

Board of Recreation Commissioners Meeting October 4th, 2023

Bill Hanley	Present
Paul Shoyinka	Present
Joe Algieri	Present
Marina Cambareri	Present
Jeff Devito (Vice Chairman)	Present
Euris Rivas (Chairman)	Present
Mike Petriello	Present
Joanie Diore (alt #1)	Present
Christie Prepis (alt #2)	Present
Tony Como (Director)	Present
Councilwomen Aponte	Absent
Councilmen Morrell	Present

Chairman Rivas called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

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 posted on the Borough web site.

Notice has been filed with Borough Clerk"

Commissioner Devito read the following statement prior to opening the public portion of the meeting

I would like to formally thank all the volunteers, coaches and Candice Zayas for all the time and energy they have put into the Jr. Football program. I don't know if everyone thanks them enough for all they do for the kids within this program.

I am aware that there have been and continue to be issues within the program. Two issues have been formal complaints that I will address with the commission later in closed session. Most of the other issues are of continued miscommunication, rumors and hearsay. I would just ask that if anyone is here to discuss those issues that we remember to be civil and speak to the commission how we would want to be spoken to. I hope that at the end of tonight's meeting and after all

grievances are aired, that we can move forward and work together for what everyone keeps saying they are here for: the children in our program.

Chairman Rivas asked for a motion to open the public portion of the meeting.

Open Public Participation Commissioner Diore made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Cambareri Roll call taken motion carried.

Letty Merlo Dumont Resident

Ms Merlo spoke about the language that was used over the team snap chat she felt it was very inappropriate to be used in a public forum. The only thing that she would like is for her kids to be in a professional environment.

Michelle Mandalakis Dumont resident

Ms. Mandalakis spoke about a parking issue where mother was denied access to the handicap parking on husky Dr. She stated that there was a miscommunication she was given an apology. She also stated that she spoke with the Board of Ed and the parking along Husky Dr. should be available to all who need it.

Ms. Mandalakis stated that the issue were parents could not get along there is a problem with parents want to be in charge and they all have an opinion. And things got out of hand on team snap.

Commissioner Devito stated that there should be no personnel conversations on snap chat

Christi Fennell Dumont Resident

Ms. Fennell spoke about the importance of a team having a consistent field to practice on. She feels that there is a lot of miscommunication over the information that is sent out. She feels that maybe there should be some more oversight of the information that is sent out

Commissioner Cambareri asked if she could give an over view of the current schedule and how it could improve.

The current schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and games on Saturdays

Commissioner Cambareri is that happening

Ms. Fennel stated that it does not.

Commissioner Devito Stated that some of the reasons why it is happening is that last year we only had 2 teams this year 3 teams, also Last year some of the coaches were able to practice at an early time which provide more field space. The other issues is when the high school wants the field we get bumped.

Director Como explain the requisition process. The field request is sent in in July I received the football field request from Commissioner DeVito. I submit them to the school we get the dates approved, now school starts and the school programs want use of the field. Unfortunately, they get the time they wanted we get bumped. This year with all of the rain Memorial Park has been closed for 3 weeks other than Twin Boro that is the only other field we have with lights.

Councilman Morrell stated that he would address the issue with the Board of Ed. Unfortunately, we have a lot of programs but not enough fields.

Commissioner Devito stated That we all work together when a field situation comes up. We try to find out as soon as possible when the field is not available so we can find alternate fields.

Commissioner DeVito stated that we need to continue to move forward, put the past behind us.

George Stender Dumont Resident

Mr. Stender spoke about the quality of the programs are going to (S***T), Because parents aren't getting along the kids see this and they feel very uncomfortable and that they bring it out on the field.

Mr. Stender Stated that these kids are miserable does not matter what the sport baseball, soccer, basketball. Football, and we are to blame because we cannot get along. Something needs to change or we are not going to have High School sports in a few years. Look how long it has been since we had a freshman football and baseball team. Mr. Stender stated that if things do not change we won't have a senior team next- year.

Commissioner Diore asked what kind of things are they saying.

Mr. Stender stated that they don't want to play for a certain coach they have had issues in the past, they would not enjoy playing for that team.

Cristina Garcia Dumont Resident

Read a prepared statement which has not been submitted for the minutes

The statement stated that there were inappropriate words used on a video that is own by the football league which should not have been made public. She also spoke about the use of team snap and the language that was used. **(it was very hard to understand what is being said because there were multiple conversations going on)**

Ms Garcia state that when she brought the issue to Mr. Como he set up a meeting with Commissioner Devito & Chairman Rivas. At the meeting Commissioner Devito stated that the video was not the issue, but it was the language that was used.

Ms. Garcia stated that she felt the video was illegal and she is pursuing charges Against that person and she requested that that person be removed from the program. She also stated that there have been issues in other program and her children are being affected by it. There needs to be a resolution but I don't know what it is.

Commissioner Devito stated that she does not have and position in the organization, she was told to no longer communicate on team snap and no longer send Email. The purpose of team snap is so the coaches can communicate with the parents it is not supposed to be a public forum.

Ms Garcia Stated that the communication came to me in a private Email, she later apologized for her comments.

