

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF RECREATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
October 19, 2020**

Prior to the start of the meeting the following statement of compliance was read:

Now therefore be advised that the notice requirements of this meeting have been satisfied by providing an annual notice of posting a schedule of such meetings in a conspicuous place in the Municipal Building and by filing a copy of such schedule in the office of the Municipal Clerk which said notices were filed or provided on December 5th, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM.

Board Members Present: Tommolillo, Fakhoury, Fava, Van Rye

Board Members Absent: Pettigano, Tisellano, Figueroa

Recreation Department: Warren

Council Liaison: Councilwoman Balistrieri

Tommolillo suggested waiting to approve the Meeting Minutes from the December 16, 2020 meeting as per the absence of the Board Members from said meeting. No motion was made.

	PETTIGANO	TOMMOLILLO	FAKHOURY	TISELLANO	FAVA	FIGUEROA	VAN RYE
YES							
NO							
ABSTAIN							

Motion made by Fakhoury to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion seconded by Fava.

	PETTIGANO	TOMMOLILLO	FAKHOURY	TISELLANO	FAVA	FIGUEROA	VAN RYE
YES	A	X	X	A	X	A	X
NO							
ABSTAIN							

Motion made by Fakhoury to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion seconded by Van Rye.

	PETTIGANO	TOMMOLILLO	FAKHOURY	TISELLANO	FAVA	FIGUEROA	VAN RYE
YES	A	X	X	A	X	A	X
NO							
ABSTAIN							

Motion made by Fakhoury to open the work portion of the meeting. Motion seconded by Fava.

	PETTIGANO	TOMMOLILLO	FAKHOURY	TISELLANO	FAVA	FIGUEROA	VAN RYE
YES	A	X	X	A	X	A	X
NO							
ABSTAIN							

Director's Report:

After School Program:

- (Up to 5th Grade)
- \$150 per child per month
- Cohort groups used by School district
- Added Wi-Fi to Building

Warren discussed how the After School program now follows the cohort groups the school district uses. Group A is Monday and Tuesday while Group B is Thursday and Friday. The Wi-Fi update was added to the building so the children can use it during their homework hour. The Wi-Fi was also updated in case of an emergency since the recreation center is also used as an emergency center.

EP Crew Soccer:

- Season started
- Mileage Reimbursement

Warren addressed the color changes and the addition of red to mimic the schools and town. He wants to create a sense of comradery amongst the town sports, even the autonomous/club sports.

Parks and Playgrounds:

- Basketball court near Borough field
- Rosemont Park Project
- Exercise Equipment in Park
- Elmwood Drive Permits

The street hockey rink is being replaced and basketball courts will be there once again. The courts should be finished in the spring. Rosemont Park is the last park to be done. The physical playground is in and the fencing needs to be completed. The basketball court at Elmwood Drive is being removed. Warren discussed future plans to use the park as a space for families to rent out and reserve for family events. Warren discussed adding exercise equipment to one of the parks and asked for opinions on what park it should be placed in.

Social Media:

- Facebook
- Instagram

Special Events:

- Build-A-Pumpkin @ Birchwood
- Halloween Contest (VIRTUAL)

Build-A-Pumpkin was October 17th at Birchwood. Warren discussed plans for November and ideas for lawn raking and a table-to-table food bank/delivery for Thanksgiving. Councilwoman Balistreri informed Warren of the Residents Assistance Program as well as Strangers Helping Strangers. Tommolillo suggested working with food banks as he does in Paterson. Warren mentioned he will be having a meeting about it this week.

Warren expressed his happiness over working in Elmwood Park and talked about the close knit community. He discussed the excitement over working in the physical recreation building, compared to just a recreation office. Warren discussed future plans for the hut and wanting to create a safe space for teens once the library leaves the hut.

Councilwoman Balistreri inquired about Halloween and the virtual costume contest. Warren discussed Trunk or Treat with the police department. The virtual costume contest will be via email only and submissions are being taken from October 30th through November 1st. The winners will be announced the first week of November. Councilwoman Balistreri also inquired about extended hours in the recreation office. Warren stated the office staff is only working until 4:30 PM since the building is not open to the public yet.

Warren discussed holding off on basketball and hopefully a season can start in January. He stated he wanted to use November and December to plan the new year. He discussed wanting to build athletes at a young age and getting the community involved. Fava discussed the previous wrestling program.

Intrieri welcomed Warren and the new members of the Advisory Board. Warren discussed the recreation staff. He also discussed a project the department is working on with the high school arts teacher, Susan Bush. The project involves a mural painted in the game room that will show the growth of a child in recreation sports through high school sports.

Fakhoury inquired about activity for kids that are not involved in sports. Warren mentioned Build-A-Pumpkin and stated he wants to highlight those activities as strong as sports. He and Intrieri previously mentioned a culinary program.

Another discussion was held about replacing the street hockey rink with basketball courts. The court would be open at certain times and will be caged off with a potential scoreboard. Fava brought up out of towners coming to play, but Warren suggested hosting out of towners to make some revenue. A discussion was held regarding the utilization of Mosquito Jungle.

Tommolillo discussed the declining number of children interested in sports. Fakhoury brought up the issue of getting volunteers to coach. Van Rye mentioned it is mostly high school kids trying to volunteer, but they have issues with the parents. Warren suggested a program to help them learn to coach. A discussion about club sports versus recreation sports took place. Warren expressed everything needs to operate as a unit and have the best interest of the children.

Recreation Liaison Report:

Councilwoman Balistreri discussed Rosemont Park and its progression. She inquired about cameras in the parks. Councilwoman Balistreri started a discussion about the tennis courts at the high school. The tennis courts are open dusk to dawn, except when the high school is using it.

Councilwoman mentioned the dog park and how the dog runs will no longer be put into place as it may be an insurance issue. A discussion about the current height of the fence took place.

Old Business:**New Business:**

- **Build-A-Pumpkin:** Covered in Director's Report.
- **Virtual Halloween costume contest:** Covered in the Director's Report.
- **After School Program:** Covered in the Director's Report.
- **Wi-Fi update:** Covered in the Director's Report.

Commissioner Reports:

Pettigano –
 Tommolillo –
 Fakhoury –
 Tisellano –
 Fava –
 Figueroa –
 Van Rye –

No reports were made as most recreation sports were suspended.

Motion made by Fava to close the work portion of the meeting. Motion seconded by Van Rye.

	PETTIGANO	TOMMOLILLO	FAKHOURY	TISELLANO	FAVA	FIGUEROA	VAN RYE
YES	A	X	X	A	X	A	X
NO							
ABSTAIN							

Motion made by Fava to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Van Rye.

	PETTIGANO	TOMMOLILLO	FAKHOURY	TISELLANO	FAVA	FIGUEROA	VAN RYE
YES	A	X	X	A	X	A	X
NO							
ABSTAIN							

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.