

February 5, 2019 Recreation Commission Meeting

Members Present: Bernie Simkins, Darlene Perna, Harry Lucas, Rich Daubenspeck  
Members Absent: Steve Coates, Rich Stowman, Al Batten,  
Alternates Present: none  
Alternates Absent: Sheryl Neely, Jim Kelly  
Guest Present: Dave Deegan-Mayor, Tom Schofield-Little League, Gina Brescia-Reyes & Lauren Six-Football, Wendy Conrad-Franklin Twp. Field Hockey, Therese A Bernardo-South Jersey Youth Field Hockey, Coach Courtney Nicholson-Delsea Field Hockey, Meg Unger-Delsea Field Hockey Coach, Lori Roberson, Jill Scott, Emily Scott, Jordyn Conrad- all from Field Hockey, and Jessica Porter-Franklin Twp. Soccer

The February Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Community Center by Chairman Daubenspeck.

Upon motion by Mr. Simkins seconded by Mr. Lucas and carried the minutes of the January 5, 2019 meeting were ordered approved. All members voted in the affirmative.

Reports:

Mrs. Gina Brescia-Reyes, Delsea Knights Football, reported: (1) The 13 member competition cheerleaders won a free trip in March to Nationals. (2) Registration will be held June 4<sup>th</sup> for Flag Football. (3) They are working to get ready for the upcoming football season.

Chairman Daubenspeck congratulated Mrs. Brescia-Reyes for the organization's success.

Mrs. Brescia-Reyes stated that they need a practice area and if the group gets bigger, they will need a gym practice.

Mr. Schofield, Little League, reported: (1) Try outs are 2 weeks away. (2) They have low numbers registered to date 274 players. Last year was 400 and the prior year was 500. (3) They have a new Registrar this year. (4) Stated that they can't accept players that don't live in Franklin Township. (5) The nets are in need of repairs, a high reach will be needed to work on the nets. (6) Newfield Borough is now part of Franklin Twp. Little League and all Edgerton students are eligible to play for Franklin Twp. (7) Newfield's ball fields are in bad shape-they have 2 regulation fields.

Mayor Deegan commended Mr. Schofield for all his efforts to allow the Newfield children to participate in the Franklin Twp. Little League Program.

Mrs. Porter noted she had nothing to report at this time Soccer is inactive.

Chairman Daubenspeck reported that the emergency signs for entrances 1, 2, & 3 at the Pennsylvania sports complex should be done by March. A discussion took place regarding the gates at the site. He also reported that the nonprofit status project is being worked on by Hoffman's Office. He noted that Kathy Valla of Newfield Bank has also been very helpful.

Mayor Deegan reported that the people requesting a dog park requested a 100'X200' fenced area. They will establish guidelines for use of the area.

Mrs. Wendy Conrad, representing Franklin Twp. Youth In Line Field Hockey, reported that most of the area schools have a feeder program for field hockey for girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up. She noted that there are scholarships available for field hockey and she would like to see our girls have an opportunity to be eligible for one.

Ms. Nicholson, Coach at Delsea Middle School, explained how her players are at a disadvantage due to the fact they don't start playing field hockey until 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, vs other schools that have players that have been playing since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Ms. Meg Unger stated she has been coaching the Delsea High program for 35 years and was a Delsea graduate. She noted it would be a tremendous benefit for the Delsea program, if a local program was started for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and up. She added some areas start the players as young as 5 years of age. It was noted that they run mini camps at Reutter and Aura schools, but there is nothing for the kids after camp.

Chairman Daubenspeck commended Mrs. Wendy Conrad, and stated that she doesn't do anything half way; she has worked on establishing a youth Field Hockey Program from scratch.

Mrs. Conrad stated that they would need a field for games and practices.

Mayor Deegan stated his daughter-in-law played field hockey and received a scholarship. He stated he was willing to designate a field, but could not make a financial commitment.

Mrs. Conrad stated they hope to have the program up and ready to go for the fall season. They will get the High School Players to help, and noted that they need to earn service hours.

Ms. Therese A Bernardo, the South Jersey Youth Field Representative informed the Commission members that they fields need to be cut to 11/4" and would need to be lined.

Mayor Deegan stated the Township would do what they could and added he wanted it to be the year of the kids.

Chairman Daubenspeck informed the Field Hockey representatives they need to form a Board and establish by-laws. He stated they could utilize the Forest Grove Field and field house. He noted there is also a 3/4 mile walking track at the site. He advised them to prepare specs for the field maintenance.

Mrs. Conrad stated that they will start in August. They will run clinics and camps to raise money.

Chairman Daubenspeck informed the representatives that they have an opportunity to raise money at Community Day and also be performing road clean ups.

Ms. Therese A Bernardo noted that the towns pay the league fees, which are \$500.00 per team. She suggested a registration fee of \$100.00 per player.

Mrs. Conrad stated that they have preliminary by-laws and she has contacted an insurance agent. She stated that they are open to suggestions and people interested in serving on the board.

Chairman Daubenspeck commended the group for doing their homework to establish a Franklin Township Field Hockey League and called for a motion of support for the organization.

Upon motion by M. Simkins seconded by Mr. Lucas and carried the Commission voted to support the Franklin Township Field Hockey League. All members voted in the affirmative.

Chairman Daubenspeck stated it was a pleasure to support the new organization and expressed his appreciation to the Delsea Coaches.

Mrs. Conrad and Coach Unger thanked the Commission for their support.

Upon motion by Mr. Lucas seconded by Mr. Simkins and carried the meeting was ordered adjourned at 9:15 p.m. All members voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Coulbourn, Secretary