Ms. Garcia stated that she is still listed on team snap as team manager

Robert Garcia Dumont Resident

Mr. Garcia felt that the response to the use of the Video was nonsense. Mr. Garcia Felt that there has been no consequences

Commissioner Devito Stated that she does not have a position she is a volunteer

Commissioner Devito Continued to state that she is not running anything and has had no communication with the team, but if she wants to volunteer to help set up were not going to stop her.

Commissioner Cambareri stated that in other sports if Parents or coaches did not follow the code of conduct that they were removed from the field. I believe this what Ms. Garcia is asking.

Christiana Garncarz Dumont Resident

Mrs. Garncarz stated that she and Ms. Grunewald had a heated discussion over which fields to show up for practice. She feels that it is the head coach's responsibility to inform the team where to go. She also felt that one person has too much power, there is no board and there should be. She also felt that due to the all the pressure and tension she had to step down from being involved. She also stated that her 11yr old asked her if it was his fault that this happen. Again, she stated why doesn't football have a board.

Commissioner Devito stated that according to the Recreation By-laws each program is govern by a program coordinator, the program Liaison, Chairman, Vice Chairman & Director. The only exceptions are the independent program

Dumont Soccer & Dumont Little league. Those groups have their own boards, they have their own insurance and their own treasure. If a program wanted to become and independent program they would have to make a presentation to the Commission.

Edmond Brahmi Dumont Resident

Mr. Brahmi stated that there is too much tension between the coaches and the parents and now it is trickling down to the players. They are feeling the tension and that don't want to be on the field they are not enjoying playing the game. I hope you listen to what is being said tonight and I hope the commission reacts and make some changes.

Could not understand what was on the tape due to multiple Conversations in the room

Ashley Grunewald Dumont Resident

Ms. Grunwald stated that when she arrived at the field the soccer team was getting ready for a game. She stated that before the other players arrived she called Tony Como. Director Como told them to go to Columbia Field. She also stated that she put a message out for help to move food from the little league hut, to the High School hut Nobody shown up. There was a mom who brought pizza and had it in the stands a statement was made that she brought so nobody would go to the hut. Ms Grunewald stated that she did react in a negative way, because she was annoyed after working 8hrs in the hut did not have an opportunity to see her children play and no other parents shown up to help.

Could not hear what is on the tape due to multiple yelling

Commissioner Devito asked the crowd to calm down or we will have to clear the court room.

Again, Commissioner Devito ask the crowd to settle down.

Commissioner Devito asked Ms Grunewald if we did meet with you and told you that you will no longer communicate with the teams and the parents. Ms Grunewald replied yes to the statement.

Commissioner Petriello Made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Hanley. Roll call taken Motion carried.

Chairman Rivas asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting Commissioner Cambareri made a motion to approve the minutes. 2nd by Commissioner Petriello. Roll call taken motion carried.

Directors Report

Director Como spoke about the Pack of Pups program there were 23 kids register for the program. They had their 2nd session this past Tuesday.

Director Como Stated that he did receive a request from hockey to open registrations

Director Como stated that all winter requisitions have been approved except for Lincoln School.

Program Report

Commissioner Devito

Boys' Basketball Travel & Recreation

No Report

Jr Football & Football

See attached

Flag Football

No Report

Commissioner Diore

Cheering.

Looking for a Venue for their end of year party

Commissioner Shoyinka

Girls' Volleyball

40 participants (full roster) Practices have been split based on grade level to allow for more one on one time with coaches. instead of all the participants practicing from 6-8pm, practice times have been changed:

6th graders 6-7pm 7th / 8th graders 7pm to 8pm Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Lincoln school

Program runs until November 16th.

Girls Softball:

No Report

Commissioner Hanley

Bowling

- No report for Recreation Bowling report

- The High School bowling team is having a car wash on October 14, 2023. It is not through the school but through 300club Inc. Also, will be raffling off a Louis Vuitton purse and having a fundraising night out
- on November 16, 2023 at Stumpy's Axe Throwing from 6pm-9pm. All proceeds will go to growing the sport and helping kids purchase bowling equipment.

- **Soccer Report**

- Both Soccer President and Travel President plan on attending Rec Meeting to discuss field usage in regards to complaints about football.

Wrestling

No Report

Commissioner Prepis

Girls Basketball

2nd & 3rd Grade clinic will start this Saturday

Winter Registration will start in a few weeks.

Commissioner Petriello

Little league & Senior Baseball

Fall open meeting will take place 10/19/23 7:30pm at Independent Hose Company

160 Veterans plaza.

Commissioner Rivas

Hockey

Registrations are now Open. They have requested to ask the DPW if they can make some repairs to the rink.

They have asked if the lights from Gina's field could be moved to the Hockey Rink

Director Como stated the he would look into it.

Men's Softball

They have asked if they could have the lights on until 10:30pm

They would like to install a solar light on the shed.

Commissioner Algieri

Summer Camp

There may be need to hire more counselors if registrations continue to grow

Summer Basketball

John has expressed an interest to return next year If the commission wants him.

Old Business

Art Project (tabled until next meeting)

New Business

Director Como spoke about the upcoming Halloween Celebration. This year we will be doing it on cabbage night. Director Como asked the commission to check with their programs to see if they would like to participate in the trunk or treat. Please have them contact me.


Chairman Rivas asked for a motion to close the meeting.

Commissioner Petriello made a motion to close the meeting. 2nd by Commissioner

Cambareri. Roll call taken motion carried

Meeting Adjourn at 8:56pm

Respectively Submitted



Tony Como