

**DOVER RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY – DECEMBER 1, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Thomas J. Iwicki called the meeting to order at 7:10pm as follows:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Laws, I do hereby announce that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publication of the Annual Meeting Schedule in the local newspaper and copy sent to the Town Administrator.”

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Chairman Tom Iwicki, Vice Chairman Jerry Hoffman, Victor Rodriguez, Halashon Sianipar (7:12pm), Ida Ramos, and Barbara Sperry.

ABSENT: Jessica Reymundo, Denise Ridner, and Luis Acevedo.

Also Present: Alderman Patrick Fahy, Johnny Lopez of Dover Youth Soccer and Rob Mains of Dover Strikers Soccer.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Johnny Lopez stated he was here to see what the agenda is for the Soccer Meeting. Chairman Iwicki explained due to the Tree Lighting and possible snow on Monday, December 5th, the meeting which was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 6th will be rescheduled for Monday, December 12th. Chairman Iwicki said each group should have two people attend, the President and another representative present to discuss what we are going to do as far as merging the two Soccer organizations. The meeting will be held here in the DPW building with Tom Iwicki, Jerry Hoffman and Victor Rodriguez from the Recreation Commission.

Barbara Sperry discussed the problem of scheduling soccer inside during the winter months, which will be difficult due to all gyms being used by Basketball.

Johnny Lopez said at the last meeting we discussed the philosophy of the program in great detail. He said he felt there was a lack of initiative from the other party. He thought the last meeting went well, however there was still no merger. Tryouts should have been held together, and they were not. They excluded Dover Youth Soccer completely. He said they do not want to keep talking with no results. He said he believed the merger should be postponed. Chairman Iwicki said he would like the two groups to sit and come to a decision about what is happening. The Recreation Commission would like to put the issue to rest.

Barbara Sperry said advertisement of registration needs to be done if the Dover Youth Soccer stays on their own, because it is not fair if people do not know they can register.

Jerry Hoffman suggested Barbara email Peter and Anna every third day about the meeting so they both will attend. Discussion took place with Rob Mains regarding Peter Acuria not feeling like he was included in the merger. Rob Mains said he felt the Dover Strikers were being penalized. Jerry Hoffman explained there are issues that Peter had last time, which hopefully are still not at issue. He explained we are forcing him to come to the meeting and if he does not come then there is not an interest. We would like to give everyone a last chance to work it out. We did not force both groups to meet and iron out the problems. If Recreation had been more forceful, than the two groups may have worked it out already.

Rob Mains said that Peter Acuria had promised to get information for Municipal Alliance funding for the Strikers, however he did not do any of the things he said he would do.

Jerry Hoffman discussed the possibility of having the two organizations again.

Rob Mains said he thought the intention was for there only to be one organization. Discussion took place of the past meetings and the problems encountered for both sides.

Chairman Iwicki said Peter was the only Traveling soccer team in town for a long time and then Anna decided she wanted to run a Traveling Program. He also said Peter was not consistent in his offerings and Recreation would like to have a consistent and complete program.

Alderman Fahy said a clear record needs to be established by this Board of what has taken place over the past years. He said once the Board takes a vote and makes a decision, it should stand by it.

Chairman Iwicki said establishing a timeline of events is a good idea. He suggested going back to the meeting of March, 2005, which was held at the American Legion.

Jerry Hoffman said Recreation needs to take an extra step and force a meeting to make the merger a reality. If the two organizations walk away separately we know we have made every effort.

Victor Rodriguez said we can not always stick to our decisions, because if we did, we would not have 2006 Spring Soccer. We, as a Board, have the right to change our decisions as we see fit.

Chairman Iwicki asked if there is any reason any one can think of that these two groups cannot work together?

Victor Rodriguez asked for open minds, which seem to be closed.

Alderman Patrick Fahy asked for clarity on the 3 hour meeting held with Peter Acuria. Chairman Iwicki reviewed issues discussed with Peter Acuria at that meeting.

Rob Mains said he was told by kids on Peter's teams that Peter lives in Hackettstown.

Discussion took place of the grand-fathered players, which should be dwindling in numbers. They should be getting older and no longer in the program.

Alderman Fahy said the policy should be clear cut dictating people's actions, not people's actions dictating the policy.

Jerry Hoffman said in the past, the Mayor and Board have not stood behind the Recreation Commission's decisions.

Alderman Fahy said he cannot speak for everyone on the Board, however he knows Alderwoman Burbridge and himself would back Recreation's decision to have one travel soccer. He also knows there is another member just coming onto the Board who would also vote favorably.

Chairman Iwicki explained, in the past, Recreation has made a decision and then it was reversed by the Mayor and Board. He said we do not need negative press and will avoid it at all costs. It would be one thing if we had the fields and could accommodate everyone, but that is not the case. As we can see, the need for artificial turf is effecting every town. You can't pick up a newspaper without reading about communities asking for artificial turf.

