WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION
SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING: SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Dana Tucci, President, at 7:02 p.m.

SAB members in attendance:

Dana Tucci
Jimmy Gaskin
Kerri DiPietro
Brian DiLuigi
Mike Makofka

Sports representatives in attendance:

Baseball - Sam Scimeca
Basketball - Maria Giangiulio
Cheer - Kristle Christo
Field Hockey - Shannon Mignone
Lacrosse - Jeff DiBiaso and Mike Ritzinger
Rugby - Kevin Collins
Soccer - Roger McLarnon, Bob Gallagher, Chris Brocco, Lou Pavlik, Elizabeth Granato, Jen Watkins, Robert Goodman, Steve Wooster, Joe DeVecchis
Softball - Chris Bourquin
Tennis - Kristle Christo
Track & Field - Ron Paglia and Jami McGraw
Wrestling - Joseph Hoopes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kerri DiPietro moved to approve the Minutes of the August 7, 2024 Meeting. Mike Makofka seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

REPORTS OF SPORTS BOARDS:

SOFTBALL:

- Registration for Fall Ball has closed and season has just started.
- No fundraisers are currently in the works.

- Looking to have two tournaments in the spring, one on Father's Day weekend and the other mid May.
- The issue with one of our coaches not being given a head coaching job has defused some, as she has agreed to be an assistant coach to another team.
- We have decided that All-Star recognition from the spring will be awarded during opening day next spring, so that there can be an audience to the girls that deserve it.
- Fall Ball is being played in GSA League as normal. Enrollment is up over last year. If we get the same improvement next year, it may be possible to play in-house.
- Discussions with baseball for sharing time in the barn are ongoing.
- Some improvements will be made to the barn this winter.
- Travel Coaches List submitted for approval.
- Fall Ball Coaches List submitted for approval.

Brian DiLuigi moved to approve Softball's Travel Coaches List, with the exception of Brian McKillop and Eric Spera, who are pending Megan's Law certification. Kerri DiPietro seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Jimmy Gaskin moved to approve Softball's Fall Ball Coaches List, with the exception of Jeff DeHaas and Chris Fischer, who are pending Megan's Law certification. Kerri DiPietro seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

BASEBALL:

- Fall Ball teams have been selected and the season starts this Saturday. There are 420 kids signed up.
- Travel Rec started already.
- Working on spring try-out dates. Looking at two Sundays and two Mondays in October. Dates being considered are October 13 and 14, October 20 and 21, or October 27 and 28.
- Can the lights on Field 3 be raised?
- We have not raised our registration fees in years and have taken it upon ourselves to cover any shortages incurred.
- Umpire fees have increased from $45.00 to $60.00 and are now $70.00 to $80.00.
- Uniform jerseys, hats and socks went from $15.00 to $20.00 and are now $25.00 to $30.00.
- Baseballs have also gone up drastically from $40.00 to $45.00 a dozen and are now $60.00 plus a dozen.
- Approval to raise registration fees:
  Players 4u - 6u - $85.00 no change
  Players 7u - 8u - $100.00
  Players 9u – 10u - $110.00

Players 11u – 12u - $120.00
Players 13u – 18u - $125.00

Jimmy Gaskin moved to approve Baseball's increase in registration fees. Mike Makofka seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

BASKETBALL:

- Opened up registration on July 1st. Very early this year. It will end on October 31st.
- 326 sign-ups so far.
- Boys Travel Tryouts are scheduled for September 9, 13, 16, 20 and 23 at Orchard Valley Middle School.
- Girls Travel Director will be submitting dates for tryouts in October.
- Steve Petner Award is going to Rick Vogel.
- Working on putting registration signs around town.

CHEERLEADING:

- Cheer showcase was held on August 28th. Six squads performed with an audience.
- Coach's Clinic was held on July 31st by Affinity Cheer All Stars. All coaches attended.
- Sideline Cheer Stunt Clinics were held the weeks of August 12th and 19th by Affinity Cheer All Star coaches.
- We have 5 competition teams. We did not have enough interest from our Kindergarten squad for a whole team.
- Competition team practices will begin on September 9th. Still waiting on high school approval, hoping to use high school cheer mats.
- Planning on holding stunt clinics for each competition team with Affinity Cheer All Stars again.
- We are planning on competing in three local competitions:
  Wildwood – November 17
  Erial – December 15
  Kingsway – November 3
- Competition registration will end August 28th.
- Need to use schools beginning of December for practice for competition on the 15th.
- Flapjack fundraiser on September 15th at Applebee's. Cheerleaders will serve and host. $20.00 per person.

