

Board of Recreation Commissioners Meeting August 12th, 2021

Michael Prulello (Chairman)	Present
Eugene Godlewski (Vice Chair)	Present
Paul Shoyinka	Present
Don Morrell	Present
Jeff Devito	Present
Brian Joyce	Present
Kyle Lezette	Present
Joanie Diore (alt #1)	Present
Brian Harris (Alt # 2)	Absent
Tony Como (Director)	Present
Councilman Gorman	Present

Chairman Prulello 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"*

Molly Lustig Borough labor Attorney joined the meeting by telephone.

The topic is to review and ask any questions that the commission might have concerning the new by-laws. Commissioner Morrell asked what are the major changes that we should be concern about.

The By-laws were completely rewritten.

Commissioner Prulello ask the Commissioners if they had any further questions. There being no question's the Chairmen thanked her for her time. The called ended

Commissioner Morrell made a motion to accept the new By -Laws as written. 2nd by Commissioner Prulello. Roll call taken motion carried.

Open Public Participation

Commissioner Prulello made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Lezette. Roll call taken motion carried.

Brody Davis

Eagle Scout

Brody stated that he will begin working on the dugouts at Columbia Junior Field. He brought with him some paint samples so the Commission could review them. The dugouts will be painted first. Brody is currently waiting for plywood and shingles to be donated so that he can begin to repair the dugout roofs. The 2 colors that are proposed are a gray and orange, currently the colors of the girls' softball uniforms.

The Commissioners were in favor of the paint colors proposed by the Eagle Scout.

Mike Davis

Dumont Soccer

The spring clinics went great we had 50 players per session. There were 3 sessions for a max of 150 players. A lot of the high school soccer players came out to help coach the kids. The parents were very pleased with the program.

Fall Registration is open Mike stated that at the present time were about 60% of what a normal registration would be. Normally we would be at 400 – 425 at this time we are around 300.

Commissioner Morrell made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Devito Roll call taken motion carried.

Director Como Stated that we need to approve the Minutes from the April & June Meetings

Commissioner Lezette made a motion to approve the April 7th minutes. 2nd by Commissioner Diore with the one change. Roll Call taken 6 yes & 1 abstention motion carried.

Commissioner Devito Made a motion to approve the June 2nd minutes. 2nd by commissioner Lezette Roll call taken 5 yes & 2 abstentions motion carried.

Directors Report

Director Como stated that he received an Email from a Christina Zaggia from the Dumont Elks club. They would like to have a softball fund raiser between the local Elks Clubs. She proposed several dates 9/25, 10/2,3, or 10th. I have sent her the hold harmless and the insurance requirements. So far, I have not heard anything back.

Commissioner Devito asked if they will be at Memorial Park. Director Como stated it would be at one of the softball fields Twin Boro or Columbia

Commissioner Prulello asked if the teams would be co-ed. Director Como stated he thought they would.

Commissioner Devito Stated that we would need to make sure that the field would be big enough to accommodate adult softball.

The commissioners felt that the best field would be Twin Boro if it is not under construction.

Commissioner Prulello made a motion to approve the Elks Lodge Softball fund raiser based on field availability. 2nd by Commissioner Lezette. Roll call taken motion carried

Summer Camp

Director Como stated that this year's camp had 479 campers. Director Como Stated that this was a tough camp due to the fact that some of these kids had little or no socialization this past year. Especially the kids that were just starting school. This year's camp I had a great group of counselors. Rick Burd and his senior staff did a great job managing the camp.

Director Como stated that we had a great Arts & Crafts Teacher Amanda Brown Campers came home with something every week.

Commissioner Prulello stated that each time he goes by the park he sees kids on the dugout roofs climbing the fences. He suggested that Maybe we should post some signage.

Commissioner Lezette stated that it is great to see the kids back out in the parks, but this year by far has been the worst year for damages these kids are destroying the park.

Commissioner Joyce stated that when we had park security several years back it managed to control the damages to the park.

Commissioner Devito suggested that we should put a couple of dummy cameras with signage stating that the parks is under camera surveillance which may help to cut down on some of the destruction.

Commissioner Joyce Stated that bring back park security 3 hours a day at a cost of \$45 per day from April till November it would at least insure of giving people peace of mind that someone is overseeing the park.

Commissioner Devito asked where was the money budgeted from

Director Como stated that the monies were budgeted from the municipal budget, not from recreation.

Commissioners had a discussion on park security how we could reinstate them for Memorial Park.

Director Como completed his report on summer camp by telling the Commissioners that we should consider raising the salaries of the counselors for next years camp. In speaking with other recreation directors, we are a little low other camp are paying between \$10.00 & \$11.00 per hour.

Commissioner Prulello asked what are we currently paying counselors & senior counselors.

Director Como Stated that counselors are getting \$9.00 per hour senior counselors depending on years of service between \$12.00 & \$14.00 per hour.

Director Como stated that don't be surprised if we do not get gym time this fall and winter. Due to the new covid virus .

Commissioner Devito suggested to set up a meeting with the new superintended & the new Athletic Director.

Commissioner Joyce stated that it may be a little premature to have a meeting because they have no idea what there doing in September. Commissioner Joyce recommends that we revisit this late September early October.

