

## **Forest Hills Recreation Board Minutes**

**November 4, 2013**

**Attendees:** Barry Layton, Ed Galloway, Roseanne Litzinger, Cheryl Finlay, Joe DeGregorio

**Absent:** Melissa Bell, Florence Biscaras

**Guests:** Andrea Kennedy

### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Layton welcomed the Board for our last meeting of the calendar year. There remain two open spots on the Recreation Board.

### **II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from October 7, 2013**

Moved by Litzinger; seconded by Finlay. Minutes approved.

### **III. President's Report (Layton)**

Welcomed Andrea Kennedy to the meeting to discuss ideas surrounding the new tennis courts.

### **IV. Tennis Court/Program Ideas (Andrea Kennedy)**

Andrea has met with former and long-time Forest Hills tennis coach Mark Paull to discuss ways to revitalize the tennis program in 2014, especially given the new courts. Historically the tennis program has been a successful feeder into local high school programs; it offers fun, safe and healthy recreational opportunity to kids of all ages in the Borough. Andrea and Mark desire to spearhead an effort to celebrate the construction of the new tennis courts and at the same time give a rebirth to the program.

To be successful, she stressed the need to hire a superb coaching staff with excellent people and organizational skills. It may lead us to hire coaches from outside the Borough. We need to get the word out and advertise the coaching vacancy and what skill set the Borough is seeking.

Andrea and Mark are willing to organize an Open House in the spring to formally announce the opening of the courts and advertise the new program. This would likely be the last weekend in April or first weekend in May. At the Open House, the newly hired coaching staff would be there to meet potential tennis team members, register the kids, take orders for uniforms, and help parents understand the program. Andrea would like to invite past and successful tennis team members, such as the tennis coach at CMU and at Penn State (McKeesport), to be there and interact with the kids. The event could also feature raffles and other tennis-related giveaways.

And of course the new tennis courts would be officially "unveiled" with a ribbon-cutting ceremony open to all Borough residents.

It was suggested that this event might best if it coincided with with the annual summer sign-up at the pool which would be Saturday, May 3, 2014 (correct?). Andrea concluded by again stressing the importance to seek and hire the right coach and assistance.

#### **V. Marketing and Events Director's Report (Report submitted by Simm)**

The constructions of the new tennis courts are complete; what remains is the erection of the fences and lighting and painting of the lines which will be delayed until the spring. The new walkway leading to the courts will also be delayed until warmer weather. The courts will not be open for play until the spring. Simm stressed how smoothly this major project went and thanks Public Works (especially Jimmy Thielacker) and Glenn Engineering.

The Borough met the USTA deadline for funding support and is waiting for their decision on the release of funds; the Borough asked for \$27,000.

The Borough received bids on installing both a card and code access system for the courts which members will use to access the facility. A final decision has not been made but it is believed the code system might be more practical.

Simm investigated several online court reservation systems as suggested by the Board. It is unclear if any are completely free (i.e., no payment). Simm is working with the USTA on their recommendation. Despite the belief that personnel would need to be hired to administer the courts in person (i.e., to see if folks who register really show up), the Board firmly believes that this is not necessary but that players will police themselves by showing up with a printed ticket of some kind from the online reservation system which proves they reserved the court for a specific time. We encourage the Borough to still look into this.

Simm shared with the Board the tallied responses to the pool survey. Overall, the 26 responses were very favorable and only a few pointed out areas that could be improved.

Amended to her report, Simm wrote an article on the update of the courts to appear in the Winter *Tree City Times* and mentioned that there was going to be a ribbon-cutting ceremony next year; details will appear in the Spring issue (a reminder that the deadline for submission is January 3, 2014).

#### **VI. Tennis Report (Finlay)**

See above.

#### **VII. Parks Report (Layton)**

None.

#### **VIII. Basketball Report (DeGregorio)**

None.

### **IX. Pool/Swim Team Report (Galloway)**

A Boy Scout from Troop 90 is interested in improving the pool's snack shack for his Eagle Project in the spring. He has already discussed this with Lynn Cassidy and has plans to talk with Thielacker soon.

### **X. Old Business**

The Board will be hosting its annual Winterfest on Saturday, March, 2014. An announcement will go out in the winter issue of the *Tree City Times*.

### **XI. New Business**

None.

### **XII. Adjournment**

Moved by Litzinger; seconded by DeGregorio. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Borough Building.