FIELD HOCKEY:

- Registration is closed.
- First games are happening this weekend – 3rd/4th graders on Saturday, Clinic on Sunday, and 5th/6th/7th/8th graders on Sunday as well.

- Approval of two additional Coaches:
  Michele DeAngelis and Kaitlyn Stuhltrager – both Megan's Law certified
- Approval of Coach Jennifer Reali, who is now Megan's law certified

Brian DiLuigi moved to approve Field Hockey's two additional Coaches. Jimmy Gaskin seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Brian DiLuigi moved to approve Field Hockey's Coach Jennifer Reali, who is now Megan's Law certified. Jimmy Gaskin seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

FOOTBALL:

- Season started August 1st.
- VET Cup is September 7th.
- Weigh Ins are September 14th.
- Games start on September 21st.
- Golf Outing was August 17th at White Oaks Country Club. Very successful.
- Corn Hole League is scheduled for September 9th at the complex and runs through October 28th. All are welcome to come out and play on Monday nights, $120.00 per team.
- WTYFB will be hosting the SJI Championship weekend again this year at the high school complex. All paperwork and requests have been submitted to the BOE.
- Fundraiser Request – Annual Football Beef & Beer

Brian DiLuigi moved to approve Football's Fundraiser Request. Kerri DiPietro seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

LACROSSE:

- Off season.
- Fundraising is down. Not having the girls' tournament hurt us financially.
- Registration fees have not been raised in over 4 years.
- Approval to increase registration fee from $75.00 to $90.00.
- Moving registration dates up two weeks. Will open it up October 15th through December 15th, with late registration December 16th through January 15th. Approval is not needed for this.
- Approval of new Board Members:
  Jeff DiBiaso – President (9/1/24 – 8/30/26)
  Brian Laudenslager – Vice President (9/1/24 – 8/30/25)
  Mike Ritzinger – reappointed as Treasurer (9/1/24 – 8/30/26)
  Chad Flexon – reappointed as Boys League Rep (9/1/24 – 8/30/26)
  JT Skelly – reappointed as Girls Field Coordinator (9/1/24 – 8/30/25)
  Neil Weisshaar, Kevin Moyer, Lee Robledo and Jeff Orihel – Emeritus

Brian DiLuigi moved to approve Lacrosse's increase in registration fees. Jimmy Gaskin seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Kerri DiPietro moved to approve Lacrosse's new Board Members. Mike Makofka seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

RUGBY:

- Off season.
- Working on how to get more players.
- Board Meeting rescheduled to next week due to the Labor Day Holiday.

SOCCER:

- New set of full sided goals for Washington Lake Park were delivered and assembled by Township Parks & Rec.
- Fall season starts on September 8th and 9th for Intramural, Travel and Clinic.
- Still would like to pursue providing parking lot lighting, via Atlantic City Electric, proposal is about $13,000 that the program is interested in a cost share possibly with the Township.
- 9/10 fields at the high school are looking better. They still need to rest per Kevin Murphy.
- A new gas main is being put in at County House in September. We have a meeting with SJ Gas tomorrow to push this back to December because of the season starting. SJ Gas wants to push it up to September.
- Boys Intramural Coaches List submitted for approval – all Megan's Law certified.
- Girls Intramural Coaches List submitted for approval – all Megan's Law certified.
- Travel Coaches List submitted for approval.
- Approval to purchase two new sets of 7v7 goals and two new sets of 9v9 goals. Some will go to the Levy fields, some will go to the County House fields, and others will be moved around for tournaments.

Mike Makofka moved to approve Soccer's Boys Intramural Coaches List. Jimmy Gaskin seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Kerri DiPietro moved to approve Soccer's Girls Intramural Coaches List. Brian DiLuigi seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Mike Makofka moved to approve Soccer's Travel Coaches List, with the exception of Tyler Callahan, Chris Dougherty, Steve Schell, Kim Valinsky and Dan Watkins, who are pending Megan's Law certification. Jimmy Gaskin seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Brian DiLuigi moved to approve Soccer's purchase of two new sets of 7v7 goals. Jimmy Gaskin seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Brian DiLuigi moved to approve Soccer's purchase of two new sets of 9v9 goals. Jimmy Gaskin seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

TENNIS:

- Off season.
- Looking to fill Board positions.

TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY:

- Cross Country started August 12th.
- Working with Lisa with the lighting.
- Closed Session.

