

**TENAFLY RECREATION BOARD**  
**MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**  
**Called to order 7:31 pm**

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

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

**II. MINUTES:** May 13, 2024 Mr. Coleman motions to approve the minutes, Mrs. Alvarez seconds the motion, all in favor the motion is carried.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE:** TLL & TUSC (co-sponsorship packets), TYB parent Letter

Ms. Cannon received a letter from a parent who chooses to remain anonymous. The letter is from a parent regarding the try out process their child has been on the B team for 2 years feels it is an unfair process. Ms. Cannon states Eric Kleiner is the new president and he wants to do the right thing for the kids. Ms. Cannon states outside coaches come to the try-outs, they are college and high school coaches. Ms. Cannon suggest for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade maybe have the high school coaches come to the try-outs. Mrs. Garden states there are not a ton on new kids coming in at that grade level. Ms. Corsair states everything is done by number not names for ranking. Mr. Coleman asks what is our role here regarding this issue. Ms. Cannon spoke to Mr. Kleiner regarding a parent complaining about the process. Ms. Cannon spoke to the parent and explained the process. A discussion ensued

**IV. AUDIENCE:** Katy Martinelli-President of Tenafly United Soccer. Ms. Cannon explains Tenafly United Soccer is a co-sponsored sport and all the required information is in the packet handed out to the board. Ms. Martinelli adds there is also mini soccer and Recreation Soccer with 60 in each program. Recreation Soccer is run as a clinic at Sunnyside on Saturdays and Sundays. Mini soccer is held at Stillman School on Tuesday and Fridays. Mrs. Garden asks if anything changed Ms. Martinelli's states Recreation Soccer was separate and is now under them. Ms. Martinelli explains Travel Soccer has hired trainers from TSF Academy with parent managers. There was a two week camp over the Summer. Mr. Greeley asks if numbers have decreased since the merger. Ms. Martinelli states there are different levels of teams for travel, Recreation is a little different it's more a clinic. Mrs. Martinelli states they are still accepting late registrations if there is room. Ms. Martinelli states they have had the same board members for a while they work as a team, more volunteers would be nice. Ms. Corsair asks where you need help. Ms. Martinelli states they need more parent volunteers. Mr. Greeley asks how have the facilities been. Ms. Martinelli states Sunnyside is usually good, Alpine is horrible only 2 teams are there and the TMS grass is high. Ms. Cannon reports the board of education is short staffed. Ms. Corsair states the area past the dumps will be looked into for field space. A discussion ensued

Stuart Chizzik-Tenafly Little League President & Michael Kivowitz Treasurer-Mr. Chizzik states the Tenafly Lions Little League is a labor of love and they appreciate all of the help from Ms. Cannon. Mr. Chizzik reports in the Spring there were 300 kids in the recreation baseball program with 25-26 teams. Little League is using all the facilities available for baseball. There were 10 travel teams 8U-12U. This Fall there are 9 travel teams. A group of 1<sup>st</sup> graders wanted to try out for travel however they were not ready, therefore Little League created a once a week clinic training supplementing with a few scrimmages with other towns. There are 17-18 kids in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade clinic. In the Spring there were 40 kids in Pre-k t-ball run by all parent volunteers also a 1<sup>st</sup> grade clinic. Mr. Chizzik reports the Fall travel is in 2 different leagues Nebas league and a couple teams are in USABL. Mr. Chizzik reports like Soccer they are in need for more parent volunteer coaches especially in the Spring, teams are parent coached a few travel teams are supplemented with baseball experts who come in from time to time. Mr. Chizzik states the following fields are utilized in the Spring: Sunnyside, Stillman, Maugham, Little League Field. Mr. Chizzik states the only field in town which is 50 x 70 for the 12U is Smith School which has been unusable for a long time. He states the need for access to Smith. The J.V. field is 60 x 90 used by the 13U. Mrs. Garden asks what they are saying about Smith, Mr. Chizzik states referendum needs to be passed. Mr. Greeley states the board of education had Fema money available after Hurricane Ida and the Smith School infrastructure needs to be rectified. Mr. Chizzik states the Field and clubhouse need work the building is falling apart. Little League currently pay for their own landscapers, hopefully the borough and Little League can work together to improve the facility. Little League will raise funds. Mr. Greeley asks if now that town is in control can Little League still fundraise. Ms. Cannon says yes and states that we got a \$70,000 grant for field repairs. Ms. Cannon states the question is would it be better fixed or knocked down the building. Mrs. Garden inquires if there was already a plan in place. Mr. Chizzik states he can share plan with the board and states it will cost several \$100,000 dollars. Ms. Corsair states the board of education received FEMA money and it was used for stairs etc. at Smith School and it does not make sense to fix the field until flooding problem gets fixed. Mr. Chizzik states the snack stand has a restaurant owner who runs it and donates the money to Little League. Mr. Chizzik state the town will need to decide before Spring whether to go out to bid for the snack stand. A discussion ensued

## V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- 1. July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration:** Ms. Cannon reports it was a great event, very well attended. Thank you to the DPW, Elks, Police and TVAC for attending the event and helping out.
- 2. Summer Camps/Programs:** Ms. Cannon reports we had another successful summer camp for Recky's -Pre-School, Tiger Camp & Teen Camp. Total of 315 campers. The camp went on 17 field trips during the 6 weeks with over 715 camper registrations.
- 3. Football/Cheer Team:** Ms. Cannon reports we currently have 65 players total across all 3 levels. (PW 18, JR 15, SR 32), Our first game is this Saturday, 9/21 @ HOME.