Program Reports Commissioner Devito

Men's Softball See Attached

Commissioner Shoyinka

Girls' Basketball

Girls' basketball would like to request gym time this fall.
Director Como told Paul to have Girls' basketball send in a request .

Track & Field

Two Members of the Dumont Team Competed in the Nationals in Jacksonville Florida and become All Americans in their events.

Commissioner Joyce Dumont Soccer

Commissioner Joyce asked if the permits were submitted to the schools and if the permit was issued for Memorial and Columbia.

Director Como stated that he sent the paper work into the schools and have not heard back yet.

Commissioner Joyce requested that the Goals from Selzer be moved to Columbia Field

Commissioner Como stated that he did not issue the permit for Columbia because girls' softball will be playing their games this fall. He will touch base with softball and add Columbia to the soccer permit.

Field Maintenance

Commissioner Joyce stated that we have received a bid from weed man to provide chemical service to the Senior Ball Field, Columbia, & Twin Boro Fields. Joyce also Contacted two other companies Ground Pro never submitted a quote and Mike Versace he doses only residential work. We will be issuing a P.O. to Weed Man to begin work

Commissioner Morrell

Girls' Softball

Commissioner Morrell stated that the 14u & 12u Girls won the league championship in the Kinderknack League this summer.

Commissioner Morrell aske the Borough Administrator for the town to do a proclamation for both teams. They said ok please supply the Borough clerk with the necessary Information.

Commissioner Lezette

Little League baseball

Baseball was a hugh success this season the spring season got off to a rough start but it got better as the spring went on.

The Summer season we had teams from 8 to 12 years old's some age groups had multiple teams. The summer teams all did well some went deep into the playoffs.

Jr. Football

Commissioner Lezette stated that it is heart breaking that we have no tackle football this season.

He knows people in town are upset but they are not being realistic. When you put the information out for football we had no one to step up and offer to coach also we had no one to run the program.

Commissioners Lezette & Devito had numerous meetings trying to figure out how to entice kids to play. We only had 30 kids registered for 3 teams. In order to have a successful program you really need a minimum of 60 kids.

The Bergen County Junior Football made the decision that we could not play in the league this coming season because are numbers were very low. If any of our boys wanted to play they would have to play in Tenafly because they were the town with the next lowest numbers.

Commissioner Lezette is hopeful that we can get something together for next season. He has had contact with Bergenfield their numbers are low so maybe we can work something out with them for

next season. Football in general across the county is on the down slide. Most of the teams in the Bergen Football league have merge with two to three towns.

Commission Devito said when we did the 7 on 7 program some parents showed interest in getting involved in some capacity.

Commissioner Devito stated that the plan for next season is to have a reorganization meeting in late December or early January with any parents and players to develop a plan going forward. Coach Burd will try to see if he can get some of his former players to help coach.

Commissioner Devito Stated that part of the new plan is to bring football cheering under the same umbrella, which it was in years past.

Commissioner Lezette stated the talk at Memorial Park this summer was some people trying to sabotage our football program so that their kids could go back and play with the towns that they played with last year. That was another factor that didn't help us.

Commissioner Diore

Football Cheering

Commissioner Diore stated that she spoke with Megan Lezette today and she informed us that all board members and coaches resign effective today.

Commissioner Diore said that she will speak with Megan and report back.

Old Business

No old business to report

New Business

Commissioner Devito Stated that a person from Westwood Football wanted to know if it would be possible to rent some of our football equipment.

Commissioner Lezette stated that this could be a nightmare for us what if a player from Westwood got hurt wearing a piece of Dumont equipment, this could develop into a law suit.

**Commissioner lezette made a motion to adjourn the meeting 2nd by Commissioner Morrell.
roll call take motion carried. 8:55pm**

Submitted by



Tony Como

Recreation Director

Men's Softball report for August 2021

Overview:

I have been in contact with Tom Metz, President of Men's Softball in regards to the current state of their program. The following is the report:

- Men's Softball has successfully completed their 2021 Season.
- On behalf of the Recreation Commission I would like to personally thank Tom Mertz, Mike Boyce of Girl's Softball and Commissioner's Harris and Morrell for working together to solve any and all scheduling conflicts that arose between the two programs. These men and both programs worked well together to make sure the girl's and men were able to play their schedule while sharing one field.
- All of the Covid Protocols were followed during the season by the players without issue.
- Tom also stated this is the first season in years where not one player was ejected or suspended from a game.

Moving Forward:

- It was brought to the attention of Tony and I that there was an accounting issue dating back to the 2019 Season.
- Tom Mertz e-mailed Tony and myself of the possible error found by Jerry LoRusso (Men's Softball Treasurer).
- According to Jerry, Men's Softball is short \$1609
- After speaking with Tony, we decided to set up a meeting with the borough financial officer where Jerry, Tom, Tony and myself can bring this issue up and rectify the problem.
- We are just waiting to find out when the financial officer is available and I will get back to Tom to set up a time and date to meet.

- Finally, Men's Softball would like to try a Fall Season next year that would start in mid August and run through October.
- Tom feels this may give both programs more playing time and rectify any issue with sharing the fields moving forward.
- This idea will be revisited after the reorganization of the Tackle Football program and contingent upon Tackle Football Practicing and playing their games at the High School.