WRESTLING:

- Finalizing new Board Members at the September meeting.
- Registration will open up October 1st.
- November 12th practices will start.
- We got home dates set for the high school, will submit the proper paperwork.
- South Jersey Wrestling League will meet next month.
- The CAC building needs a new roof. There are now three leaks from the lower roof. We got a quote to fix the roof for a little under $8,000.00, but it would only last for 4 more years. We could only get one quote, because no other contractor would even come out.
- Asking SAB to reach out to the Township about purchasing a new roof. Was told a few years in a row that this would be a line item in the budget, but it gets taken out of the budget every year.
- Closed Session.

CHALLENGER DIVISION: No one present.

- Still looking for someone to take over our Challenger Sports. They can contact Denise in Parks & Rec for any information.
- Will send Joe Hoopes Ron and Flo's information since he is in charge of Special Education at the high school.

CODE OF CONDUCT COMMITTEE:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Leon Lakritz and Vicky Binetti, from Open Space and Environmental Commission, attended the meeting to discuss the property on Woodbury-Turnersville Road, adjacent to

Grenloch Park. The Township purchased this property. It is about 16.7 acres. A roadway was put in with a small parking lot. Only two and a half acres cleared for a field.
Open Space is looking to make this property passive recreation and is proposing to plant trees. Leon and Vicky are trying to confirm if any of our sports programs are looking to use the field there. They do not want to plant trees that will interfere with anyone using that field.

2. Lou Pavlik from Soccer attended the SAB meeting to discuss an appeal to be an assistant coach for the Washington Township Gladiators. At this time, Mike Makofka from the SAB recused himself from this matter.

   Lou was not appointed by the Soccer Board this year to be a coach and was removed as a board member. His appeal was strictly to be able to be an assistant coach for his son's team. The Soccer Board stated that Lou was not approved for two reasons:
   1. Lou's daughter left Washington Township soccer to play for Highland and the Soccer Board felt that he removed an entire team out of Washington Township.
   2. Lou did not support/promote any soccer fundraisers.

   Lou claims that the Soccer Board did not inform him of the exact reasons as to why he was being removed from both the Board and coaching. He also claims that Soccer's Bylaws state that he should have received, in writing, the reasonings why and he did not.

   Roger McLarnon, the Soccer President, stated he invited Lou to the June Soccer Board Meeting to discuss these issues and said that Lou declined.

   Lou responded that there was no information that coaches or himself would be discussed at the June meeting and he had a prior engagement which made him unable to attend this meeting.

   Kerri DiPietro, from the SAB, stated that she attended the June soccer meeting and the only coach that was discussed was Bob Goodman and Lou was tabled and not discussed/voted upon.

   Roger responded and said that after the public meeting was adjourned, there was a closed session meeting to discuss Lou and a vote was made at that time.

   Roger claims he called Lou after the June meeting to let him know that he was not approved as a Board Member and he was not approved as a coach. Roger stated that Lou did not even go to the July or August Soccer Board meetings to discuss this.

   Lou responded that during their call in June, he stated he was going to appeal to SAB. Lou said there was no reason to go to the July or August Soccer Board meetings as a decision was already made to remove him.

   Roger added that Lou could have seen what was happening in the Soccer Board meeting minutes, which every board member has access to.

Lou responded that as of June he was no longer a board member.

Many parents from both Lou's daughter's team and son's team attended the meeting to speak on his behalf. A few parents stated that they left the town on their own free will, they were not forced to leave by Lou.

Another parent stated that the kids respect Lou as a coach and it would be a disservice to the children to not allow him to coach.

Joe DeVecchis, the Head Coach of the Gladiators, stated that Lou makes an impact on all the kids and he needs him on the sideline as an assistant coach. He went into how every coach has to be carded and he just cannot pull a parent from the sidelines to help out. Joe also said that the fundraisers are not mandatory and it was up to the parents to participate.

Lou is claiming that he was not informed properly and that the Bylaws were not followed for removing a Board Member and not allowing to coach.

Jimmy Gaskin, Vice President of SAB, stated that the Grievance Policy would start over due to it being a time sensitive issue and Lou requesting to be carded by Sunday, September 8th's game. All parties agreed that the Soccer Board would meet again and revote by 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 6th. They would send the meeting minutes and results to Dana Tucci, President of SAB, and follow the Grievance Policy for communication to Lou. If Lou wanted to appeal the decision, he would contact Dana Tucci to start the grievance process with SAB. Dana informed her Board that this was time sensitive and if it did go to appeal, we would need to make ourselves available in order to vote and provide everyone with our decision before Sunday's game.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Kerri DiPietro moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Jimmy Gaskin seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION: Track & Field/Cross Country
Wrestling

NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 2, 2024