

**TOWN of DOVER, NEW JERSEY
RECREATION COMMISSION
Parks & Recreation**

*** MINUTES *
OCTOBER 6, 2005**

The Board of Recreation Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2005 in the Richard M. Newman Center – North Sussex Street – Dover, New Jersey.

Chairman Thomas Iwicki welcomed the new Recreation Commissioners-Ada Ramos and Jessica Reymundo and administered the Oath of Office to both. Commissioners at this time introduced themselves to the new members.

Chairman Iwicki called the meeting to order at 7:14pm. “In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Laws, he does 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:

In attendance:	Thomas Iwicki – Jessica Reymundo - Halashan Sianipar -Victor Rodriquez – Idali Ramos – Denise Ridner - Luis Acevedo - Barbara Sperry.
Absent:	Jerry Hoffman
Also Present:	Anna Bocchino & Rob Mains, Dover Strikers Soccer, Aldermen Pat Fahy & Cynthia Burbridge

Chairman Iwicki asked for a motion to suspend the regular portion of the meeting and open the meeting to the public.

MOTION made by Victor Rodriguez.

SECONDED by Denise Ridner.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Walt Woodhull, Supervisor of the Dover Midget Football, went over various costs related to his football program and asked the Board to consider paying outstanding invoices for football equipment purchased from Circle Systems for \$2065.50, \$377.05, \$274.70. Walt explained he is trying to update his equipment and it becomes very costly. Chairman Iwicki explained to Walt that the town requires purchases be made thru the Morris County Co-Op. Walt explained why the helmets needed to be ordered thru Circle System. Discussion followed in regards to supporting local businesses such as Dover Sports, who has supported the Dover Football Program for many years. Chairman Iwicki suggested Dover Sports join the Co-op. He stated Recreation would have to check on its finances before committing to paying the submitted invoices. Luis Acevedo will get Walt the information on how to bid on the Morris County Co-op. Comm. Rodriguez asked Walt how many children are in his football/cheerleading program and his response was 160-165. Walt reported that accident forms were filled out for the injured players (one broke his leg in 3 places, another shoulder injury and another leg injury). The parents were told to come to the Recreation Office to file an insurance claim. Chairman Iwicki asked if the incident reported to Recreation was resolved. Walt said it was taken care of.

Anna Bocchino, President of Dover Strikers Soccer, asked Luis Acevedo about the field situation. Luis reported King Field is 92 yds X 56.5 yds. A small field (40 yds X 60 yds) would fit at Water Works Park. Rob Mains asked if a large soccer field would fit at Hamilton Field and Luis reported it would. Discussion was had regarding the use of Hamilton Field during spring

PUBLIC PORTION: (cont.)

months. Middle School students and Little League players use the softball field and it becomes a problem when soccer players need to use the field during the week. Second Street Ballfield usage was discussed. Little League wishes to use this field next spring as well as Casio and Dover Fire Dept. Other options discussed were Howmet, Germania Pk. and Hedden Park. Anna spoke with her secretary and she was going to email Rockaway Valley League to inform them that all games scheduled for the small soccer field at Crescent Field will be rescheduled to the Dover High School field. Luis can close down the small field but the large field needs to remain open for the Dover Middle School and Travel Teams. For this spring, Anna would like to request the use of the High School Small Soccer Field for the C, D & E Games (ages 5-10) and will ask Rockaway Valley League to schedule no home games for Dover for the A & B Divisions. The large soccer field at Crescent Field will be open to the Strikers Traveling Teams in the Spring. Water Works Park might also be an alternative field for the spring. Chairman Iwicki asked Anna to contact Rockaway Valley and ask them what is the “drop dead” minimum field size they will allow? Rob Mains will check the same with the Morris County League.

Rob Mains inquired about the \$950 sprinkler expense in the September Minutes and Luis explained it was to repair the sprinkler valves.

Chairman Iwicki reported on a meeting held on September 30th between Anna Bocchino, Rob Mains, Patrick Fahy, Cindy Burbridge, Jerry Hoffman, Victor Rodriguez and himself. The meeting was to address the letter written to Ms. Bocchino regarding 2006 Recreation Spring Soccer. Based on what was discussed, Chairman Iwicki felt they had a very good discussion and the Strikers came back to the Board with good ideas. Recreation would work together with the Strikers to try and keep Spring Recreational Soccer alive. Based on the information, Recreation feels they may have something which might be workable. Chairman Iwicki stated that at this time the Commission was not ready to take a Commission vote to say they are going to reinstate Spring soccer and back them fully, however, Anna is going to get more information and Recreation will also. By next meeting the Recreation Commission should be prepared to vote based on all the information that comes in.

