

VINELAND RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

March 6, 2017

The Vineland Recreation Commission held its meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Chairman; Ernie Marcacci. Those present include: Superintendent; Dale Elbeuf, Vice Chairman; Dan Peretti, Commissioners; James Hague, Reuben Gomez Jr., Eugene Medio, James Clay and Recording Secretary; Charlene Cheli. Also attending the meeting were City Solicitor; Edward Duffy and City Councilman Albert Vargas. Guests included; William Daliz Jr. and Ron Barnabei. Absent from the meeting was Commissioner; Chick Peale.

Public Notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act was given by the Superintendent of Recreation in the following manner.

1. Posting written notice of the official bulletin board in the lobby of City Hall.
2. Hand delivering notices to the offices of the Daily Journal and the Press of Atlantic City.
3. Filing written notices to the office of the City Clerk of the City of Vineland.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dan Peretti made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 6th meeting, James Hague seconded that motion.

Mr. Elbeuf introduced Mr. Albert Vargas as City Council liaison replacing Paul Spinelli.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Duffy inquired of William Daliz of Vineland Midget Football and Ron Barnabei of Vineland Pigtail league if they were aware of the new registration requirements to which they said they were. Mr. Barnabei stated the president of Pigtail and several children parted ways due to conflict. Mr. Duffy reminded him of the procedure to provide a copy of complaint(s) which would need to be presented to the Vineland Pigtail League board first before it is heard/addressed by the Commission. "Send an email to Luis Santiago who is secretary, requesting it be put on the Pigtail Board agenda then attend the meeting. This is outlined in the Commission by-laws". It was suggested he request a written response by next meeting date 4/3/17.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Duffy stated there are no fingerprinting appeals to report at this time. An email was sent to all Presidents of leagues to attend the February 6 meeting. They were informed that it would be expected to provide financials 45 days after the end of league registrations This request was received by all leagues except for Vineland Soccer and Vineland Midget Football who were not in attendance. Mr. Duffy suggested writing a letter to these two groups, that they be invited to attend the next month's (April) meeting and have their paperwork in before that time or sanctions would be discussed. A couple of meetings for Perfect Game took place via phone and with City Hall for a proposed 2017 schedule. Mr. Elbeuf said, "The City and County bought ground for a future

complex. The City is asking for a letter of intent” for future tournaments from Perfect Game. Perfect Game asked for maintenance costs and Mr. Elbeuf provided a cost analysis for

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weed and feed materials, mowing, two additional laborers, fall seeding, aeration, lime, etc. for eight 60/90 fields upkeep on an annual basis. The cost analysis was turned over to the City Administration and Perfect Game. Mr. Elbeuf explained there is a proposal to build eight 60/90 fields. Mr. Clay asked if it was so beneficial that the city should not let Perfect Game walk away. Mr. Gomez stated he did not think it is that beneficial and some city officials do not think it is as well. Mr. Gomez said he is an advocate for Vineland children come first. Mr. Duffy pointed out that we are dealing with City Administration and City Council as they see revenue for businesses. “We don’t know the specifics in the agreement but it is suggested that Perfect Game needs a substantial commitment for play”. Mr. Elbeuf said he had a good relationship with Bob Barth and the Barth Family who represents Perfect Game. Last year Perfect Game promised the Board of Education to buy a tarp for the VHS baseball field, mesh for the fences and give free registration to Vineland baseball teams in their tournaments. This did not materialize. East Vineland Little League asked for fencing to protect batting cage area and we are waiting for the funds for this project. Vineland Recreation will provide all the labor to install. Mr. Gomez voiced his concern of why we are entertaining them if they are not cooperating with the city. Mr. Medio pointed out they were here last year with all hotels booked in Vineland and positive feedback from City Council, the Mayor, and the City itself. Mr. Marcacci said we are a board for Recreation, but City Council and the Mayor override our decisions. Mr. Elbeuf can talk to them about the fees for rental of our fields and the cost for using the lights. Mr. Elbeuf will decide the availability of fields and number of weekends for their tournaments. Perfect Game cannot dictate which fields or how many weekends. The registration process took place over a five week period for Little League baseball. The numbers were fair for North Vineland, up for East Vineland, down for South Vineland and excellent for Pigtail with over 300 girls signed up. The reason numbers are off in Little League is Travel Ball. Mr. Elbeuf explained that while in Atlantic City attending a convention he learned it is a problem throughout the state. “We originally said no Travel Ball in Vineland city until after June 15. We have to uphold this or the numbers will change for the worse. If Travel Ball is going to hand pick our kids then they get no field use at all. Mr. Hague said there are two organizations and Leo Haggerty is head coach at ALMA which allows use of Edgarten fields. Tsunami goes to the other fields. “They do not need our fields. Mr. Suppi is not going to come to us for field time.” The Seminoles did this several years ago and now there are two previous Seminole members on the Board for East. Vineland. All field use must go through Recreation no exceptions. There was an accident at Third Street as one large light standard collapsed onto the field during high winds. Mr. Napier of the Electric Utility is trying to get a price on a single pole. Leagues have to condense night play into weekends during daylight hours until this is corrected and share use at Landis Park Errickson field for night games.

NEW BUSINESS

Fields are officially open. Mr. Marcacci asked if there was any response on expansion of parking at Third Street to which he was told there was discussion about the change of use. A possibility might be to move the basketball area upfront in the tennis court and remove all the remaining tennis court area and present basketball courts to make more parking space. Brian Myers, City Engineer said that the present asphalt surfacing is not for parking. It is rated for recreational use not for parking vehicles on. Mr. Elbeuf received a final quote of \$139,000 for Challenger field remediation of poured in place infield. He further explained it would cover 92,000 square feet but would have to wait until after the Challenger season to start the project. Signs would have to state absolutely "No Spikes would be allowed this field". Mr. Peretti said he would prefer to see it done first and push the other parking project aside. There was an incident reported between coaches and parents at the Wrestling building. Mr. Giordano, coach/president said he wanted a coach removed from the program. There were no police involved but it was confrontational. This will be the last and final warning of "No Tolerance" for this issue. Mr. Clay said he was at the end of year tournament where there were verbal issues. "We need to follow the By-laws and when they are violated, actions taken. Parents are being self-serving and are being misguided. Dave Homiak, VHS wrestling coach is thrilled that Nick Giordano is down there and next year for the Vineland Mini Wrestling program. Mr. Elbeuf explained that the president and board can pick their coaches. Mr. Medio said last year, none of the parents stepped up and five were left without any help and everything was thrown in their laps to fix the program. Now, the program has some leadership and parents are still not satisfied. Mr. Medio made a motion to adjourn at 8:00. Mr. Peretti seconded that motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on April 3, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the caucus room on the first floor of City Hall. All are welcome to attend.