

Recreation Minutes

August 13, 2020

Attendance: Ryan Blass, Laurie Boyle, Andy Fox, Chris Morris, Michael Razze, Amy Rudley, Althea Sanders

Current programs and events:

-Led by Tom and Debbie Slenkamp, Summer Tennis finished up about a week ago. A \$2,000 grant Pitman Tennis received help to reopen the tennis programs in town and provide needed equipment. There were 100 participants this year. Covid protocols were in place and followed, and the program received positive feedback.

-The 39th 4th of July Freedom 4-Miler took place virtually this year. Over 300 participants ran and posted their times online. The plan is to continue a virtual aspect for the event next year.

-Regarding the dog park, Councilwoman Rudley met with the residents in town at the potential location by public works. After the meeting, the feeling was that this location is not easily accessible and not desirable. Shertel Park seems to be the preferred location.

-Roughly two weeks ago, improvements were made to the pump track. Dirt and clay were added to maintain upkeep, and a water line nearby to keep the track in better condition.

-Year two of the Heart of a Champion basketball camp finishes up tomorrow. This year, it took place at Shertel Park and was led by former PHS basketball alumni Darnell Foreman and Jay Amwake. There were four sessions with 12 kids per sessions to maintain Covid protocols.

-In the middle of July, Alcyon Lake Park hosted the first round of games for the New Jersey Last Dance baseball tournament. The tournament had over 200 teams competing. Alcyon will also be hosting a baseball tournament this weekend (8/14-8/16). Travel baseball will be finishing up soon before getting ready for the fall season.

Upcoming programs and events:

-Registration is still open for micro-mini soccer. As a result, teams are still being constructed and no official start date has been announced at this time.

-Fall baseball and softball will each have a few teams playing this upcoming season, with the possibility of a travel softball team also.

-Youth soccer is tentatively scheduled to start September 12-13, but there currently is not a schedule.

-Like in other towns, youth football has been cancelled this season. Those hoping to play will have to look elsewhere.

New Business:

-Andy and Laurie introduced the United Way's Born Learning Trail. It is a series of interactive signs that offer active learning activities for younger children. These signs would go around the already preexisting trails around a park. The kit would cost around \$1,500, and Women United would help pay for half. The group wondered if the signs could be modified for sponsorship.

-EDC asked Parks and Rec about the possibility of adding Maddie Brewer's name to the Welcome to Pitman sign by Delsea Drive. They approached us since we created a policy to use regarding naming facilities in town. However, our policy does not exactly fit in this situation. Still, we plan to pass our policy to them to use a blueprint for one of their own. Additionally, the group talked about creating a sign or something similar on Theater Avenue that could have other notable people from Pitman as well. That seemed to have some traction and agreement amongst the members in attendance.

Next Meeting: Thursday September 3 at 6:30 in the Council Chamber