At this time, discussion took place regarding the condition of Crescent Field. There seems to be constant puddles on the fields. Chairman Iwicki asked Luis to use Turface on the wet spots.

Barbara Sperry informed Anna that two children ran out into the street at Crescent Field with picket signs saying “Save Soccer” and almost got hit by oncoming cars.

Chairman Iwicki also reported that Recreation received a complaint about soccer balls going onto the walking path at Crescent Field Complex and residents almost tripped over the balls. Barbara reported the resident who called and reported the near accident felt the soccer field should be fenced in to prevent an accident from happening. The Board felt the residents should be aware of his or her surroundings when soccer is in progress.

Comm. Ridner expressed that there is a misconception going on. The children feel Recreation is trying to sabotage soccer and this is not fair to the Board. She also said the articles in the paper were not accurate. Comm. Sianipar commented that he had heard an erroneous rumor that the Town was stopping soccer because an apartment was going to be built there.

Rob Mains felt the Liaisons from the Recreation Commission should have met with the Strikers to discuss Spring Soccer before making their decision to cancel it.

Rob Mains also felt the formula for sport donations should be re-evaluated. He figured Football receives \$42 a player and Soccer receives only \$2 a player. Barbara explained there are more costs involved in running soccer than there are for football. For example, Recreation does not have to prepare the fields for football. We do, however, spend many manpower hours

PUBLIC PORTION: (cont.)

preparing fields for soccer. Recreation also incurs the expense of soccer goals, nets & field line paint for the soccer program. Barbara also stated, as a matter of information, there are some towns who do not donate funds to the sport programs. She knows for a fact that Mount Olive is one of those towns.

Chairman Iwicki stated Recreation felt football had the biggest expenses and they tried to minimize the cost as much as possible to make it cost effective for the kids to join. Re-evaluation of funds should be addressed.

At this time, Chairman Iwicki asked for a motion to suspend the public portion and open the regular meeting.

MOTION to suspend the public portion and open the regular meeting made by Comm. Rodriguez.

SECONDED by Comm. Ridner.

FACILITY APPLICATIONS:

Use of *JFK Commons Park for Outreach Program, submitted by Edgar Castaneda for Dover Church of God*, for October 9, 2005 from 3:30pm-6:00pm (approx. 75 attending) Rain date October 16th.

Use of *Crescent Field, JFK Commons Park and Richards Ave. Park for children's recess, submitted by Dover Child Care*, for Monday thru Friday from 10am-11:30am on various dates from October 6, 2005 to July 15, 2006.

Use of *JFK Commons Park, submitted by Sister Johnice Thone of Sacred Heart School*, for various class activities from October 2005 until June 2006 from 9am-2:30pm.

MOTION made by Comm. Rodriguez to approve the above applications with a note to be included on the Dover Church of God permit to be respectful of surrounding residents in regard to noise and sound system volume.

SECONDED by Comm. Sianipar.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS:

Dover Code of Conduct – Chairman Iwicki has not spoken with Frank Venezia regarding the Code of Conduct.

Policies & Procedures – Barbara to get in touch with the Sport Presidents to have them review our current Policies and Procedures and to recommend any additions or changes.

Park Signs for Overlook Park & Crescent Field – Luis Acevedo reported the signs should be up by next Wednesday. Chairman Iwicki asked that we contact Pat Cramer of Howmet/Alcoa and to invite her to a dedication ceremony. Invitations should be sent to the Mayor & Alderman from the Second Ward and Paul McDougall.

Sound System Cordless Microphone – Comm. Sianipar and Comm. Rodriguez received price quotes for cordless microphone. Comm. Sianipar's quote was lower and he will give quote to Barbara so she can order.

U S Soccer Foundation Grant – Chairman Iwicki reported the Letter of Intent was sent out by Barbara and accepted. Barbara will fill out grant application as much as possible and

OLD BUSINESS: (cont.)

U S Soccer Foundation Grant (cont.)

forward to Paul to give to grant writer. Grant deadline is December 1, 2005. Comm. Rodriguez asked if it was possible to contact Perry from Field Turf to make a presentation at a town meeting. Luis to contact Perry. Comm. Ridner asked what the grant would cover. Barbara explained we applied for synthetic turf and lighting for the large soccer field at Crescent Field. She also stated that one of the questions on the grant application was if the residents near the soccer field were notified that we are interested in installing lights at Crescent Field. With this in mind, Barbara asked the town engineer, Mike Hantson, if it was our obligation to notify the residents in the Crescent Field area. He felt it was not a state law but to check with Paul McDougall. He also informed Barbara that a change like that needs to be included in the Town's Master Plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Danielle Lewthwaite's Resignation - Chairman Iwicki informed the Board that Danielle Lewthwaite has resigned from the Board.. He asked that Barbara compose a letter from the Recreation Commission thanking her for her time & efforts on the Board.

