

## LIBERTY TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes October 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Dan Gaeta at 6:03 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

### Roll Call

Present: Chair Dan Gaeta, Vice Chair Amanda Loguidice, Cathy O'Byrne, Wayne Spangenburg, Suzanne Buchanan (alt #2),

Absent: Jon Beyer, Andy Cassini, Jennifer Pandorf (alt #1), Peter Karcher (Liaison)

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Dan to approve the minutes from September 26, 2017, seconded by Amanda. All in favor.

### Reports

Adult Recreation: Yoga at the Lake has been well attended. Yoga is Wednesday nights, except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month which is Tai Chi/Qigong. Held indoors each week and continues throughout the year.

Background Checks: The background check site is open. The LTRC members will need to complete a background check, as well as incoming coaches. Shannon will email the members the link to do the background check.

Baseball: The League which Liberty Twp. played in has dissolved. Not enough teams to support the league. There is no other league to join except the Colonials. Concerns were discussed regarding existing teams, especially the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team to be kept together once merged to Colonial League. This group of youth have played together for several years. The LTRC wishes to keep the team together and would be okay to accept new players to the team. Discussion ensued regarding direction of Liberty Twp. Recreation sports. The community has an aging population with youth graduating out of recreation sports. Baseball Commissioner will inquire about the merge into Colonial League and if they can guarantee that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team remain together for final season, as well as provide openings on the Board to include Liberty Twp. residents. Baseball Commissioner will report back to the Chairman before next meeting. Chairman Gaeta will follow up with an email to share details with the Commission as well as learn more about the options for Liberty to join the league. Locks were purchased for all five baseball sheds.

Basketball: Numbers are down. Not enough registrants to form any girl teams for any grade level. Basketball Commissioner has been in communication with Independence Recreation and they have room on their teams to accept the players. The league has made three rule changes for the season: 1. Zone defense is now allowed for lower level teams. 2. Foul throws have been eliminated as a requirement for all grade levels before the games. 3. Defense for all grades will be able to go to the top of the key on the court, and are no longer made to wait at half court. The Basketball Commissioner did not receive proper notification regarding the meeting, as the notice was sent to an old email account. Liberty and Hope Twp. has been included in 1-2 clinic. Mr. Burke mentioned that White Twp. is interested in setting up scrimmage games before the season officially starts.

Beach: No communication was made with Buddy from EZ Docks. Dan and Shannon will reach out to him. Shannon spoke to former Recreation Commission Assistant and was told that the new swimming dock was installed to remain over winter in the lake with the ladder still installed. Designed to be low maintenance for Public Works. The final report was reviewed for the summer beach season. Inventory was received. No employee evaluations were completed. The LTRC requests the final report be given to the Township Committee representative in charge of personnel for review. Suggestions were received and discussed regarding the beach. One suggestion was to provide swimming lessons. A member of the public in attendance spoke about how possibly using a consultant/business to provide swimming lessons. Another suggestion was to have canoe and kayak rentals available at the beach. Shannon will follow up with the attorney regarding liability issues/concerns and feasibility to make these suggestions possible.

Community Day: Amanda is interested in seeing the binder regarding Community Day to understand the work needed to coordinate the event.

Concession Stand: Waiting for communication back from NJDEP regarding nitrate testing. Second inquiry into nitrate testing and waiting to hear back. Shannon spoke to Brad from NJDEP and he informed her that Liberty Twp. is currently on a quarterly nitrate testing schedule since the water system failed last year. May be a possibility to reduce to once a year testing.

Disciplinary: None

Finances: Current Expense/Income reports were received from Kevin. Shannon will email to all of the commission members to provide time to review for discussion at November's meeting.

Free Union Fields: Discussion ensued regarding the Tri Mountain Lake triathlon. The LTRC is interested in pursuing sponsorship for the event as a fundraiser for the playground or to purchase kayaks and canoes for rentals at the beach. A motion was made by Wayne, seconded by Dan for the LTRC to sponsor the event. All in favor. The event will be sanctioned and insurance will be provided for all participants. The LTRC has completed a Recreation Facility Application and is submitting to the Township Committee for approval. An application was received from the Great Meadows Cardinals Baseball for permission to utilize the baseball fields at Free Union for practice and games, extending October 2017 – 2018. A motion was made by Dan to approve the application, seconded by Cathy. All in favor to recommend final approval from the Township Committee.

Policies: None.

Rosenkrans Award: None.

Soccer: Season is going well and trophies are being ordered.

Softball: None

Summer Recreation Program: A draft for summer rec counselor job description was coordinated with Emilia. A motion was made by Dan to accept the job description, seconded by Wayne. All in favor. The draft will be sent to the Township Committee for review.

Recreation Commission Members: None

Recreation Commission Chair: None

#### Old Business

Rutgers Safety Clinic: Thirteen Basketball coaches will need to attend the training workshop. Shannon will follow up with Chuck to see if there are openings in any nearby classes or if would be available to do one in Liberty Twp.

Geese Control Permit: Tabled for next month.

Playground Planning: Tabled for next month.

Public Comment: Pat Burke mentioned some adult baseball teams are interested in using the Free Union fields. Would there be a charge? Discussion ensued regarding that if it is free, then it is free for everyone. If there is a charge, then residents might have to be charged, as well as those out of town.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Approved 11/28/17