

NORTH ROYALTON RECREATION BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

The Recreational Board meeting was held on September 25, 2012, at Memorial Park. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Antoskiewicz.

Present: Committee Members: Chair Russ Wells, Todd Althouse, Larry Battaglia, John Kelly, Barb Zindroski, Recording Secretary Diane Veverka; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik; Clubs & Organizations: Terry Veverka

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Althouse to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2012 meeting. Mr. Wells abstained. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Battaglia said the directional signs have been made for the walkway to York #8. Mr. Althouse asked if we should consider have a sign made to put on the backstop of field #8 showing an arrow to the concession stand. No update regarding donation of park bench at York Fields. No update regarding netting on field #8.

Memorial Park playground improvements

Mr. Antoskiewicz said since our October meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather, and we do not convene in December, we will discuss Memorial Park playground improvements in more detail at the January Rec Board meeting. He said he still would like to preserve the front wooded section of the playground and is open to suggestions. Mr. Althouse shared a playground equipment website called Bears. Mr. Antoskiewicz said we need to decide what we want, the area and the budget. Mr. Kelly asked how we are going about soliciting input from the community or people who had volunteered their time, such as Early Childhood Center, etc. Mr. Antoskiewicz said we will contact them so they can be in the process. Ms. Zindroski asked what age bracket we are focusing on and should we ask the schools' Phys. Ed Department if they would like to be involved? We are looking at separate areas but overall 0 - 10 years of age. Discussion followed. Mr. Battaglia suggested letting the people who showed an interest in being involved in the plans for improvements, to begin spearheading a committee. Mr. Antoskiewicz suggested we invite them to the next Rec Board meeting. Mr. Kelly questioned if we should have this committee separate from the Rec Board or all within the Rec Board. Mr. Antoskiewicz said we should be a participant in planning, but we can ask them to do some of the preliminary leg work. The Finance Department would have a list of the people who attended the September meeting.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said we have two avenues for financing this project: a Rec Capital Improvement Fund or, we can look at combining the financing of the playground with the financing of moving City Hall to the current library building. If we bond some of that money out, we can also incorporate this in with it, with City Council's approval. We are estimating that the number may be around \$100,000. Mr. Battaglia said that the subject of maintenance and upkeep needs to be discussed and agreed upon; it is up to the city to incorporate maintenance of the playground to be included in the city's yearly budget. Mr. Antoskiewicz agreed and said that is why we are looking for a low maintenance park. Ms. Veverka asked if we have a fund set aside by new developers that would fund the playground. Mr. Wells said yes we have a fund that new developers pay into.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said this is a great use of those funds as a community; we may have approximately \$100,000 in that fund.

Mayor Stefanik said we bought 17 acres of property at York Road and the Parkway with some of those funds. We are partnering with the Metro Parks which picked up 20 or 25% of the cost. They are going to tear down the structures and build a park, including a pavilion with additional parking for the walking path within the Metro Parks and we will lease them the land for an extended number of years. They will take care of it; it will be their responsibility. They are also going to have some type of dog feature. They will not disrupt any of the wet lands, which will create a buffer by the homes.

Mr. Antoskiewicz explained that we cannot use rec capital improvement money for maintenance; it can only be used for a new projects. Mayor Stefanik said we have money put aside for maintenance on the park. He suggested the Post do an article asking for community volunteers to come to January meeting. Mr. Kelly and Ms. Zindroski said they would contact the ECC and speak to members of the PTA.

Lighting

Mayor Stefanik said the new lighting is installed by the volleyball and basketball courts, but they still have clean up. Mr. Battaglia expressed his concern for the need to get out of your car to turn the light switch on for the timers. He said there are already two of the new bulbs that need replaced. Mr. Kelley asked if the baseball lights are on a timer. Mr. Battaglia said no, they still operate with a switch. Ms. Veverka asked if the security lighting for the people leaving the fields was installed at memorial to light up the pedestrian walkway to the parking lot; when the games end and the lights at the fields are shut off it is dark. Mayor Stefanik said he would check with Bruce Campbell regarding lighting concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Use of School facility gym time

Ms. Veverka asked if we need to have further discussion regarding use of gym time for soccer and basketball; are we continuing scheduling based on the decision which was made last year at this time which allowed additional gym time for basketball during the month of December.