Friends of Recreation Group – Barbara explained the need for such a group. She stated it would be beneficial to the Town in order to received monetary donations from large corporations. This group could apply for a 501(c)3 status, which is needed for tax deduction purposes, for large corporate donations. This status is also important in applying for grants. The mission statement of this group would be to work together with Recreation to enhance the parks and support recreational activities in our community. Barbara asked those in attendance if they knew of someone who would be willing to start such a group to have them contact her. Rob Mains suggested Recreation compose a letter to the sport groups stating we are looking to form a “Friends of Recreation Group,” and would like to get together to discuss this group and the benefits it could bring to the Town.

Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Course – Barbara requested permission to hold another Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Course on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 to certify the new basketball coaches. Anna Bocchino stated she has a few soccer coaches who need to be certified. Permission was granted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MAINTENANCE:

Water Works Park – Luis spoke to the Water Dept. Superintendent about moving the telephone poles and stated it does not look like it is going to happen this year. He did receive a copy of the Water Dept.'s plans for the new bridge. It will be built to the right side of the present bridge coming into the park.

PERSONNEL:

Barbara reported she is the supervisor for Women's Volleyball, which just started a week ago. She will not be able to supervise volleyball as of January 2, 2006, because of needed surgery on her foot. She cannot play volleyball for three months after surgery. She recommended Lori Hughes, who is certified and has been her assistant for the last few year, be considered as her replacement. Chairman Iwicki told Barbara to ask Lori if she is interested and then ask Paul.

SPORTS:

Dover Striker Soccer –

Chairman Iwicki stated he attended a meeting, which was held with Anna Bocchino, Christine Jaeger and Mark Jaeger on Wednesday, October 5th. Part of the meeting was to discuss a letter sent to Recreation from Peter Acuria regarding his concerns from a Traveling Soccer Meeting held on May 18, 2005. He does not agree with the Strikers By Laws. Chairman Iwicki asked that Anna respond to Peter's concerns in the form of a letter to the Recreation Commission. Barbara, at this time, distributed a copy of the letter to the Board Members. Chairman Iwicki asked if the Board should forward her letter to Peter Acuria. Anna replied her letter was to the Recreation Commission not Peter.

Comm. Rodriguez at this time tried to bring the new commissioners up to date on what has transpired with trying to incorporate the two traveling soccer programs into one. On February 3, 2005 Recreation stated they were going to support one soccer program. Chairman Iwicki added that Recreation wants to unify the two groups to come together so there is a unified location for registrations. Once registrations take place, the children will have the opportunity to play recreation soccer or they can try out for the traveling soccer. Therefore, everybody comes in the same location, everybody registers and everybody is supported by the Town of Dover. Unfortunately, Recreation is at an impasse where we have two people who have two groups, which cannot seem to come together as a unified group. Chairman Iwicki wants to take another opportunity, using Recreation as the conduit at this point in time, to try and get the two groups to talk to find out, if in fact, we can or cannot continue on the path we journeyed down to get the two groups to unify. Barbara is to contact Peter again and find out what he wants to do. Once he expresses what he wants to do, a meeting should be set up to discuss what happens from here on in. Comm. Reymundo stated both by laws should be looked at and combined as one. Past history was again reiterated by Rob Mains. Comm. Reymundo questioned how long has Dover Youth Soccer been in existence. Anna Bocchino stated Dover Strikers started in 1980 and the Dover Tigers started in 1981. In 1999 Dover Tigers changed to Dover Youth Soccer. Chairman Iwicki finished the discussion by giving one more piece of information. Since there was no advertisement from Peter's side about a Traveling Team, Anna came to the Recreation Board in 2004 and said she wanted to have a travel club. The Board contacted Peter and Peter said it was fine. Anna started to sign kids up; she had a try out and collected money. Then Peter decided he was going to have a team and chaos broke out because he solicited kids to come play with him and the parents decided, that knowing Peter's ability and knowing what type of program he ran, they wanted their kids to no longer stay with Anna's program and join Peter's program. This brought the Board to a decision that there would be only one registration and anyone who wants to play soccer in the Town of Dover registers at the same focal point. If you don't register at the same focal point you will not get the support of the Town of Dover. Chairman Iwicki asked Anna if she has advertised for Spring tryouts? She stated her tryouts for Traveling Soccer are Wednesday, October 26th 5pm-7pm and Saturday & Sunday, October 29th & 30th. Commissioner Reymundo asked for clarification on registering the children for recreation and travel soccer. She thought there was one registration for all children to sign up for soccer. Correction was made that there is one person taking care of all registrations not one registration. There are multiple dates, which are advertised in the newspaper and on the website. Once again Chairman Iwicki stated it is Recreation's intent to have every person within the town register at one location or through one person so that they know what is going on & are responsible for advertising and advising Recreation of the registrations. Registration is to be open to everyone. Chairman Iwicki at this time recognizes Alderman Fahy. Alderman Fahy stated the July 7th Meeting Minutes say, "If Peter plans to be part of the Dover Strikers he will apply.....Chairman Iwicki said we have gone on record stating that Dover Strikers Soccer is the only organization

