

Rockaway Borough Recreation Commission  
Minutes of October 25, 2005 Meeting

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Chairman S. Patamia called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Flag Salute. The locations of the emergency exits were announced.

*Present:* Commission Members: M. Kelly, T. Mulligan  
S. Patamia, R. Seifert  
Recreation Director: C. Johnson  
Recreation Secretary: D. Tanzola

*Absent:* Commission Members: J. Bernabe, J. Doniloski, N. Healy

*Public:* Charles Rivera, Brian O'Connor, Carl Ertle, Harry Shaw,  
Pat Castellano, D. Clark, Guy Sobieski, Leo Yanas,  
Chris Dennehy, Tom Haynes, Tony Perusso,  
Kathy Clyne, James Castellano

*Approval of September 27, 2005 Minutes:*

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 27th meeting was made by T. Mulligan and seconded by R. Seifert. All in favor.

*Correspondence:*

1. Financial update from J. Doherty, CFO dated 10/24/05

*Public:*

S. Patamia reported about her contacts regarding clay mounds and portable mounds for Donatoni Park. She gave reports from the following:

- Bill Neiman, Softball Coach for Morris Hills High School
- Nick Soloway, District Administrator
- Patrick Hollis, Little League Headquarters
- Sal Mastrianni, Montville Recreation
- Neal Healy, Head of Field Maintenance in Milburn
- Kerry Baker, who runs a pitching clinic

Pat Castellano inquired what the Recreation Commission thinks. S. Patamia responded that the field should be shared by both boys and girls and safety must be taken into consideration.

Harry Shaw said that he thinks mounds are dangerous.

Charles Rivera asked if there has been an increase in the number of girls

playing softball. T. Mulligan responded that the number is evenly split between boys and girls. C. Rivera stated that use of the field should be evenly balanced between boys and girls with the safety factor considered. He is against the proposal of a raised mound.

Pat Castellano, VP Baseball/Softball Association stated that he has played on fields with both clay and portable mounds. He has no issue with either. The volunteers will need to take responsibility for the mounds. His vote is to use portable mounds.

Brian O'Connor stated that he is on both sides but believes a portable mound is the fairest way to make the field usable for both groups. The mound will adversely affect the girls but will not be a bad thing for the boys.

M. Kelly asked if a portable mound could be placed on the big field. S. Patamia and C. Johnson both said "yes". M. Kelly said we should put portable mounds on both fields. This way it will be fair for both boys and girls. R. Seifert and S. Patamia agreed. Two games can be held at the same time. C. Johnson said the mounds will not interfere with soccer and football's use of the field.

Tom Haynes said everyone should be allowed to use the fields and asked how much a portable mound costs. S. Patamia answered that a good quality mound will cost \$2000 - \$2500.

Kathy Clyne thought it is a good idea to use two portable mounds. This will make both fields equitable for boys and girls. She asked if the Recreation Commission could think of ways to draw in teenagers. She suggested a Skate Park. A lot of kids are interested in skate boarding and they are getting chased from various places in town. She knows of unsupervised open skate parks in various towns. S. Patamia replied that she will look into it.

T. Mulligan said J. Mirabella and J. Beatty would love to have more kids participating in Babe Ruth. S. Patamia suggested forming a "Just for fun" league for the older kids. K. Clyne said the town needs to be proactive about treating kids.

Tony Perusso said there should be equal treatment for boys and girls. There should be more communication and participation from parents.

Brian O'Connor was curious about the girls getting squeezed out of practice time when tournament time comes along and by both men's and women's softball. C. Johnson responded that the girls were not squeezed out. The men and women's leagues were discussed. The teams pay a league fee and there is no interference with the Little League fields. S. Patamia said the use of field time is worked out and the kids come first. . . Mr. O'Connor asked if the men and women will use Donatoni fields. C.

Johnson said "No".

*Chairman/Director's Report:*

S. Patamia

- Distributed copies of the Recreation Commission Rules and Regulations. She and C. Johnson have reviewed them and made changes. The Commissioners should review them and make any suggestions
- Discussed the Loss Control Report from the insurance company. Recommendations include replacing the play set at Smith Field and the blacktop at Centennial Park. The money will come from the 2006 budget.
- Stated that Rules and Regulations need to be established for the walkways at Park Lake and Donatoni Park. R. Seifert said the rules for the walkway at Park Lake must be coordinated with Rockaway Township.
- She has the price for the new 40 foot flagpole with flag at Donatoni Park: \$3,038.00
- She is still working on brick pavers for Donatoni Park.
- Distributed the start of the field inspection report for the 2006 Budget. She will finish off Park Lake. The Commissioners should review and make suggestions.
- Reported that she spoke to Police Chief Farina about the parking for Smith Field on Lincoln Ave. He suggested she contact a company which manufactures pedestrian signs. He suggested looking at vertical barricades for the police to put out. They will put them out if they know about the games.

C. Johnson reported

- The budget letters have gone out. Football, wrestling, cheerleading and soccer have turned in their budgets.
- The meeting in November has been moved to the last Tuesday.
- Stated that she is pleased how everyone came together in making a decision about the mounds which is good for the kids.

*Old Business*

Mike Kelly asked if basketball hoops are still being considered for Donatoni Park. C. Johnson and S. Patamia said things are still in the works and there is still talk of a basketball court.

R. Seifert reported the matting has been ordered for the Thomas Jefferson Gym and should be in and installed in two weeks.

*New Business*

S. Patamia asked for a motion for portable mounds on both fields at Donatoni Park. A motion was made by M. Kelly and seconded by R. Seifert. All in favor.

S. Patamia asked for a motion to include the portable mounds in the 2006 Capital Budget. A motion was made by R. Seifert and seconded by T. Mulligan. All in favor.

M. Kelly asked if there will be a field house to store the portable mounds during winter months. S. Patamia said there will be a storage facility.

*Commissioner's Reports:*

T. Mulligan reported that Little League will hold signups on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Winter Wonderland, and they would like to sell 2006 Recreation Cards that day. C. Johnson responded that she will order the new Recreation Cards. The players should fill out an application for the Recreation Card and give a signed check. C. Johnson will send out the cards. She should be informed if there are any kids who cannot afford a Recreation Card.

*Vouchers:*

Purchase Order #	Vendor	Account	Amount
13289	Dezine Lin	Football	300.00
TOTAL			300.00

A motion to approve the voucher(s) for payment was made by M. Kelly and seconded by R. Seifert. All in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by M. Kelly and seconded by R. Seifert. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Debbie Tanzola  
Recreation Secretary*