

Board of recreation commissioners Meeting
September 4th 2019

Gerry Aponte (Chair)	Present
Chris Snell	Absent
Dino Kostantakis	Present
Eugene Godlewski (vice Chair)	Present
Don Morrell	Present
Mike Prulello	Present (8:10pm)
Jeff Devito	Present (8:00pm)
Joanie Diore (alt #1)	Present
Brian Harris (Alt # 2)	Present
Tony Como (Director)	Present
Councilwoman Stewart	Present

Chairman Aponte called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Director Como announced "That all requirements of the Open Public meeting law have been met for this meeting of the Board of Recreation Commissioners of The Borough of Dumont

Notices have been transmitted to the newspapers

*Notices prominently posted in a space provided on the bulletin board
At the Borough hall*

Notice has been filed with Borough Clerk

Open Public Participation

Don made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. 2nd by Eugene roll call taken motion carried

Rocco Giangregorio

Rocco had several questions concerning the recent softball tournament

What were the parameters in deciding what teams were accepted and the teams that were not?

Gerry stated that there were 2 division a recreation team and a club team. The Xfactor team is considered a club team. Unfortunately the 3 other club teams pulled out of the tournament.

Rocco asked what classifies a rec team and a club team

Gerry stated that a rec team is a town team and club team is a selected team

Rocco stated that if his daughter dose not play for DGSB she is not afforded the same opportunities as the other girls that play for DGSB of which all our tax dollars are used to maintain the fields.

Don stated that she could play for DGSB that is the current program sponsored by recreation

Rocco stated that she cannot play for DGSB because he does not like the way the program is run.

Gerry stated the real problem here were the adults and not the kids.

Gerry stated that at no point would he have felt comfortable allowing those 2 teams to play each other, with amount of hostility between the parents

Gerry stated the he went to John to get the whole story.

Gerry stated that he went to John and asked him if he wanted to run something we could arrange for a field.

Frank Masella

Frank stated that the commissioner that was originally in charge of the tournament knew from day 1 that the Xfactors were going into the tournament. Yes we were late with our registration. When frank found out that the commissioner was no longer running the tournament he then submitted the application.

Brendan Keating

Brendan stated that when we were told that we could not be in the tournament it was because we submitted our application past the deadline.

Brendan stated that Emails were sent not to complain but to stated the concerns on behalf of the citizens and the young girls who were not being allowed to play in the tournament.

Brendan stated that the elected officials did step up and do the right thing and said to allow the team to play. When certain people found out about it they looked for another avenue to keep them out.

Brendan stated that the two teams are mirror images each has two out of town girls if they were all part of one organization they would be A & B.

Carole stated that the counsel did not flip flop, the mayor made the final decision on this issue.

Rocco stated if you were concern about the two teams playing against each other why did you let them play in the u gals' tournament.

Gerry stated that our teams can go play in any tournament they want to,

Don stated that this was the first time we tried to run a tournament yes we made mistakes, but I can assure you we will never attempt to run this tournament again

Mike Boyce

DGSB

Mike stated that an individual came to his house claiming that he got the Xfactors team thrown out the tournament.

Mike stated that he had nothing to do with the decision

Rocco asked that at the end of the day was it a total rec commission decision not to let the Xfactors play.

Eugene stated that all the other teams told them that if the Xfactors play we will be pulling out.

Carole stated that recreation is an autominus body that governs themselves the counsel has a representative on the commission to protect the boroughs interest and to make sure that there are no meetings or votes held that do not meet the requirements of the law

Frank Masella

Xfactors

Xfactors would like to investigate the possibility of hosting a softball tournament in the fall. What needs to be done?

Gerry said to send to Tony the dates you will need how many fields and a certificate of insurance naming the Borough of Dumont as additional insured.

Frank stated that this summer that there more than usual out of town girls playing on the summer travel teams

If those girls were solicited to play why Dumont weren't girls asked first.

Matt Lowenthal

Matt stated that during season he asked Frank if any of the girls would like to come back to play. Frank said that he would find out and let him know. Frank never got back to him.

Don asked how we can try to fix this problem

Frank stated that if DGSB is in need of players could these girls that did not play spring could they play travel softball in the summer.

Brendan stated that the solution would be to tear it all down and start over as a softball little league program.