Discussion took place of the grant which the Town applied for, which included lighting. Alderman Fahy said the total project cost is \$472,000. Barbara reported \$130,000 has been bonded already, and 2006 capital request was \$350,000.00 for Crescent Field. The U.S. Soccer Federation Grant application was submitted for \$100,000.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dover Code of Conduct Ordinance – Chairman Iwicki will meet with Mr. Venezia and will see him sometime next week.

Policies & Procedures – Copies were sent to all the Sport Presidents. Anna told Barbara that Rob Mains had some changes. He said he would like something added to say that any organization not offering services cannot continue. He gave an example of no traveling soccer for certain age groups over the past several years.

Another example is the Wrestling Program. Discussion took place of adding the following to policy #3: "open registration and tryouts" with "no individual choosing of players". Halashon Sianipar said it should be stipulated how many chances you get, like "three strikes and you are out". Policies and Procedures to be discussed further in

January.

Park Signs for Overlook Pk. & Crescent Fld. –Alcoa Plaque ready to install, but need to wait for better weather.

U S Soccer Foundation Grant –Artificial Turf – Due Dec. 1st - Luis paid for application on his credit card.

Chairman Iwicki said the priority is to get both fields done.

Plaque for Jane Riedel – Barbara showed the Commissioners the plaque purchased for Jane, which can be given to her at the Tree Lighting, if she is present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Master Plan – Chairman Iwicki encouraged everyone to read the Master Plan and make any suggestions or changes. He suggested emailing Barbara with any ideas, suggestions, changes, etc.

Barbara Sperry discussed the trees being cut down on the property next to the Antique Garage. She explained the trees

were being leveled and the ground would be remediated and topped off as part of the Fed Ex project.

Alderman Fahy said he believed they agreed to put a small soccer field on the land if they could fit it in.

Jerry Hoffman said the Mayor and Board do not communicate with Recreation and we are not aware of their plans.

Barbara Sperry said perhaps they told Luis Acevedo and thought he would report to the Board. Luis told Barbara that it will be a passive park because it is not large enough for a soccer field.

Jerry Hoffman asked Alderman Fahy to get a contact name from Fed Ex, so Recreation can request their assistance in purchasing an Electronic Bulletin Board. He explained that we have been receiving donations from different corporations for Senior Citizens and other things, and in return we have put the acknowledgement of thanks on the JFK Bulletin Board. We would like to send a letter to Fed Ex to see if they might purchase the Board for us.

Alderman Fahy said there would be a formal ground breaking, followed by a luncheon at the Antique Barn on December 7th. Barbara Sperry said she was not invited. Alderman Fahy said he would take Barbara to the luncheon as his guest. Jerry Hoffman said it was important to network and get contact information from Fed Ex representatives.

Chairman Iwicki suggested putting a thank you to all the businesses who have donated to Recreation on the scroll on our website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Maintenance:

November Maintenance Report

Luis Acevedo was not present. Barbara said she believed they were picking up leaves for as long as the weather holds out. Chairman Iwicki said he wanted to know what Luis planned to do for Crescent Field. The field needs to be aerated, fertilized and blanketed. Discussion took place that picking up leaves takes priority over everything else during this time of year. Alderman Fahy said he thought there were employees dedicated only to maintenance of the parks. Barbara Sperry said the controller box for the scoreboard needs to be taken down for the winter at King Field. Chairman Iwicki said the water should be shut off.

Personnel:

Alice - time due hours on Dec. 1st & 2nd

Barbara -on vacation Dec. 20-23 & will return on Dec. 27th thru 30th. She will be out (sick) from Jan. 4th for a few weeks due to surgery.

Sports:

Discussion of Financial reports took place. Commissioner Rodriguez asked about capping the donations from Recreation. Chairman Iwicki said we should review their financial reports and discuss finances and fundraisers at our Field Utilization meeting when Sport Presidents are present. He suggested setting up a meeting after the 1st of the year to review each sport organization's financial statement.

Dover Striker Rec. Soccer & Dover Striker Travel Soccer –Anna Bocchino to submit Financial report in January.

Dover Little League – Chairman Iwicki discussed the naming of a baseball field at King Field “the Tommy Barth Field”. He felt another option would be to install a plaque instead of naming the field after him. Alderman Fahy explained that it was brought up at the Town meeting, however, it has not been decided for certain yet.

Barbara Sperry said Little League still needs to submit a financial report. Discussion took place regarding Little League not having a banquet and does not hand out trophies and certificates for the kids.

Midget Football – Chairman Iwicki reviewed the cost of equipment as submitted by Midget Football.

Discussion took place that bills were submitted by Midget Football and Recreation was going to try to pay some of the bills, if money was left in the budget, however that was not going to happen due to shortage of funds. Suggestion was made for more fundraising to be done by Midget Football. (Car Washes, etc.)

Youth Basketball – Barbara Sperry said more coaches are needed due to more kids signing up each day. Mr. Mains discussed the problem of parents dropping off their children without coaches being present. She said that Mrs. Casiano wanted to have a police presence two nights in a row at the start of the season, to discourage this from happening. Mr. Mains reported on a disagreement between coaches use of the gym. He suggested sending out copies

of coaches schedule for use of gyms again.

