

BRECKSVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

May 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order by Councilwoman Redinger at 7:30pm. Please note this meeting was held via teleconference for members of the Commission, and the Recreation Department, and was live streamed for on Facebook live for the public to hear.

Roll Call was taken.

Members present: Beaver, Firestone, Kern, Moleski, Redinger, and Zenir

Members Absent: Barth

Also present: Mayor Hruby, Councilman Harwood, Director Tom Tupa, Meg English, Jim Kolesar, Jamie Mewhinney, Bob Pliske, and Carolyn Jatsek

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Redinger, seconded by Kern to dispense with the reading of the February 24, 2020 minutes and to approve them as written.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor thanked all of those in attendance for joining the teleconference tonight. The Mayor was hoping to share, better news, but it is looking like the return to order at the Community Center may be more difficult. There will be increased needs for staff, and cost associated with cleaning, and some areas will be difficult to open. The Board of Health has the ability to oversee the operations. The same issue will be associated with Baseball with the recommendations from the Governor's office. The City will be allowed to open baseball, and tennis courts, but not any basketball, or soccer, however, we are going to look at possibly offering our soccer academy because it can be done with no contact, and is more of a learning program.

Currently the Community Center has been closed for 8 weeks. The City had difficult time with people obeying the social distancing guidelines on the outdoor basketball courts, and eventually the same with the tennis courts, so both are now padlocked as a result of non-compliance of the social distancing rules. Some people believed it is not necessary and question why we are obeying the Governor's order, but the Governor has the authority by the Constitution, and he asked for compliance, not enforcement. We must comply with these rules and not the Board of Health oversees the reopening, and has an enforcement wing for the re-opening.

The City thought the Community Center would reopen with little or no problems. There has been no revenue coming in while we have been closed, and members have been inquiring about getting their membership money back. The current policy of the Recreation Department which is recommended by the Commission is

the give credits, not refunds. The Mayor recommends that any family that is experiencing hardship, especially those who laid out large amounts of money for camp be allowed to receive a refund due to the circumstances if camp does not take place this summer.

While no revenue has been coming in, many employees, 10 fulltime and 8 permanent part time have been getting paid full wages and benefits. Obeying the new guidelines for reopening will require more employees than usual for the season. For example there will need to be one employee at each game for baseball, the fitness areas will need to be cleaned constantly, the locker room will need additional cleaning throughout the day. This is added money that the Recreation Department does not have in its budget. Many colleagues have already closed their pools and Community Center for the summer, and are canceling their summer programs, not only because of the threat of spreading COVID 19, but also because of the financial problems that goes along with it.

There are four items the Mayor would like the Recreation Commission to address tonight.

1. How to handle refunds and extensions on memberships
2. Opening of the Community Center and Recreation Programs
3. Showers and Locker rooms
4. General comments on how the Commission would like to proceed

Council Representative Report:

Councilwomen Redinger stated that the last time City Council met in person was March 17th, since then they have been meeting via teleconference as well. At that meeting they approved all of the legislation related to Sherwin Williams and the TIF Agreement.

Items the pertain to the Recreation Commission include City Council's approved the purchase of the concession equipment for the aquatic expansion concession area on April 7th, the purchase and installation of a new divider curtain for the Community Center Field House to replace the original one on April 21st, and on May 5th approved the purchase of the furniture for the Aquatic Expansion, and also a new motor to replace the original one in the clock tower clock.

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Director Tupa, stated that his staff has sat down with Dr. Steve Paciorek, Director of Human Services, who is the point person for the City on the COVID 19 matter. They have been in constant contact with the State and the Board of Health, and are still finalizing a lot of the recommendations and guidelines for reopening of the Community Center and recreational facilities. When the Community Center reopens, only the indoor pool, fitness area and studios will be reopening with social distancing and reduced class sizes. The field house will not be able to open right away and there are items that need to be

considered as far as the locker rooms. Tupa, Paciorek and members of the staff walked the facility looking at safety for both Community Center members and staff. Some new policies and items that will be in place when the Community Center reopens includes staff wearing masks when at work, Plexiglas dividers at the front desk, floor markers for social distancing, signage throughout the building, additional touchless hand sanitizers throughout the building, and disposable sanitizing towels up in fitness for cleaning the machines. In addition no fans will be allowed, and all drinking fountains will be closed. Staff members will be responsible for cleaning in their work area, and will also be cleaning the bathrooms regularly. It will be recommended in the fitness area that members clean the machines both before and after they use them. Child care will be opening, but with limitations of 1 staff member and 6 children at a time in the room, and anyone who enters will need to have their temperature taken before entering. Parents must reserve a spot for child care ahead of time. In the pool, it is looking like it will be limited to one lap swimmer per lane, 3 people in the hot tub at a time, and family groups must be spaced out by at least 6 feet during open swim. We may look at offering some water exercise classes with social distancing. As far as locker rooms, social distancing can be achieved in the locker rooms, using every third locker, and the restrooms would be sanitized regularly. The Saunas will remain closed, and in order to open the showers, they would need to be sanitized after each use.

Before anyone can return to the Community Center or participate in any Recreation Department program, they will need to sign an additional COVID 19 Waiver for themselves and any minor children. At this time no official opening date has been set. The opening date can be any date after May 26th, the City is currently considering June 1st or June 8th. Reduced hours of Monday – Friday 5:30am-8pm and Saturday & Sundays 10-5pm are being considered.

