

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 7, 2020**

Chairman Morris opened the Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Reading of Adequate Notice by Chairman Morris

Roll Call: Present: Morris, Simels, Adornetti, Skowronski, Kilcomons, Randazzo, Strickland

Absent: Lourenco

Committeeman Gary Dorfman and Business Administrator Kevin Abernethy attended

Anthony Italiano was administered the Oath of Office as Recreation Commissioner Alternate 2.

Approval of Minutes: November 2, 2020

C/Morris made a Motion to approve and C/Adornetti offered a Second. Roll Call Vote:

Morris, Simels, Adornetti, Skowronski and Kilcomons vote yes to approve the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairman Morris opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Closed at 7:41.

All indoor sports activities have been suspended by the NJ Governor through January 2nd.

C/Strickland discussed the results of the survey to the Fall Flag football parents. 85% of the 80 respondents were interested in having a Spring season. C/Morris asked if a Spring flag schedule could fit into the current set of programs set for Spring. C/Italiano asked if there was a facility issue with adding a Spring flag season. C/Strickland replied that most of the players already play flag football in the Spring in area towns. Only 14% responded that other sports would interfere with them playing flag in Spring. C/Morris noted that keeping flag on Friday nights shouldn't have a major impact on other sports or field facilities. C/Skowronski noted that Lacrosse will keep most practices and games at Wagner Park and would only need Millstone Park field lights in April when daylight is still short. C/Italiano noted that in season sports should have priority over field access. Committeeman Dorfman noted that there was no downside with offering a flag program in the Spring if the interest was strong. Programs that have not had lit fields in the past should not assume lights are a guarantee. C/Skowronski noted that Lacrosse most likely will need a lit field on Wednesdays and Fridays in April.

C/Morris asked Secretary DeFelice for an update on what programs are open. Secretary DeFelice noted that the only Winter sports open for registration are Rec. basketball, Warriors basketball and Mens basketball. Since gyms are not yet available, registration is waitlist only. Fees won't be collected until January when Recreation gets confirmation that gyms will be available for use. Wrestling is cancelled. January 11th is the current anticipated date that the school facilities will be available. Recreation basketball is around 20% of normal registration. Mens basketball only has 5 registered and Warrior teams are waiting on gym access before registering. Committeeman Dorfman asked if all gyms would be available to Recreation in January. Secretary DeFelice replied that all gym would be available but due to the reduction in programs and participants, Recreation is only expecting to need the Middle School gyms. Committeeman Dorfman asked if referees were secured. Secretary DeFelice replied that referees have not been secured yet. Recreation numbers are not at a level that would allow teams to be formed and last year's referee group would probably not travel from North Jersey for only a few games. Recreation will be reaching out to local referees this year. Recreation has received requests from residents of area towns to accept players into our program since most area Winter sports are cancelled. Committeeman Dorfman replied that if we can create a viable program without outside participants, we should keep basketball restricted to Millstone residents. C/Morris noted that there was no reason to increase risk in order to have a program. C/Italiano noted that the restrictions on spectators at games would cause parents concern over dropping off their kids without being able to watch them play. He asked if there were any plans for web cams at games. C/Morris noted that Recreation piloted a

livestream service this year for the Veteran's Day ceremony and it went well. Recreation needs to see if the bandwidth inside the school gym would allow for live streaming games. We will not get all the action but it would be something.

Tree Lighting was cancelled this year.

Millstone Park Status – C/Morris noted that the flag pole has been installed at Millstone Park. The evergreen tree is scheduled for later in the week. The fencing on the hardcourt surface has not been installed yet. The baseball field lights are currently being installed and the footings on the storage building will start soon. Business Administrator Abernethy noted that the final hardcourt surface coat and paint will have to wait until warmer weather towards Spring. The storage building will have the slab poured with the building going up in the Spring. The area underneath the flag pole needs lights and someone needs to come up with a fundraiser to get bricks placed around the base. C/Kilcomons asked for the size of the flag. BA Abernethy replied that the flag was 10 x 15. Secretary DeFelice noted that there are a lot of little items that need to be addressed at Millstone Park before activity begins in the Spring. We need to list and address these items especially those relating to the safety of the park like speed limit signs. Committeeman Dorfman asked if there was a current list of signage needed for the Park. BA Abernethy noted that DPW has a list of needed signs and is addressing it. Committeeman Dorfman noted that there are too many people walking dogs and not picking up after them. Signs need to be installed regarding Township dog ordinances. C/Italiano noted that the turf held up well considering the amount of usage during the Fall season. BA Abernethy asked if the concession room appliances on the DPW list was a budget item or a Rec Trust purchase. C/Morris noted that the walking path needs to be extended to make a loop. The secretary was asked to create a list of items that need to be accomplished. BA Abernethy noted that the Township was already looking at closing the walking path loop by going along the area next to the pond/tree line. This would help prevent people from using the internal road to complete the loop. Concern was expressed about the extension going through muddy areas that had poor drainage. Committeeman Dorfman noted that safety issues need to be addressed quickly.

Virtual Programs – Secretary DeFelice brought up a request to offer virtual STEM classes to offset the possible loss of recreational programs. C/Italiano suggested that virtual classes could focus on skills and drills associated with sports. Committeeman Dorfman noted that promoting any outside group that offered virtual training would be problematic. An ordinance would be required for any new program fee. Since gym access is anticipated in January, there was no need to look into virtual programs. C/Simels noted that any virtual educational program should go through the schools as a community educational program.

Wagner Gym – A discussion ensued regarding closing Wagner gym in coordination with the State of NJ restrictions on indoor sports and the Millstone BOE keeping the facilities closed. Cheer currently uses Wagner for training. C/Kilcomons noted that competition cheer is listed as a high-risk sport. C/Morris and Committeeman Dorfman noted that Wagner should be closed in coordination with the State and the BOE. C/Italiano asked if the parks are closed as well. Secretary DeFelice replied that the township parks are open and only indoor facilities are affected. C/Randazzo asked if the State of NJ allows indoor sports to resume in early January, but Millstone school remain closed due to local COVID status, will recreational teams be permitted to use other facilities like Sportika or Monroe Sports Center. C/Italiano noted that travel teams will most likely use other facilities if the State restrictions are lifted. Committeeman Dorfman noted that if the BOE requested that indoor restriction extend past the State deadline, the Recreation Commission will have to decide what to do with travel teams going to other facilities. C/Morris noted that the Recreation Commission will have to address that scenario if and when it presents itself. C/Skowronski asked if Lacrosse would need to get permission from the Recreation Commission before offering any training at Sportika. C/Morris replied that only in the situation where there is a disconnect between what the State of NJ allows and what the BOE is implementing.

C/Morris motioned to adjourn at 9:02pm. C/Adornetti offered a second.