

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 7, 2011

C/Bell opened the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

STATEMENT OF NOTICE AS REQUIRED BY P.L. 1975, C231 WAS READ.

I HEREBY ANNOUNCE THAT PURSUANT TO THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL NOTICE OF MEETINGS WHICH WAS SENT TO THE MESSENGER PRESS, POSTED ON THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS BULLETIN BOARD IN TOWN HALL AND FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK ON DECEMBER 22, 2010.

ROLL CALL: Jim Bell; present, Bill Hanson; not present, Dominick Ricci; present, Robert Brown; present, Tracey Klehr; present, Terrence Murphy; present, Kenneth Simels; present, Andrew Ferrara; present, Chris Morris; present

Township Committeeman Bob Kinsey was present.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

C/Bell opened the meeting to the public at 8:02 PM

Rocco Regina representing Millstone United Traveling Soccer (MUTS) approached the commission in regards to exploring options of incorporating recreation soccer and travel soccer. The main objective is to grow the game of soccer in Millstone Twp. C/Bell advised years ago the MUTS used to do the training of our spring Instructional soccer program, but that now gets bided out. Reasons to work together:

- Greater focus on recruiting soccer players as young as possible.
- Keep MUTS players involved with the Rec program to improve the overall quality of the program. Participation in both programs is down
- MUTS coaches are required to be trained for safety and skills thus they could share their knowledge with Recreation coaches. Possibly by offering coaches clinics.
- Some older MUTS players could work with the younger Rec participants, as role models. The younger participants look up to older players.
- Increasing the overall quality of soccer in the Township and keeping the youth in Millstone rather than them participating on "out of town" teams.
- It was discussed that surrounding towns incorporate their travel program with their Rec Program making for strong programs.

It was mentioned many participants on the MUTS teams are from "out of town." A business strategy would be needed to combine programs. It was stressed to continue working together to build successful soccer programs. The commission thanked Rocco for coming in and stated they look forward to the programs continuing to work together.

C/Bell closed the meeting to the public at 8:32 PM

A continued discussion took place in regards to integrating the travel soccer program with the Rec soccer program. This is not a financial or administrative dilemma, but a low in enrollment issue with both programs. In the past, both programs ran well with each other.

C/Murphy discussed the recent announcement of some surrounding towns leaving the Pop Warner Program and playing with the "America Youth Football Association." He went on to say he is

concerned coaches may attempt to go into these other towns and recruit players who are still interested in playing Pop Warner. C/Murphy stated at what point do we not allow non residents to play in Millstone Twp Rec programs. C/Brown discussed this is a dynamic time and this Commission has to be flexible. If it works, great, if not, we make a change.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- **Tennis**

C/Klehr mentioned two new programs being offered. A seniors program for residents 55 and older and a USTA "munchkin" program for youth ages 4-6. She mentioned the courts at Rocky Brook Park need to be power washed before the start of the spring season. C/Kinsey advised a bid request will be going out this month to resurface all the courts this spring at Rocky Brook Park which may result in the spring program being held temporarily at Abate Park.

- **Lacrosse**

C/Ferrara advised games are being scheduled and uniforms have been ordered. A goalie clinic was held this past Sunday at the Middle school and went well. The travel program which took place last year will no longer be offered. He also mentioned the Recreation Lacrosse program does very well among its competition.

- **Wagner Farm Park / Abate Park / Brandywine Soccer Fields / Rocky Brook Park**

C/Murphy advised Rec Secretary requested him to look at the door on the press box at Wagner Farm Park. It appears someone kicked in the door. The wood frame is broke and needs to be replaced. The room is empty. C/Murphy also mentioned the goal posts needs to be sanded and painted before next season. Rec Secretary has already put the requested of Dept of Public works.

- **Basketball**

C/Brown advised a final meeting with the coaches will be held this month. For the most part everything went well. C/Brown, C/Simels, C/Murphy and C/Ricci meet with Kevin Knorr from the traveling basketball program and further discussed the integrating of both program. They feel it could work if it's done right, but a business plan needs is needed. One concern is coaches going out of town to recruit players to play in Millstone which may displace Township participants. C/Brown requested by a show of hands, who is in favor of moving the program in this direction on a trial basis. All were in favor. A motion for a business plan was tabled until next month's meeting. It was mentioned the "end of season" round robin went very well this past weekend. One more game is scheduled for the girl's 5th/6th grade division due to coach's confusion with the schedule.

C/Simels discussed being approached with a proposal from Matt Mullery, who is millstone resident and plays professional basketball in the Netherlands. He would like to run a summer basketball camp for the Township. Program would be a weeklong program, sometime in August and geared towards boys and girls in grades 3rd-6th. It could be held outside at Abate Park or the middle school gym if possible. 80-90 participants could be handled. C/Kinsey thought it was a nice idea but mentioned in the past something similar like this was offered with basketball star JR Smith and did not take place due to low interest. C/Simels advised he will get more information from Matt Mullery and update the commission at Aprils meeting.

- **Special Needs Basketball**

C/Klehr stated the season has ended and was a success. The family has offered to run the program again next year, even if the program head, Cassie Chee decides to go away to college. She went on to say it would be a nice to honor the residents that run these program with a master plaque with individual nameplates that could be displayed at the municipal building or something similar. Further discussion to take place at a later time. C/Brown stated his daughter Sarah, volunteered her time with the program and thoroughly enjoyed it and would like to be involved again next year.

- **Spring Soccer**

C/Klehr advised registration is in progress for the Saturday morning instructional soccer program and for the daytime mini soccer program. USP soccer will be running the program this year.

C/Bell briefly discussed the meeting minutes from the Millstone Park Ad Hoc committee. C/Kinsey advised he would like some feedback in regards to the size of facility that is being planned. He is concerned the proposed building plans are oversized and should be reevaluated. Funding and the operational cost were discussed. C/Bell mentioned this building has to be appropriate for what is needed by the Township residence. C/Kinsey questioned what will this building primarily be used for? Games or practice? This structure needs to be completed by March 2013 due to the awarded grant. A budget and further discussion to take place at future meetings.

- **Approval of February 7, 2011 Minutes**

Motion to approve, C/Brown, **Seconded** C/Murphy, Carried

ROLL CALL: Jim Bell; aye, Bill Hanson; absent, Dominick Ricci; aye, Robert Brown; aye, Tracey Klehr; aye, Terrence Murphy; aye, Kenneth Simels; aye, Andrew Ferrara; aye, Chris Morris; aye

Motion to adjourn, **Moved** C/Murphy, **Seconded** C/Bell
Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole C. Vladimirov

cc: Maria Dellasala