

**TENAFLY RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024
CALLED TO ORDER 7:49 PM**

I. ROLL CALL: Melissa Garden, Chad Coleman, Glen Anderson, Michael Greeley, Gia Alvarez, Jamie, Cannon, Carol Roux, Jamie Corsair-Council Liaison

ABSENT: David Reichel, Nahuel Quiroga, Amy Lerner-Alpine Liaison

II. MINUTES: November 13, 2023 **Mr. Anderson motions to accept the minutes, Mr. Coleman seconds the motion, all in favor the motion is carried.**

Oath of Office administered to Melissa Garden & Chad Coleman

Reorganization voting on Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Coleman nominates Mr. Greeley for the position of Chairman, Mr. Anderson seconds the motion, all in favor the motion is carried.

Mrs. Garden nominates Mrs. Alvarez for the position of Vice Chairperson, Mr. Anderson seconds the motion, all in favor the motion is carried.

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

IV. AUDIENCE:

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Cannon explains the board members responsibilities and rules of the board to new members.

1. Winter Indoor/Outdoor Programs: Ms. Cannon reports there are 450 registrations for Winter programs and events. There were 400 registrations for our visit with Santa which included SMORES tables, everyone had a great time.

-Flag Football Clinic-Ms. Cannon reports we have 40 participants which will be divided into 3 groups by grade and is held outdoors on Geissinger Field. Clinic is run by parent volunteer coaches. This is a popular program that is training for kids who possibly want to join Fall Football. Mrs. Garden states the NFL has a flag program. Ms. Cannon reports Football registration will begin in February. Mrs. Alvarez asks if we will be merging. Ms. Cannon states merging is very hard, when we did parents did not want to travel to another town. Mrs. Garden inquires regarding merging with Cresskill, Ms. Cannon states Cresskill is already with Closter. A discussion ensued.

-Craft Club (grab and go crafts): Ms. Cannon states reservations are maxed out for the entire calendar \$5 per craft.

-Variety of new programs: Ms. Cannon reports we are currently offering A Coding class, Red Hot Robotics, SEL Class, Mrs. Garden asks for a Coding Class for adults.

