

ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF RECREATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
April 22, 2013

Prior to the start of the meeting the following statement of compliance was read:

Now therefore be advised that the notice requirements of this meeting have been satisfied by providing an annual notice of posting a schedule of such meetings in a conspicuous place in the Municipal Building and by filing a copy of such schedule in the office of the Municipal Clerk which said notices were filed or provided on January 21, 2013

Vice Chair, Bob Burke called the meeting or order at 7:50 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Calabro, Myles Garvey, Bob Burke and Brenda Huffman
Rich DeLorenzo arrived 10:05pm

Commissioners absent – Vi Shamah, and Wally Nowosielecki

Recreation Department – Donna Puglisi

Council Present: Councilman Tom Conboy, Recreation Liaison

An addendum was made to the March 18, 2013 minutes to reflect the adjusted increase of Summer Camp from \$290.00 to \$300.00

A motion was made by Brenda Huffman to approve the March 18, 2013 minutes with the noted addendum. Motion seconded by Bob Calabro. All approved.

A motion was made by Brenda Huffman to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion seconded by Bob Calabro. All approved

Diana Gellineau – Requested information from the Recreation Commission as to why EP United was not approved for field permits. Donna informed Ms Gellineau that the paperwork for the EP United as a nonprofit organization was incomplete and that in order to apply for a field permit, an organization must be a valid 501 C 3 Corporation. A lengthy discussion ensued and when the corporation is formed, EP United will forward the paperwork to Donna.

Bertha Campo – Stated that she wants to know why her children cannot play on Boro Fields as they are taxpayers in the City and she joined EP United because she found the Recreation not challenging enough for her children. Ms Campo was informed that discussions had taken place to combine both leagues to no avail. This joint collaboration would make Elmwood Park a more competitive soccer town.

Victor Carrillo – Stated that he resented the implications that the Elmwood Park Wrecking Crew Soccer Club was not a competitive club and wanted this information stated for the record.

Shakib Fakhoury – Stated that he introduced Donna to the Aviators. He stated that he has driven past the fields and there were no teams practicing at certain times. Donna informed him that the field permits were issued and all the field times were completed. She explained that if a coach had an emergency and had to cancel their practice the rec department would not know that and that may be why the field was not in use.

Ken Van Rye – Requested a port-o-john be placed at the Gilbert Avenue field. Donna stated that the port-o-johns have been ordered and should be there by the end of the week. Mr. Van Rye also stated that on English Ave, the girls have been practicing and he noticed that there were spikes on the edge of the field which could pose a danger. Donna stated that this was discussed with the contractors and as soon as the weather changes, this will be corrected.

Mr. Van Rye asked if a conversation could be set up with the DOT regarding Mosquito Jungle. Donna will look into this.

Monesh Songhui - Stated that the rules governing the recreation department should be equal for all teams.

George Altamurano – Mr. Altamurano stated that there are no fields for EP United to play and that the Board is being unfair to these children. Mr. Garvey stated he took offense to that comment stating that the recreation commission is solely about the children of Elmwood Park.

Rose Scolaro – Stated that the Elmwood Park Wrecking Crew is a competitive Club with premier levels. This organization is a new organization and cannot just start at the top level in their first year. They are continuously moving up to premier levels.

A motion was made by Myles Garvey to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion seconded by Bob Calabro. All approved.

A motion was made by Brenda Huffman to open the work portion of the meeting. Motion seconded by Myles Garvey. All approved.

Director's Report

Donna Puglisi stated that a copy of the capital budget requests has been submitted. Donna informed the Commission that a shared agreement had been reached with the County with regards to the Senior Center. An application has been submitted for grant approval on the renovations of the kitchen.

Donna stated that the spikes that have been seen on English Ave are due to the grading of the property and will call Scott to see about getting a temporary fence placed along the perimeters until the spikes are removed.

Painting of the Van – Donna stated that she has received 3 quotes for the painting of the van.

Price quotes for weight room. Donna submitted the 3 price quotes for the weight room equipment. The elliptical machine, bike and treadmill will replace the existing equipment that is already in place. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Brenda Huffman to expend \$9,400 for the purchase of the elliptical machine, bike and treadmill to replace the old equipment. Motion seconded by Myles Garvey. All approved

Tables and Chairs – Donna informed the Commission that the quote received at the March meeting was only for chairs. The cost to purchase 200 chairs and 20 tables totaled \$4,954.44 which includes freight and the rack for the chairs. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Brenda Huffman to purchase 20 tables and 200 chairs with racks and shipping at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00. Motion seconded by Myles Garvey. All approved.

Netting – The Commission asked Donna to thank Scott for all his work on repairing the netting for the baseball fields.

Bob Burke requested that the recreation department take a count of the lights that are out on the baseball fields. Bob Calabro requested that they also check to see if the lights are adjusted properly. Councilman Conboy stated that Musko did a survey of the lights and they may be able to compare it to the previous study.