Kenny Martoral

Head basketball coach DHS

Kenny stated that he would like to address the letter he received in October taking away the summer program. He also stated that he has all correspondence that was sent pertaining to this issue.

Kenny stated that Tony told him that Mike P. Said that you had sent him a text saying that you would no longer be running the summer program.

Kenny stated to Gerry that you had sent me a text message saying you did not do the right thing.

Gerry said let's cut short and get to the point because you only have 5 minutes, Kenny asked why is that.

Kenny stated the letter states that he lost the league because he never supplied a certificate of insurance and never paid the 5% for the use of the courts.

Kenny stated that Don said that the commission would sue him if he did not comply with what was asked.

Don said he never said that he was going to sue him.

Gerry said that 3 years ago you ran the summer league. You were asked to get insurance and come back with dates. You never came back.

Kenny stated that 2 years ago Cesare was told to speak to Kenny pertaining to the insurance and the money.

Gerry said so somewhere in the minutes it will state that Cesare was told to get to Kenny. Gerry said that is ridiculous.

Gerry said that the last year you ran the program I asked you for insurance you text an insurance form that could not be printed or read. I asked you to bring Tony a hard copy to the office you failed to do so.

Kenny said that on June 25th he sent a picture of the insurance form. Kenny said that it was October 14th that he was told to provide a hard copy of the insurance

Don stated that when this basketball league first started it was Pete Muse and myself that put it together. Don said that when he got elected as a councilman he lost track of what was going on.

Don said that Kenny came in to run the program he would donate some of the proceeds of the program to the Board of Education to help the high school basketball program.

Kenny stated that he never agreed to those terms

Don stated that these things are usually done by hand shake.

Kenny asked Tony if he had agreement with the tennis co. he said yes Kenny said do you have one with me. Tony stated that the agreement is in the minutes. There is no sign agreement with Kenny.

Gerry stated shame on us for not getting it in writing.

Kenny stated that he owes \$150.00 where did you get that number from.

Gerry asked if you payed yourself. Kenny said this is my own company

Kenny said that this is a commission under a commission you all accountable and if you do not tell people what they are doing wrong your all accountable.

Kenny said I never agreed to 5% you gave me letter and took my league away.

Kenny said that you had no agreement with me to pay the 5% so how can that Letter be factual.

Kenny stated that Mike came to see him in January saying I would like to do something in the summer. Tony stated that we wanted to do something on a high school level in the summer

Kenny stated that when Mike first approach him he said you used the courts without permission.

Maryann was asked that when she was on the Commission and at that meeting she asked Kenny about paying something for the use of the courts. He also said that you said if you have any questions to ask him now and not wait to talk about him after he leaves Maryann stated that she is no longer a commissioner and cannot go on public record with a statement.

Mike stated that he was told that Kenny used the courts without permission

Kenny stated to Gerry that you never once spoke to me about this

Kenny also stated that is there anyone here who would like to apologize to me for this.

Jeff said that he would like to apologize for the letter even though he did not write it and for us as a commission for not putting it writing you should not have been held to it.

Gerry stated that over the last 3 years have you not supplied us with a certificate of insurance.

Kenny said this last year was the only year that I was asked for insurance the prior years I used a waiver. Kenny asked Tony did I bring up the waiver. Tony said yes.

Mike stated that he had a letter drafted to send to you about the insurance and the 5%. He was told not to send the letter, because you were already told.

Rocco stated that there needs to better accountability and better checks & balances

Don stated that you're probably right and in years past when people ran things it was always a hand shake. Obviously in today's day everything needs to be in writing.

Kenny stated that john runs a very good league but we run a great league.

Mike stated that what was put into the minutes was not what I meant, I did not want your program I wanted to run a high school league.

Tony stated that the minutes were amended at a future rec meeting.

Kenny stated that he give mike the format for the summer league with a list of teams and prices why didn't we do it, Mike said we ran out time. Kenny asked Jeff. Jeff said because we get nothing done.

Carole reminded the commission that they should not be using their private emails and their private text because all of that is operable.

Carole will suggested that she will asked the borough to have someone brought in to do minutes just like the land use board the shade tree commission.

Dino stated that we never really had people sign a contract the tennis company has been doing it for the last several years, we should be doing it with all outside groups.

Jeff stated that we are consistently inconstant we put a contract out to one group and not to another.

