

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT RECREATION BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD ON JULY 8, 2009 AT 7:30 A.M.

Chairperson Lori Dixon called the July 8, 2009 meeting of the Ottawa Hills Joint Recreation Board to order. In attendance were board members Gretchen Rohm, Willis Day, Margaret Rodriguez, Norma King, and Chair Lori Dixon. Also in attendance were School Superintendent Cathy Heidelberg, Dorothy Figy, Marc Thompson and Nasrin Afjeh.

Norma King made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1 meeting. Gretchen Rohm seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Gretchen Rohm made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5 meeting. Norma King seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Norma King then moved to approve the minutes from the June 17 meeting. Margaret Rodriguez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Chair Lori Dixon then called on Dorothy Figy to provide background and relevant information regarding her role in the recreation activities of the Village.

Mrs. Figy stated that she has lived in Ottawa Hills since 1995 and has two children who are out of the school system and one who is still a student in the Ottawa Hills school system. She previously taught at Toledo Public Schools and her family has been very active in local recreation activities since they moved to the community.

Bev Gottlieb entered the meeting at this time.

About six years ago she took a part time job with the school scheduling school facilities. She works in the athletic office handling scheduling for non-school activities using school facilities. Mrs. Figy continued by stating that she tries to be very accessible for scheduling questions and people often call her at the school office, at home or on her cell phone in addition to emailing at home. She says she frequently carries forms in her purse so that if she is asked at remote locations she can hand out forms to someone who may be interested.

Mrs. Figy then provided a detailed review of the school website focusing specifically on the Dynacal scheduling program. She actually went through the school's website in her demonstration following the same path that an interested citizen may follow. Mrs. Figy also provided copies of relevant forms including application forms, release forms, etc.

She also described periodic scheduling meetings that involved representatives from the various groups who are interested in use of the facilities. Those meetings happen periodically throughout the year and identify scheduling concerns and needs for the various organizations.

She mentioned that Geresy Field is handled separately and is not typically a subject of these scheduling meetings.

Mrs. Figy also reviewed the priorities for determining access to the facilities. Those were established by the Board of Education some time ago and are as follows.

1. Use is directly related to the schools and the operation of the schools.
2. Uses and groups indirectly related to the schools.
3. Uses for voter registration and election.
4. Community organizations or groups formed for charitable, civic, religious or educational purposes.

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5. Department or agencies of government.
6. Other such purposes to promote the welfare of the community, provided that such meetings are non-exclusive but open to the general public.
7. Use of the district grounds and facilities, except for the scout house, shall not be granted for private social functions.

Mrs. Figy also said that she handles various problems such as damage, distribution of keys and other access related issues at the various facilities. She estimates that she works about ten hours per week from August through May which is the busiest period.

Some of the main problems relate to people who find ways around the rules and get access to the facilities without following proper procedures. She also stated that there are not sufficient sanctions to discourage people from ignoring the rules.

She mentioned "an old boy system" involving residents who feel as if they have special privileges or should not be bound by the same rules as others.

She was very complimentary of the custodians stating that they are very flexible and are very good to work with.

Cathy Heidelberg stated that the Recreation Board should develop a basic philosophy about many of the existing organizations including team expectations, selection process, definition of in season versus out of season, background checks for coaches, liability waivers, etc. She also mentioned that it seemed appropriate that the recreation board would have its own website although it could be linked to the Board of Education website.

A major question involves rules, either existing rules or new rules being enforced. It was generally agreed that the Recreation Board would be the controlling authority as it relates to use and access to facilities and that it would be a key part of enforcement.

Mrs. Gottlieb hoped that activities and adult leadership would be developmentally appropriate related to the age of children participating.

Mrs. Dixon stated that there were a number of issues to consider and that she hopes to create committees which would address various concerns. She thought that more progress would be made if committees were established to deal with relevant issues and that those committees would then report back to the board with recommendations. The committees would involve members of the board as well as members of the public. Committee subjects would include enforcement, grievances, liability issues, standards, participation, etc. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Recreation Board would be at 7:30 a.m. on July 22.


Mrs. King volunteered to head a committee dealing with background checks.

Discussion also followed, regarding the need to have representatives of the various community groups provide input to the Recreation Board Committee. It was agreed that leaders of the various organizations would be requested to come to a meeting scheduled for August 5 at 7:30 a.m. Mrs. Dixon would draft such a letter of invitation and forward it to the Village offices for

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distribution. Mrs. Figy will provide a list of the organization leaders who should receive the invitation.

After brief additional discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.



Willis Day, Secretary