughout Newton.

NEWS BUSINESS

Kerry has appointed Hank Smith to work on Fund Raising ideas. He has a successful background in this area. The goal is to get a pot of money to use for future recreation events.

Mr. Meng suggested vendors in the Town donate supplies ie grass seed, in lieu of giving money.

The Recreation Commission will be purchasing T-shirts for it members.

OPEN FORUM

The Commission request that Brock attend the next meeting as well as Mr. Schlereth, President of the NJAL.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a unanimous "aye" vote.

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The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on March 21, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Town's conference center.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Givone

Secretary, Recreation Commission