We have a record breaking number of 103 cheerleaders (PW 23, JR 42, SR 38) we have a lot of interest in the Cheer Team and K-2<sup>nd</sup> cheer clinic has 30 We have a winter competition cheer squad 1<sup>st</sup> annual Tiger Tail Gate a pep rally.

4. **Fall Programs:** Ms. Cannon reports new programs included in the Fall catalogue are Gymnastics, Digital Art, Website Building, RE/Co Robots We have over 320 registered for Fall program and 550 registrations for our Haunted Forest, we are still accepting registration.
5. **Community Night:** Ms. Cannon gives a special thank you to Sergeant Roux and Carol Roux for organizing the event and continuing the tradition of the largest event in Tenaflly.  
This event every year continues to be a growing success. There were 60+ local business and vendors. Approximately 5,000 in attendance.  
Ms. Cannon says thank you to the Tenaflly Police, PBA, Fire Department, TVAC, DPW, and Building Maintenance for the setup, participation and assistance during the entirety of the event. Also a huge thank you to our amazing sponsors who donated to our 10 year Anniversary.

Teen Center-Ms. Cannon reports the Teen Center has been painted, there are new T.V's, gaming systems, a seating center and new couches, the cost was approximately \$20,000

Ms. Cannon reports the center is very busy. Mrs. Garden asks what are the hours? Ms. Cannon states the hours are M-Th 3:00-7:00, Friday 3:00-9:00

## VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Multi-use Area**-Ms. Cannon states the contract was awarded in a bid process for the full area work. A discussion ensued
2. **Skatepark (Old swim club)**-Ms. Cannon states the Old Swim Club has now been formally named Grove Street Park. Designs were approved and the engineers are moving forward with plans to build. The pieces will carry a 20 year warranty. Ms. Cannon states pieces can be added at any time. Mrs. Garden asks if helmets are required, Mr. Greeley states it is skate at your own risk, at the old skate park most wore helmets. The skate park will be done by the end of the year. Mr. Greeley tells Ms. Corsair he feels lights and cameras should be installed. Ms. Cannon states she believes cameras are planned. A discussion ensued
3. **Tiger Cage**-Ms. Cannon reports renovations were finished today.
4. **Vacant Recreation Department Positions**- Ms. Cannon reports we have filled the position for the Full-Time Groundskeeper. Matt Schroeder has been with us for 2 months now and still training for our different seasons.

Ms. Corsair states Recreation received a golf cart, Ms. Cannon states it is great our camp workers painted it.

4. Ms. Corsair reached out to a club director and inquired regarding hiring coaching for Lacrosse if there is money. Coach Q would like to teach parents how to coach, rather than pay coaches. A discussion ensued
5. Mr. Greeley asks if the down turn of pool will effect camp. Ms. Cannon states she does not know anything about the future of the pool. Ms. Corsair states for the town to take it over would be very costly, the town would lease it to a private company.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Edmunds GovTech**-Ms. Cannon reports the Borough has decided on a new online registration site to replace Community Pass. It is an extension of the Finance Edmunds software that is used by the Borough. GovTech-Parks & Recreation will be for online registration and facility scheduling. We will begin training next month with the roll out happening at the end of December.
2. **2025 Capital Budget**-Ms. Cannon reports she will be putting the following in her capital budget: Pick-up truck, Splash Pad, Disc Golf. Mr. Greeley was on the property and spoke to people at disc golf at Darlington Park, he states we may need to remove trees. Ms. Corsair would like it to be a place where dogs can run. Mr. Greeley states it would not be an issue with disc golf. Mr. Greeley will check the person who built at Darlington and get back to Ms. Cannon. If members have any ideas for the Capital Budget send them to Ms. Cannon
3. Mrs. Garden asks if a student can do the scoreboard for Lacrosse games. We will check into it.

## **VIII. SPECIAL EVENTS: FYI**

1. **Recreation Committee Meeting:** Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm.-Wilson Room
2. **Haunted Halloween Forest:** Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
3. **Halloween Party-Teen Center:** Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm-9pm

**Adjourned 9:09 pm**

**Mr. Coleman motions to adjourn, Mrs. Garden seconds the motion, all in favor the motion is carried.**