Donna stated that she had a meeting with the Athletic Director of the High School. The high school is eager to work with the Recreation Department. The Athletic Director would like to schedule a meeting with the all the presidents of each league to show that the recreation department and the high school are working together so to try to help unite all leagues. It was noted that the high school coaches will help with all recreation sport programs. The High School will be issuing permits to the High School first, the Recreation Department second and then both the high school and recreation department will jointly decide on who gets the fields when not in use.

Fingerprinting – Bob Calabro stated that each league should track their own coaches and take ownership that all coaches are fingerprinted, etc and then report back to the recreation department bi-monthly.

Liaison Report

Councilman Conboy stated that the Council and Personnel Committee met with 3 candidates for the dual position between Boro Hall and the Recreation Department. The choice has been narrowed to one individual and the Clerk will bring this to the work session

Councilman Conboy noted that the recreation department should re-evaluate the part time position to a full time position within the next six months since the high school has cancelled their summer camp program and the summer camp registration should soar as well as the newly formed coop with the school with regards to sports programs.

Councilman Conboy stated that the Clerk requested that all Council liaisons speak with their respective boards to ask if any requests that they have from other departments that the request to through the Department head for action.

Capital Improvements – Councilman Conboy stated that there was a special work meeting after the public Mayor/Council meeting last week. The Council is asking the liaisons to ask each department and

their commissions to request only 2 projects. Councilman suggested that the Commission request the funding for the gym floor and if the grant funds are not received for the kitchen, then bond for the kitchen funding. Councilman Conboy stated the Elmwood Park has an AA bond rating. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Myles Garvey to expend not a not to exceed amount of \$36,000 from the Recreation Trust Account to fund the purchase of the gym floor. Motion seconded by Bob Calabro. All approved.

Old Business

Summer Camp – to date, there are 104 campers registered. All trips have been scheduled, buses obtained, lunch scheduled. Dr. Tomko has been sending the high school counselors to the Recreation Department for summer camp positions. Donna will look into utilizing Gilbert Avenue School if the enrollment rises in the lower levels.

Community Day Update – Donna stated that all vendor letters have been sent out. Donna met with the Chamber of Commerce. They want to get more involved in community functions. To date, Donna has received approximately \$1,000 in donations for rides.

New Business

New Programs – Volleyball – Donna will have a meeting and hopefully have 2 groups, novice and seasoned players. They will play on different nights.

Pitch, Hit and Throw Competition – There was not enough time to get this going. It will be worked on for next year.

Pine Street – Bob Calabro stated that he was approached from the resident on Pine Street that has had the trouble in the past with the balls hitting his house and car. Bob would like to see this revisited. Donna will contact the fencing company to see what can be done and report back to the May meeting.

Cricket – Donna stated that the recreation department has been receiving complaints regarding the individuals playing Cricket in Elmwood Drive Park. Donna stated she had a conversation with Chief Johnson and the police department now has copies of all permits for the parks. Donna requested that Mr. Giblin be invited to the May meeting. Councilman Conboy suggested that Donna email Mr. Giblin.

Soccer nets – Bob Calabro stated that the soccer nets are being moved on Sunday mornings. Donna will look into this.

Committee Reports

Bob Calabro – The end of the season hockey dinner will be scheduled shortly. Work has begun on fixing the fence by the batting cages. A previously used pitching machine was donated to EPJBL which will be placed inside the fence. Prices are being obtained to put turf in the cage. Bob stated that a member of the Little League has offered to fix the storage shed and will donate his time and materials.

Bob Burke – Bob stated that a post meeting was held with the basketball coaches. IT was decided that a meeting should be held in August/September before the season starts to go over the upcoming season.

Brenda Huffman – Brenda suggested that the small nets be chained to the spray park

Myles Garvey – No Report

Rich DeLorenzo – Rich stated he will go to the next Board of Education meeting.

Rich Stated that he will be meeting with Boswell Engineering on the Hut renovations and hopes that these renovations will start in the Fall.

Rich informed Donna that Birchwood Park, Elmwood Park and the basketball court at Boro field have at times been locked at 9:00am. Children have been noticed climbing fences and residents have called him and complained. Calls were also made to the police dept as well from residents. Donna will contact Chief Johnson and have them opened in a timely manner.

A request was made by Donna Puglisi to enter into Executive Session at 10:52pm to discuss personnel issues. A Motion to enter into executive session made by Myles Garvey, seconded by Brenda Huffman. All approved.

Discussion ensued pertaining to hiring of new employees. A motion was made by Brenda Huffman to hire Thomas DeSiervo full time at a salary of \$30,000 with benefits. Motion seconded by Bob Calabro. 4 approved, 1 abstention

A motion was made by Bob Calabro to conclude the executive session of the meeting. Motion seconded by Myles Garvey. All approved.

Motion made by Myles Garvey to re-open work the work portion of the meeting. Motion seconded by Bob Burke. All approved.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Brenda Huffman to close the Recreation Commission meeting at 11:25pm. Motion seconded by Bob Burke. All approved.