Mr. Antoskiewicz hasn't heard anything different; it may not be an issue if Mr. Grassi is working with the YMCA for court time. Mr. Battaglia said with Sam Grida gone, he is unsure how scheduling is now being handled.

2. Length of Soccer season

Ms. Veverka received a complaint from a veteran baseball coach regarding the on-going problem of the soccer season and Soccer Days running into the baseball season. This causes a problem with Rec Baseball kids not coming to the beginning of the baseball season practices. Mr. Wells explained this is an ongoing problem, especially because of weather. Mr. Wells said he will discuss with Mr. Ragone.

3. Pumpkin roll

Mr. Althouse suggested a Pumpkin roll as a possible fall community event for youngsters. They can decorate the pumpkin and then roll them down the hill into hay bales.

Recreation Department

Mr. Battaglia said that the Bear Run went well; 69 people participated. Baseball ran into a roadblock regarding three security lights for the fields for safety purposes. He asked if we have a CEI contact name for who the city deals with. Mayor Stefanik said he would get a contact name for him. Mr. Battaglia explained that the lights may be on a timer, allowing a lighted area for the people to walk out at night. Mr. Battaglia said he would like to get his crew to replace the ground fault covers that have been broken off in the pavilion at Memorial Park.

School Board

Mr. Kelly said Memorial has been recut and landscaped and additional lighting installed. Mr. Presot will be in contact with you to discuss off-season use for the stadium and scheduling for the upcoming year. Matt Yappel will be handling the scheduling of gym time. Mr. Presot or Mr. Kuntz will handle stadium scheduling.

Council

Mr. Antoskiewicz said Council is starting to schedule meetings for next year and asked if the Rec Board would like to continue to schedule their meetings on the last Tuesday of the month. The Board said yes they would like the scheduled meeting time to remain the same.

We currently have four, possibly five, clubs donating to pay for benches around the lake. We will purchase them and have them installed in the spring. Mr. Ragone offered to pour the pads if needed.

Mayor Stefanik:

Adventure Guides have volunteered to help out on April 20 to fix pavilion #1 up by the tennis courts. Mr. Antoskiewicz is providing lunch for the volunteers. Mr. Althouse asked if the city could have someone come in and fix the leaking roof.

Mayor Stefanik said we have a new head of the Parks and Cemetery Department; Nick Suhadolsky is retiring at the end of the year. We are going to absorb his duties into the Service Department. Mike Lung will oversee Jason and John.

NORTH ROYALTON RECOGNIZED CLUBS:

Baseball: Mr. Veverka -- Ray Lehotsky resigned as President. Mike Kekic is our new President and also continuing the roll as Vice President; we are in search of a Vice President. Registration dates are set; we are looking at alternatives for on-line registration. Registration fees will remain the same. Mr. Veverka asked what the status of the scoreboard for Memorial field is. Mr. Battaglia said it is sitting in the service garage; he said he was told it was damaged in transit. There was a miscommunication between who signed for it, as well as was NRBB notified that it was damaged. Mr. Battaglia said he was concerned we would have a problem with the warranty if it's been sitting here for a year. The high school freshman will be playing games on that field, as well as J.V. will be using it for practice. Mr. Kelley said they have recut the field, built the mound, put new clay in the batter box.

Football: Mr. Althouse is giving the report for Mr. Elavsky – Everything is good. Fields were great; Kudos to the Rec Department.

Soccer: No update.

Youth Basketball: Mayor Stefanik said the city is working with the YMCA with the youth basketball program. No further update.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Zindroski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29 at 6:00.