

PARK & RECREATION BOARD OF HALFMOON TOWNSHIP
9-13-2011
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Jason Fralick, Kim Hyeseon, Todd Kirsten, Jean Miranda, Yvonne Smith
Township Staff Present: Susan Steele (Township Manager)

Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Todd Kirsten, at 7:02 pm.

Approval Of Minutes

The 8/9/2011 meeting minutes were approved by Jean Miranda, Yvonne Smith, and Todd Kirsten.
(Jason Fralick and Kim Hyeseon were not present at time of approval)

Manager Report

Susan Steele updated the board on the concession from Ameron regarding the tennis court surface. The interior playing surface, or the actual 'court', will be painted within the next two weeks and then the net will be put in place. Susan provided an additional Summer Park Program survey to the board. That brought the total number of received post-program surveys to five. Members discussed the overall response to the 2011 Summer Park Program based on received surveys and word of mouth. Yvonne Smith and Jean Miranda stated they had heard nothing negative from fellow residents who had children participate in the program. All members felt the 2011 program went well and that there were no serious resident complaints that needed to be addressed. It was decided that the initial steps needed to prepare for the 2012 program will be taken before the end of the year. Kim Hyeseon asked Ms. Steele if the 2011 Program Director, Heather Higgins, had reviewed the Program Leaders. Susan stated that she had, and those reviews will be available for the 2012 Summer Park Program Director to use as a reference if they choose to do so. It was reiterated that all positions for the program must be filled using an open application process.

Tobacco Use Policy

The 'Young Lungs at Play' discussion was continued from the last meeting. The Park Board felt the program was too restrictive and contained unnecessary requirements for the township's current needs. The recommendation to the Board of Supervisors will be placing signs in appropriate locations to request that people refrain from smoking in the park areas where children play.

Centre Lacrosse Request For Autumn Meadow Park Field Time

A request for Spring 2012 field time at Autumn Meadow Park by Patty Kleban from Centre Lacrosse was addressed. Todd Kirsten stated that since the conversation regarding a new reservation/fee policy for the township's facilities will be ongoing well into the future, it would behoove the township to implement a stopgap measure which would allow Halfmoon to accommodate requests from Centre Lacrosse, as well as other sport groups, for field time, while bringing additional revenue to the township. This would also allow future field use requests to be handled equitably and without question. The measure would include the current policy of all sport groups providing proof of liability insurance at time of reservation, as well as a nominal fee of \$25 (4 hours or less of use), \$50 (More than 4 hours of use) in order to reserve the field and avoid usage conflicts with other groups or individuals.

Jason Fralick asked about township's liability if groups used sport fields without going through the township office. Susan stated that when a group contacts the township office to request field time, the township's policy is that the group must provide documentation of their liability insurance (as mentioned above). Any group using a field without first contacting the township office and providing proof of insurance could potentially put the burden of liability on the township based on the fields being township property, especially if the group does not have liability insurance. Susan also confirmed that the township is covered through its liability policy if such a situation should occur.

Township Facility Use Policy Options

Todd stated he felt it was necessary to develop several options that spanned from the status quo to a comprehensive fee policy. Strictly enhancing the reservation process to make it more organized and efficient was talked about as being one of those options. The board's discussion regarding options for a new facility use policy will continue through 2012. It had been previously recognized that there will be many complex and delicate issues which will need to be fully debated and carefully navigated when developing such a policy, and

that point was reemphasized. It was decided that once the discussion has moved to a more structured level, public input will be requested by the Park Board before a final recommendation is sent to the Supervisors.

Adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Minutes drafted by:

Todd Kirsten
Chairman, Park & Recreation Board of Halfmoon Township