- 2. Wrestling:** Ms. Cannon reports the team consists of about 30 wrestlers. The season consists of volunteer coaches and paid clinics by Red Nose Wrestling. The 1st match was held this past weekend. Mr. Greeley states we have a vibrant program for the numbers we have and the volunteer coaches are well engaged. Mr. Greeley reports we have 17 wrestlers in grades 4th-8th. Our 1st home meet was very successful. Wrestlers did well and this is a feeder program which is a building year. Mr. Greeley reports we have 4 girl wrestlers and 1 8th grade girl. Mr. Greeley state the low numbers are problematic to match up wrestlers with other teams. Mr. Greeley states we may have to merge with another town. Ms. Corsair suggests the high school wrestlers can talk to elementary kids to recruit. Mr. Coleman asks if wrestling is offered in physical education class, or is there a club in the elementary schools. Mr. Greeley states no it is not in the curriculum, you need correct wrestling mats. Mrs. Garden states the parents need to see that the sport is safe. A discussion ensued.
- 3. Spring Sports:** Ms. Cannon reports registration is currently open for Recreation Spring sports (Girls Softball grades 1st-6th currently has 70 registered. Boys Lacrosse League has 50 players & Girls Lacrosse League has 60 players). Ms. Cannon states the girls are doing very well and learning. Mr. Coleman asked about K-2 Lacrosse. Ms. Cannon sates registration hasn't started yet, if the 2nd grader is advanced they can play up. Ms. Corsair asks if a paid trainer can be hired to train the players, Ms. Cannon states we have trainers for the girls. It is hard to find a trainer during the season. Ms. Cannon states we are Recreation and we have volunteer coaches. Ms. Corsair states she has someone who can train. Ms. Cannon states Spring programs registration begins on February 26th
Ms. Corsair suggest we try to include the girls in Lacrosse Day. Ms. Cannon stated that maybe one of the girls teams could play possibly the 7th/8th grade. Mr. Greeley states there is a rowing group at Overpeck Park and suggests we look into classes.
- 4. Co-Sponsorship Policies:** Review policies for new members/council liaison Ms. Cannon explained co-sponsorship to new members. A discussion ensued.
- 5. Teen Center:** Ms. Cannon reports painting the center was put in the Capital budget for 2024, new couches will be ordered, updated TVs, seating, etc. We have done some small renovations we have had some events. Ms. Corsair asks Ms. Cannon if she would be you interested in a free mural painted in the Teen Center by students from the Tenafly Art Studio. Ms. Cannon will speak to Ms. Corsair more regarding this. Ms. Cannon states the Teen Center is very busy. Ms. Cannon states the Teen Camp is for grades 6th-10th and Recky's is K-6th. Ms. Cannon feels the 6th graders would be better at the Teen Camp and have Recky's be for K-5th. Mrs. Alvarez states this would be in line with the School grades. A discussion ensued.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Recreation Department Vacancies:** Ms Cannon reports we are searching for a full-time Parks & Recreation Groundskeeper that is in charge of maintaining our fields and facilities. This position has been available since October 2022. -We are also seeking a part time Assistant Groundskeeper/office assistant to assist the FT Groundskeeper with field and facility maintenance Mrs. Alvarez asks if it is a salary issue. Ms. Cannon states yes we are not competitive with other town. Mrs. Garden asks who you need to speak to regarding the salary. Ms. Cannon states the Mayor and Council make salary ordinances. Mr. Greeley states there are many variables. Mrs. Alvarez states the co-sponsored sports should pay a maintenance fee for field up keep and asked if this money could go towards the salary. Ms. Cannons states it could not be used for the salary. A discussion ensued.
-Interim Borough Administrator and HR are both no longer employed by the Borough, currently the positions are online for resumes to be submitted.
- 2. 2024 Capital Budget:** Ms. Cannon reports she submitted capital items and suggestions from Recreation Board to finance in December. Items included: Turf \$75,000 over 5 years, a new truck, we had to scrap one, football helmets \$2,500, a golf cart for events and camp, a splash pad with the recommendation from the Recreation Board. Ms. Cannon states the tennis court need to be rebuilt, they cannot be resurfaced anymore according to the engineer. The 3 lighted courts will cost \$800,000-\$900,000. Ms. Cannon states if approved this will be transferred to DPW budget. Ms. Cannon reports Disc Golf is not a capital budget item it will be in the operating budget. Mr. Greeley would like to use land on top of Highwood Ave. approximately 15 acres. A discussion ensued.
- 3.** Mrs. Garden asked about the Recreation Center. Mr. Greeley will ask the Mayor where we are and let him know Mrs. Garden would like to be on the ADHOC Committee.
- 4.** Mobile Food Truck ordinance-Ms. Cannon states the Recreation Department and Board asked the Administrator for an ordinance to allow Food Trucks to acquire a yearly permit for events we invite them too. The Administration Office is looking into obtaining approval for all events not just those run by the Recreation Department.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Recreation Committee Meeting Dates 2024** *(see dates attached)*
- 2. Mrs. Alvarez motions to restrict Recky's Day Camp to K-5, Mr. Coleman seconds the motion, all in favor motion is carried.**

3. **Mr. Greeley states the Recreation Department has put a lot of emphasis on background checks. Ms. Cannon states no one is exempt from being background checked, all volunteers and employees are required.**

VIII. SPECIAL EVENTS: FYI

1. **Sweetheart Dance:** Friday, March 1st, 6pm-8pm-HS Cafeteria
2. **Recreation Committee Meeting:** Monday, March 11th @ 7:30pm-Wilson Room
3. **Mr. Greeley states he attended the downtown committee Holiday Event and it was great. Ms. Corsair states the Chamber of Commerce would like to bring the Chamber and Recreation Department together.**

- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** 9:24 pm
Mrs. Alvarez motions to adjourn, Mrs. Garden seconds the motion, all in favor the motion is carried.