SPORTS: (cont.)

Dover Striker Soccer (cont.)

Dover Recreation will support and he said it was clear from discussions at the last few meetings.” Without Recreation’s support, those using the Dover Board of Education fields must pay a fee and town supported sports get first chance at the town facilities. Through continuous discussions it was decided Comm. Rodriguez, Comm. Sianipar and Chairman Iwicki will meet with Peter Acuria. If someone cannot make the meeting, Comm. Ridner will be the alternate.

Dover Midget Football – Previously discussed.

Dover Little League – Comm. Ridner asked Luis if the wiring for the scoreboard was fixed. Luis stated it will be done by Spring. Barbara asked Comm. Ridner if she could get a Financial Statement from Little League & she said she would bring it to the next meeting.

Youth Basketball – Scott Mack stated registrations are in progress but they are in need of coaches. Comm. Reymundo stated she could probably get four coaches. Barbara stated for her to have them contact the Recreation Office. Next basketball meeting is on October 18th at the Dover American Legion.

Volleyball – Previously discussed.

Bowling - Fall Bowling Program began October 1 at Dover Lanes. Comm. Ridner will stop by the lanes to see how program is going.

Midget Wrestling – Ron Camacho needs coaches. Barbara has put the request for coaches on Recreation’s Website and in the newspapers but no response. Ron has contacted Wharton’s wrestling coach and they will take the kids from Dover but Ron would prefer having a team in Dover if at all possible.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Entertainment for 2006 Fireworks–Chairman Iwicki suggested hiring the West Morris Community Band. They performed at Dover’s Fireworks a few years back and were good. They also donate the fee they charge (\$600) as a scholarship to a graduating Dover music student. Commissioners seemed to agree but felt they had time to decide. In the meantime, Barbara is to make contact with the director of the West Morris Community Band to see if they are available.

Halloween Costume Contest – To be held at Dover High School. No hot chocolate and donuts. Advertise on website that contest will be indoors. Three Dover Historical Society members are to be judges. Mary Jenkins has also asked to help with this event. Barbara stated the Dover PBA is donating \$100 towards this Halloween Event and she would like to purchase Glo Sticks for the kids with this donation. Board approved the purchase of the Glo Sticks.

Halloween Fun Run – To be held Wednesday, October 26th with a rain date of Oct. 27th Registration from 3-4pm. Race starts at 4pm.

Coaches Appreciation Night – To be held on Monday, November 7th at 7pm. Awards will be given out during the Town Meeting and all sport volunteers to be recognized. Rob Mains asked who sends out the invitations because some coaches were not invited last year. Barbara stated Recreation sends out the invitations; however, it is the sport presidents’ responsibility to supply Recreation with the names and addresses.

TRIPS:

Lancaster Shopping Trip - To be held November 3 & 4. Alice Gilbert will chaperone. There are 24 signed up (16 tickets available).

Radio City Christmas Show – Trip is scheduled for Sunday, December 4th. Tickets are \$64 and \$59 for Dover Seniors. Bus will leave Dover at 12 noon and return approximately 9pm. Show starts at 5:30pm.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: A new lease for partial use of King Field has still not been drawn up by the Dover Board of Education. Barbara last spoke to Fred Vanderhoof about this on February 3, 2005.

