

Forest Hills Recreation Board Minutes

January 13, 2014

Attendees: Barry Layton, Ed Galloway, Roseanne Litzinger, Cheryl Finlay, Florence Biscaras

Absent: Melissa Bell, Joe DeGregorio

Guests: Cindy Simm, Lynn Cassidy, Jim Kiley, Nick Ricci

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Layton greeted the Board and our several guests to the first meeting of 2014. Ricci has applied for membership to the Board, and we understand that Matt Rodrigues is also in the process of applying. Kiley is a new member of Borough Council and the new chair of the Borough Property Committee, which the Recreation Board reports to.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2013

Moved by Litzinger; seconded by Finlay. Minutes approved.

III. President's Report (Layton)

There is interest from the Hosanna House to welcome a Forest Hills team/league to play on their newly created Dek hockey arena. Layton will further explore their invitation. The Board is pleased to learn this and will consider ways to get the word out to Borough residents, including in the *Tree City Times*. Simm emailed her contact at Hosanna House/Pittsburgh Penguins for more information and to learn more about our level of participation. There is some concern from nearby residents at Hosanna House about the level and noise of activity along Sherwood Road, but is being addressed.

IV. Marketing and Events Director's Report (Simm)

As reported at the November meeting, the construction of the new tennis courts is just about complete. Once spring arrives and there is two weeks of dry weather, the courts will be lined and the walkway complete. The Borough has still not received word from the USTA regarding its application of the \$27,000 funding to go towards the re-paving of the courts. The USTA recently asked for more information on our anticipated 10 and under program. Simm says we have complied with every request. A company has been selected by Council to install the electronic system to access the courts by members. After purchasing a tennis pass, each member will receive a card to be swiped at the entrance of the courts to permit access. There will be a charge for lost cards. The code will be reset at the end of each season. Non-members will only be allowed to play on the courts during the off-season, but the Board is not sure whether nets will remain in place during the winter (if anything the Board asks if the

old nets can replace the new nets for play during the off-season?). Council decided that an online reservation system was cost prohibitive and could not be implemented properly so play will be on a first come, first serve basis. Simm will monitor any concerns or complaints and bring those to the attention of the Board. Sometime in May, depending on the weather, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at the tennis courts. All this information will be advertised in the spring issue of the *Tree City Times*.

Winterfest is scheduled for Saturday, March 1 from 7-10 pm and will be advertised in the spring issue of the *Tree City Times*.

Simm shared the list of summer staff applicants. Council will approve the list on Wednesday, February 19; acceptance letters will go out soon thereafter. There were no applicants who applied for the tennis head coach/assistant coach positions so Simm is exploring several recommendations and will be in contact with Mark Paull for his advice.

Simm said Council will approve the pool pass pricing for 2014 at their January 15 meeting.

V. Tennis Report (Biscaras)

See above.

VI. Parks Report (Layton)

None.

VII. Basketball Report (DeGregorio)

Simm reported that the application to attend the summer basketball program will appear in the spring and summer issues of the *Tree City Times*. Layton indicated that he will most likely help coach again this year.

VIII. Pool/Swim Team Report (Galloway)

A Boy Scout from Troop 90 has had his Eagle Project approved by the local Scout Advancement Committee to improve the pool's snack shack. He has met with Jimmy Thielacker twice and secured the necessary permissions from the Borough as well as communicating with Lynn Cassidy. Since funds raised at the Winterfest event are to benefit the pool, the Board unanimously agreed that they would like to have the Borough earmark monies raised by this year's Winterfest for this renovation project (Simm will check on this). It is expected the project will cost more than is raised at this event so the Scout has also pursuing other funding opportunities. The Scout will make a brief presentation at Winterfest and explain what he plans on doing when the project commences in the spring.

IX. Old Business

Layton will contact Sally Bogie regarding any further developments or communication with the group that met last year representing adjacent Boroughs. Simm has been working with a member of Council at

the Churchill Borough (Ray Juriewicz) on recreation programs here in Forest Hills and in Churchill. The boroughs have had at least three health-talk seminars at the Westinghouse Lodge in Forest Hills and the Yagle Room in Churchill, and those have been somewhat successful. More are planned in the future.

The other boroughs (Wilkins, Edgewood, Braddock Hills and Swissvale) have not been supplying information on any of their recreation programs in order to be advertised in the *Tree City Times* and the borough's website. Simm welcomes any assistance on involving the other boroughs in the inter-municipality collaboration.

X. New Business

None.

XII. Adjournment

Moved by Finlay; seconded by Galloway. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Borough Building.