As far as memberships go, the Recreation Department is looking to offer household credits for all members equal to the value of their membership for the number of weeks the facility was closed. These credits could be used for anything at the Community Center. As far as programs go, credits have already been issued for programs that had been cancelled this spring due to the facility closure. No decisions have been made as of this time on whether or not we will cancel summer programs. Discussion was had by the commission regarding how to handle membership credits, and program credits, whether the program is cancelled by the City or if the participants do not feel comfortable participating even if the program is held following the appropriate guideline by the State and Cuyahoga County Board of Health. After the discussion, and motion was made by Redinger and seconded by Kern to make the following recommendation to City Council.

1. Provide a Household Credit in RecTrac for the time the Community Center was closed based on the household membership type.
2. Issue Household Credits in RecTrac for any programs that will not be held but registration has already been made.

3. Issue refunds from the Finance Department to households who request them due to hardship, for items outside of Community Center Memberships. Hardships would be handled on a case by case basis by the Recreations Administration.

Athletic/Facility Coordinator & CVYO Report:

As it is understood today some of the guidelines for youth baseball and softball include coaches wearing masks, players wearing masks in the dugout, only immediate family members of players can be in attendance, umpires must wear masks at all times, catchers will be 6ft behind the plate and umpire 6ft behind them, no equipment sharing amongst players, team in the outfield uses their team balls. One of the issues facing recreation is the sharing of equipment. Currently we do not issue equipment (i.e. helmets, bats, catcher equipment) to each player, nor do we require it, rather each team is supplies with shared equipment. The department is putting together some numbers to see what the cost would be to provide a helmet for each player, along with costs of sanitation and employees for each facility to see if it is even feasible for the City to have recreation leagues. Also looking at how to instruct the younger players without close interaction on how to hold and swing a bat, as well as just general issues with self-distancing at that age. There is some conversation about kid pitch level and above for Recreation.

Meg English was on the Governor's Committee for sports under a gentleman from Hudson. While recreational sports can be more challenging, travel baseball has other concerns. Some further details on some of the current guidelines include that while the umps must wear masks on the field, they may get some from fresh air while at a distance. The umpires will be allowed to make the call right behind the catcher because of the way their protective gear is designed, the catcher's equipment provides part of their protection. They have been instructed that they would be 6 ft. behind until the pitch, come up them step away to make their call. The Governor's guidelines do not state that immediate family is allowed, but the travel league will follow any and all guidelines in place by the City. Council Harwood added that in addition to the City Facilities, Travel also uses the Boys and Girls Varsity Fields at the High School and the field at Highland Elementary. He has spoken with Superintendent Magyar, and the ruling she received is that the City can use those fields, will the same restrictions that are in place for the City Fields. All maintenance would be done on the fields during the summer by the City and as well as well as the daily sanitation requirements after each game. No matter what decision is made about what leagues will occur this summer, the City will need to have a representative at each game to ensure tour policy is being followed and enforced by both the Travel and Recreational Teams. A BTBA will have volunteers at their games making sure the policies are being followed as well. The Mayor took the opportunity to Thank Meg for the excellent job she has done

representing the City and Travel Baseball at the State Level. As far as travel, it was confirmed that the fields would be open beginning May 26, as long as a policy was in place prior to that. Councilman Harwood will confirm the usage of the school fields and if the City would have to cut the grass or just maintain the fields. A separate call would be held to handle field scheduling.

A question was asked about the pulse of people wanting to participate, Meg relayed that as far as travel was concerned out of 160 teams, 2 had dropped out, and Jim Kolesar reported that he is still getting calls and emails from parents wanting to sign their kids up, both from our community, and from surrounding communities, that have already cancelled their season.

Aquatic Report:

The indoor pool equipment replacement has been completed and the indoor pool and spa would be ready to open when the Community Center reopens. Still getting information about how many people will be allowed in the pool at once. Swim Team and Learn to Swim for the summer did not have registration, and swim team will definitely be cancelled for this summer. Information is still be gathered as far as the possibility of smaller LTS classes as the summer goes on or possible classes for the younger swimmers with the parents in the water helping their child with guidance from an instructor, but it is still a numbers and spacing situation.

The outdoor pool is a little behind schedule due to material shortages. The current schedule is showing like July before it would be ready. During this time, the Red Cross has not allowed any training or testing to be done for Lifeguards, so all the spring classes that were schedule had to be cancelled. Be the time the new facility is ready to open, the class should be able to be held and staff should be allowed to resume training. While reaching out to staff, there are some parents who do not feel comfortable having their teenager return to work at this time, but there are plenty of staff available to have the natatorium up and running in June.

Round Table Discussion Items:

A follow-up discussion was had regarding the opening of the locker rooms, and if you could have swimming open without the locker rooms open. The discussion leaned to having the Locke rooms and restrooms open with social distancing, but keeping the showers closed for the time being, and guidelines evolve. Reminder that the Local Board of Health supersedes recommendation from the State.

Tennis Court are allowed to be opened on May 26th for both open play and instructional use with proper spacing and people bringing their own equipment.

The Recreation Department will continue to accumulate and review information as it becomes available and will pass along information as it pertains to the Commission. Communications will be going out to the public that we will not be

opening the Community Center on May 26th, but hoping to get more information out to them next Wednesday after Council meets and reviews the recommendations made by the Recreation Commission tonight regarding credits and refunds. Prior to the adjournment of the meeting the Mayor thanked all those on the call tonight for all their insight and recommendations.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, June 22 at 7:30pm. At this time it is unsure if it will be held in person or via teleconference.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Redinger and seconded by Beaver to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Carolyn Jatsek