

**MINUTES**  
**Recreation Commission**  
**September 27, 2022**

A Special Meeting of the Recreation Commission of the Borough of River Edge was held in the Public Safety Building at 705 Kinderkamack Road, River Edge, NJ 07661 on September 27, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chairperson Delia, who read the open public meetings statement: "This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on January 7th of this location, date and time to the Town News and The Record and by posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough website and filing a notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk. Notice of this meeting by the September 23, 2022 Sunshine Notice was sent to The Record and Town News, posted on the Borough website, and filed with the Municipal Clerk."

PRESENT: Chairperson Anna Delia, Commission Members Alphonse Bartelloni (Alternate), Steven Baxter, Maryann Komar (7:05pm), and Kenneth Krautheim

ABSENT: Chairperson Lauren Cerullo, Members Alicia Armental, Brianne Etter, and Kevin LoPresti (Alternate)

ALSO PRESENT: Councilperson Indira Kinsella  
Interim Recreation Director Michelle Ryan

***Open to the Public for Comment:***

Kathleen Milk, 376 Lee Avenue, requested that the Recreation Commission consider starting an adult pickleball league. She suggested, for the winter season, that the River Dell Middle School would be an ideal location, where portable nets and temporary lines could be put down and non-marking balls could be used so as not to damage the gym floors. In the summer, they could play on outdoor courts. The Recreation Commission will take this under advisement for 2023.

No one else from the public was present.

***Update from Recreation Subcommittee on Softball Fields:***

Ms. Ryan, Mr. Bartelloni and Councilwoman Kinsella reported on the Subcommittee's meeting with REGAL and Little League on September 14<sup>th</sup>. REGAL has proposed improvements to existing softball fields at Roosevelt School, including a sprinkler system installed to properly irrigate the field, especially the infield, which can get rock hard in the summer months if not for the diligent efforts of dedicated volunteers. They also suggested that outfield sprinklers be considered, as they will likely benefit the soccer programs that use those fields in the fall as well. REGAL has also proposed partially enclosed dugouts, similar to those at Emerson High School, two solar-powered scoreboards, and a one or two-lane batting cage. They would also like to explore removable fencing that they can put sponsorship signage on, but that is not essential. They estimate this project to cost around \$200,000 - \$250,000 based on the price quotes they have received, however, borough professionals who are more knowledgeable and have more expertise will need to review. Both the Subcommittee and Little League are supportive of their proposal. Councilwoman Kinsella reported that it was a good first meeting and that there seems to be momentum to improve the playing experience for the girls' softball program. The Governing Body will need to discuss this proposal and since it is Board of Education property, discussions between

the two entities would need to occur first and an agreement reached. Mr. Bartelloni offered his support to the proposal and suggested that it would be prudent to also get a plan and pricing to run electrical conduit to the scoreboards as well. Mr. Krautheim recommended that consideration be given to upgrading the water lines. As there are many factors, conditions, and options both known and unknown at this time, such as drainage and maintenance and upkeep requirements just to name two, the Recreation Commission supports getting the Borough Engineer involved to determine the costs and develop a formal plan. Ms. Ryan will make the request to Business Administrator Aportela on behalf of the Commission. A meeting with community stakeholders to reveal the proposal and seek their input will be scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the firehouse, which Mrs. Delia has secured. Ms. Ryan will advise the Mayor and Councilmembers of developments and invite all identified stakeholders to October 13<sup>th</sup>'s meeting.

### ***Approval of Minutes:***

Motion by Chairperson Delia, second by Mr. Bartelloni that the Minutes of the July 20, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Recreation Commission be and are hereby approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Armental:	absent	Krautheim:	abstain
Bartelloni:	aye	LoPresti:	absent
Baxter:	aye	Cerullo:	absent
Etter:	absent	Delia:	aye
Komar:	aye		

### ***Upcoming Community Events:***

- River Edge Day – October 2<sup>nd</sup> (raindate 10/9) – Memorial Park – 1pm to 4pm. Due to forecasted inclement weather, this event may be postponed to the raindate. Ms. Ryan will reach out on Friday when a decision will be made.

- Diwali Day – October 15<sup>th</sup> – River Dell High School – 2pm to 10pm

- Halloween in the Park – October 29<sup>th</sup> (raindate 10/30) – Memorial Park – 2pm to 4pm

Ms. Ryan was advised that the Recreation Commission provides the candy, Girl Scouts set up trick or treating stations and decorate for a best Halloween table contest. Approximately 500 children attend. Ms. Ryan will solicit donations.

- Veterans Day – November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Memorial – TBD

Mr. Baxter will provide Ms. Ryan with Pete Marion's contact information to plan this event. The school children participate as well.

### ***Discussion Items:***

#### **1. Pickleball Court**

As this was discussed during public comment, the Recreation Commission will be taking under advisement for 2023.

#### **2. Cornhole League**

Ms. Ryan received a request to start an adult cornhole league. The Recreation Commission will revisit this in 2023, however, there are other priorities at this time.

### **3. Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan**

Ms. Ryan informed the members that she asked for an extension until December to submit this to the Mayor and Council. She will seek needs and wish lists from sports leagues and other groups that use the parks and recreational facilities and present these to the Recreation Commission at the November meeting.

### **4. Update: Request to rename field for Pete Romagnino (Joe Lennox)**

Mayor and Council have approved the Recreation Commission's recommendation to name the backstop area at KBG for Pete Romagnino. Ms. Ryan will reach out to Joe Lennox to discuss a dedication ceremony.

### **5. Purchasing new aluminum tables for permanent placement by library**

Ms. Ryan got ESCNJ cooperative pricing from MRC for new tables. They range from \$800 - \$1,000 each. The tables would be placed in the grassy area between the Cultural Center and library for use by patrons of the Farmers Market and library and other visitors. Funding can be requested in the 2023 budget.

### **6. Brookside Playground**

Ms. Ryan met with a representative of MRC/Gametime to discuss new playground options at Brookside Park. The Open Space matching grant will be approved by Bergen County towards the end of 2022 and funding should be available starting in 2023. When the time comes, the Recreation Commission should consider adding inclusive equipment pieces for a broader enjoyment of the park.

#### ***Committee Members' Reports and Comments:***

None.

#### ***Interim Recreation Director's Report:***

Ms. Ryan reported that she has been keeping busy with fall field schedules, planning River Edge Day and coordinating a new location for the Arthritis/Balance program.

#### ***Other Business:***

Mr. Krautheim asked Ms. Ryan to look into the payments made by the Central Athletic Council's member leagues to the Borough for field maintenance and insurance costs.

#### ***Adjournment:***

There being no further business to come before the Recreation Commission, on a motion by Chairperson Delia, with second by Mr. Bartelloni, and unanimously carried by those members present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle Ryan*  
Interim Recreation Director