DOVER RENAISSANCE: 14th Annual 5K Run to be held on Saturday, October 29, 2005

LONG RANGE PLANS: Nothing to report

FINANCE:

Dover Community Center Funds – Trust Acct. \$2,128.70

Senior Trips Transportation Fund – Trust Acct. \$300 (Dover Craft \$100, Quiet Man \$200). Commerce Bank would also like to donate (donation not received to date). Contributors to this fund are being advertised on the Bulletin Board at JFK Commons Park. Thank you's to be sent out.

Operating expenses to date for Parks is \$9,402.10 leaving a balance of \$13,047.90. A large portion of the balance will be used for two snow blowers (\$4,000). Luis to also purchase fertilizer & seed for Fall application and ballfield clay for Spring.

Operating expenses to date for Recreation is \$58,893.15, leaving a balance of \$14,487.85.

VOUCHER:

MOTION to approve the vouchers for payment made by Comm. Ridner.

SECONDED by Comm. Rodriguez.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES:

MOTION to approve the minutes of September 8, 2005 regular meeting made by Comm. Rodriguez.

SECONDED by Comm. Sianipar.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioners reviewed the correspondence list.

Letter was received from Michael DelVecchio asking for permission to erect a statue of the founder of the Dover Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps in JFK Commons Park. The statue would be of Richard H. Peer reaching down to a young boy to welcome him into the Bugle Corp. The Board requested that Barbara contact Mike DelVecchio and state we would love to entertain and support this idea but we are not sure that JFK Commons Park is the appropriate park and would like more details – dimensions of statue, design, etc. before approval. Rob Mains asked, “are statues traditionally approved by the Recreation Commission?” Chairman Iwicki stated it was brought up at the town meeting and since it hard to do with parks the letter was forwarded to Recreation. Recreation Board suggested we consult with George Laurie from the Historical Society to see what area would be appropriate.

OTHER BUSINESS:

West Milford Recreation Meeting - Copy of Barbara Sperry's notes from meeting of September 28th at West Milford are attached to end of minutes. Directors from Picatinny, Rockaway Township, Jefferson and West Milford were present. Barbara reported West

OTHER BUSINESS:

West Milford Recreation Meeting – (cont.)

Milford’s Recreation Center is an old school, which they have converted and now used for a Senior Center, Arts & Crafts, Ceramics, Special Needs Classes, Recreation Center and Food Center. A camp was also donated to them, which is used as a Teen Center. Every Friday & Saturday night they have local bands perform. They also have a basketball court, volleyball court and are planning on installing a skateboard park in the camp area. They extended an invitation to have Dover’s teens come to one of their Teen Nights. As a matter of information, Barbara stated West Milford consists of 85 sq. miles and has a budget of 1.6 million dollars.

Attendance Report –At the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen held on September 27, 2005 it was reported that some Boards and Commissions were having problems with members attending meetings and in some cases this attendance problem causes a lack of quorum to conduct business. Barbara informed the Recreation Commission the Town Ordinance states that anyone who shall be absent for more than 25% of the regular meetings during any calendar year and, whose absence shall not have been excused by the Chairman, shall be deemed to have failed to perform his/her duties and his/her membership on the Commission shall be deemed terminated and vacant. The Mayor or Board of Aldermen may appoint a replacement to the unexpired term. It is the responsibility of the Chairman to advise the Mayor & Board of any member who shall miss more than 25% of the regular meeting in any year.

Barbara stated she questioned Marge Verga, of the Administration Office, as to what constitutes an excused absence? She stated they do not excuse anyone from the Town Meetings. They are considered absent. Barbara also informed the commissioners that an Attendance Report was requested by the Mayor & Board.

Statement of Certification and Background Checks Forms – Barbara asked which form the Board wants to use. Both forms are redundant. The Board asked Barbara to check with Paul McDougall.

Rob Mains asked what the \$130,000 in bond money is for. Chairman Iwicki stated it was originally to be used for a Concession Stand at Crescent Field. Now we would like to apply it towards synthetic turf.

Rob Mains reported that one of the bleachers at Crescent Field is damaged by the small field and should be replaced. Luis will inspect.

Alderman Fahy asked if a fence could be installed at Crescent Field on the side of the parking lot. The soccer balls roll into the parking lot and someone might get hit by a car. Luis said he would put snow fencing up in that area.

Alderman Fahy also asked that something be done to improve Hooey Park.

Rob Mains asked that Recreation consider being involved in the replacement of the playground equipment at East Dover. He thought it would be a good jester on Recreation’s part to offer their help.

ADJOURN:

MOTION to adjourn meeting made by Comm. Rodriguez.

SECONDED by Comm. Ridner

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Barbara Sperry, Admin. Clerk