Jeff stated that if we want to get money from a group we should provide a contract. If we want something done from a program we should Email so they are aware.

Maryann Russini

Maryann stated that she was the person that recommended to the commission to start charging for the use of the facilities.

Maryann said that her understanding was that Kenny's program was for profit. And her thought process was to use the same percentage that was used for the tennis company.

Maryann stated that any team that is not under recreation pay a price for using the field Maryann asked about Gina's she stated that she is not against the fixing of Gina's field

Where are you guys with Gina's / playground

Mike stated that the playground is not part of what we are doing with Gina's field. That is Tom Richards and the Mayor and Counsel.

Carole stated that the complete total is around \$348,000.00

Don stated that we asked for \$100,000.00 to complete the project.

Brian stated that there is no extra money needed no matter where we put home plate.

Maryann asked that there was \$84,000.00 to be used for Memorial park.

Maryann stated that the original plan was to do the rubberize surface.

Don said that we could use it on other projects in the park

The original agreement with rec was that since Kenny makes a donation to the Board of Education. We were not going to charge him for the use of the courts.

Two years ago the rec had a meeting where Kenny was not in attendance to discuss a new agreement when an agreement was already in place. That's when everything changed.

Ed Angeles

Boy's Travel basketball

Ed asked the status of the gym requisitions

Tony stated that they have been submitted since late July early August.

Tony stated that he is starting to get a few back.

Ed stated that we have 4 travel teams and 2 men's team we need to schedule the gyms

Ed said that would like to run and end of summer tournament. It would be held towards the end of August at the park from 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Ed was told to send an Email with dates and times and age groups

Ed asked if there were any issues that need to be discussed

Ed stated that the tournament would be 2nd grade to high school he would also welcome the girls

Gerry said that he should speak to Mike Moscarelli, who is the girls President

Ed stated that the winter tryouts will be the first 2 weeks in October.

Brendan Keating

Brendan wanted to know from the commission who has a child active in recreation programs.

Don made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. 2nd by Eugene roll call taken motion carried

Directors Report

Tony stated that we are now applying for a grant through MLB for fund to fix fields
Tony discussed the parameters of the grant.

Tony stated that the 2020 calendar is due October 1st 2019.

Recreation meetings will be the first Wednesday of every month are we having a meeting in July and August

Carole stated that the borough attorney said that we could proceed with the revision of the By-Laws

Tony discussed that schools gets out next year June 19th camp will start June 22nd and end July 31st

If we increase the camp to 7 weeks we would need to increase the fee by \$30.00 to cover payroll. Dino said why we don't back it up a week

Gerry stated that there are a lot of thing that are needed for the summer rec program

The commission had a discussion on this the time frame issue.

Tony passed out the summer rec report and reviewed it with the commission

Tony said we had 2 main issues 2 8th grade girls were writing inappropriate thing on their camp shirts Tony showed the commission the shirts the girls were suspended from camp. The second issue was a 3rd girl was going into campers back packs and taken money. We estimated she took about \$100.00. She also was suspended from camp. Her father replaced the money.

Tony presented the fall tennis program he wanted Mondays from 3:30 to 7 30pm
9/16,9/23,9/30,10/7,10/14,10/21

Don require that we make up a contract for the tennis program

Don made a motion to give the Tennis courts on the dates requested with a sign contract for that time period. 2nd by Eugene roll call taken motion carried.

Girls Basketball would like to have their fall tryouts on September 10th at Lincoln school

Vantage health has asked to use Sirosis Park On sept 10th

Girls Softball Still has outstanding balances from the summer

Fall Girls softball registration is now open

Tony went over the financial statement

There was some discussion concerning the cost of NFL flag football whether it would be less expensive to run it ourselves. Joanie will discuss it with ken.

Tony stated that PSE&G will be upgrading the lighting on the Basketball Court on or about 11/14/2019

Tony passed out a recap of the Summer Slam Tournament

There were no committee reports due to the fact we were up against the curfew

Correspondence

None

Council liaison

Carole stated that Dumont little league will be giving 2 checks one for \$1,600.00

From the proceeds of the food hut and the other from the summer NEBAS tournament of \$1,000.00.

Don made a motion to close the Meeting 2nd by Eugene Roll call taken motion carried

Meeting Adjourned 10:32pm

Submitted
Tony Como
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Como", written in a cursive style.