Volleyball –Barbara Sperry suggested appointing Commissioner Ramos as liaison for volleyball.

Trips:

Lancaster Shopping Trip – Chairman Iwicki received a nice letter of thanks from Chris Noriega for the

Radio City Christmas Show – Sun. -Dec. 4th – 3 tickets available

Special Events:

Coaches Appreciation Night –was held on Nov. 7, 2005 – well attended.

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony – Mon., Dec. 5th – 6pm-JFK Park – Barbara Sperry will not be there due to death in her family. Jon Sperry will be Santa and Barbara Sperry asked Luis Acevedo to put up a tent (from Summer Program) for Santa. The mayor will attend to flip the switch. Chairman Iwicki said he would call Alice on Monday morning and make an executive decision.

Santa Letter Writing Contest – Nov. 28th-Dec. 13th- Letters judged on 12/14/05. Barbara Sperry said we received a few letters written in Spanish and we could really use a judge who can read Spanish. Idalia Ramos said she would judge the letters on the 14th.

Santa Run – Mon., Dec. 19th - Starts at 5:30pm Barbara Sperry explained how the Santa Run works to Ida Ramos. Commissioners Ramos and Rodriguez and Chairman Iwicki volunteered for the Santa Run.

Holiday Get Together – directly after Santa Run will be at Nick's Pizzeria on Clinton Street. He does a nice job and treats us well every year serving hot appetizers and pizza. Commissioners discussed inviting Jane from the DPW and presenting her with a plaque for her years of service at the holiday get-together.

Board of Education:

Lease still not signed – Last spoke to Fred Vanderhoof on 2/3/05

Dover Renaissance: Doors of Dover judging will be on Monday, December 19th.

FINANCE:

Dover Community Center Funds – Trust Acct. \$2,328.70

Sr. Trips Transportation Fund – Trust Acct. \$500 (Dover Craft \$100, Quiet Man \$200, Commerce Bank \$200).

O/E **Parks** to date (\$18,405.46) Bal. to date \$ 4,744.54

O/E **Recreation** to date (\$64,985.02) Bal. to date \$ 11,011.98

Commissioner Hoffman requested Recreation send out Christmas cards to those businesses and person who have contributed to Recreation throughout the year.

Payment approval Midget Football trophy invoice \$884.25 – none due to not enough funds in accounts.

Discussion took place regarding the bill for Recreation Office Cleaning \$1,024 (not covered by insurance).

Barbara Sperry reviewed several budget items with Commissioners. She explained that some items needed to have funds transferred from one account to another. Chairman Iwicki asked Barbara to talk to Paul regarding transferring funds to cover some items.

Barbara Sperry discussed the bleachers at King II. She asked Luis Acevedo and he said he thought there were bleachers there and Barbara said there were none, and what happened to them?

Halashon Sianipar discussed the amount budgeted for the phone. Barbara Sperry said we are billed monthly for our telephone system

Discussion took place to let the schools know where the call boxes are. Rob Mains said everyone uses their cell phones because no one knows they are there. Barbara Sperry said we explain where it is located to people when they get a permit to use Water Works Park.

Distribution of Hardship Funds –

Commissioners discussed how to determine the amount of hardship funds per sport and limiting the amount of hardship cases to be reimbursed for each sport.

Chairman Iwicki suggested taking the total amount of kids who were hardships per program and dividing the total amount of kids into \$2000 and come up with a dollar value per child. Commissioners agreed to take the amount of \$2000.00 and divide by total number of hardship cases (63) = \$31.00 per case.

Distribution of Hardship Funds

Breakdown is as follows:

Strikers Soccer	=	\$496.00
Basketball	=	\$105.00
Dover Midget Football	=	<u>\$1399.00</u>
Total	=	\$2000.00

Financial Statements: Commissioners discussed auditing financial statements in the future.

Next season Recreation to pay only up to 10% of total registrations.

VOUCHER LISTS:

MOTION: Motion to approve vouchers was made by Victor Rodriguez.

SECONDED BY: Halashon Sianipar

ALL IN FAVOR: **MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES: Approval of November 3, 2005 Minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve Minutes of November 3, 2005 was made by Victor Rodriguez.

SECONDED BY: Halashon Sianipar

ALL IN FAVOR: **MOTION CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairman Iwicki reviewed the correspondence with the Commissioners.

ANYTHING ELSE:

Barbara Sperry discussed meeting with Picatinny to discuss promotion of Frog Falls in Spring 2006.

She explained they are opening the park earlier this year. Barbara had suggested they make a presentation at a Town Meeting.

Barbara announced the next Recreation Meeting will be the second Thursday in January (12th). Rob Mains suggested to have a Senior Citizen trip to see “My Fair Lady” at the Papermill Playhouse in June or July 2006. Ida Ramos said she would see how many Seniors were interested in seeing “My Fair Lady”.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Victor Rodriguez.

SECONDED BY: Halashon Sianipar

ALL IN FAVOR: **MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 10:29pm.