

**Upper Township  
Sports and Recreation Advisory Board**

2100 Tuckahoe Rd.

Petersburg, NJ 08270

**Regular Meeting of the Sports and Recreation Advisory Board**

**March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

- March 28, 2019 7:03 pm

**Sunshine Announcement**

In Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law, I wish to state that on Monday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the notice of this meeting of the Upper Township Sports and Recreation Advisory Board was posted on the official Township Bulletin Board, emailed to the Cape May County Gazette, the Atlantic City Press, the Ocean City Sentinel-Ledger, the Herald Times and filed with the Upper Township Sports and Recreation Advisory Board Secretary. Tonight's meeting is being audio recorded up until the closed session portion of this meeting. I hereby direct that this announcement be made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

**Salute the Flag**

**Roll Call of the Recreation Advisory Board Members**

Name	Present	Absent
Upper Township Sports and Recreation Chairman of the Board - Ron DiGiovanni		X
Sports and Recreation Advisor Assistant Chairman of the Board - Bruce DiNardo	X	
Upper Township Sports and Recreation Advisor - Joe Lotek	X	
Upper Township Sports and Recreation Advisor - Bob Kimball	X	
Township Committeeman of Recreation - Hobie Young (Arrived 7:09 pm)	X	
Township Committeeman of Public Works - Ed Barr	X	
Upper Township Public Works – John Adams	X	
Upper Township Sports and Recreation Secretary - Larry Cole	X	

**Roll Call of the Recreation Programs**

Organization	Present	Absent	Representative 1	Representative 2
Baseball	X		Mr. Randy Lieser	
Basketball	X		Mr. Fran Willett	Mr. Kevin Marr
Challenger	X		Mr. Daryl Ditroia	
Cheerleading	X		Mrs. Michelle Drewnowski	
Football	X		Mr. Mark Pancoast	
Hockey		X		
Lacrosse		X		
Soccer	X		Mr. Chris Vliet	
Softball		X		
Wrestling	X		Mrs. Michelle Drewnowski	

**Approval of Minutes**

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- January 24th, 2019
  - Offered 1st Mr. Bruce Dinardo      2nd Mr. Joe Loteck
  - 3 In Favor
  - 1 Abstain – Ed Barr

**Report of the Board**

- The 2019 Yearly Collection of Township required paperwork is due again, Larry Cole UT Sports and Rec Secretary has been collecting what is already readily available on the Internet and from information that stays constant from year to year. Once he has it all collected he will send what he has to the organizations for them to retain and add what is missing.
- Secretary Cole to note that in addition to the Sports Organization Representatives, that Wanda Adamson was in attendance to attend the meeting as a Township Resident

**Report of Sport Coordinators**

- Baseball
  - UT Baseball – Randy Leiser
    - Program Status
      - The Season getting underway with teams. Between both Rec and Babe Ruth program there are 256 Registrants. The Travel UT Hurricanes teams currently have 48 players in which 95% of them are Upper Township residents
    - Facility Status
      - A discussion between Mr. Leiser, Committeeman Young and Mr. Adams (Head of Fields and Grounds UT PW). Facilities are generally good, Fields 1 and 2 remain to be a concern for infield grass. The Lighting at the Babe Ruth Field has some bulbs that are out. UT PW is investigating if they are under warranty or not and will address the repairs. The Babe Ruth score board is not functioning properly at the end of the year. UT PW is reaching out to the company to get it repaired. There may be an effort to Re-Sod the fields, but it will need to be vacated for 3-5 weeks. Currently the UT PW is holding off for now and applying lime and fertilize due to the usage. There is a reported issue with the Scoreboard lights being too bright UT Baseball. It was discovered upon further investigation that the settings were too bright and that they are to keep them on the lower settings (Do not raise brightness). If the issue persists with keeping the lights dim there is an option to possibly place screening over top to lessen the brightness. Lastly and most costly would be to move the scoreboard. This is the last resource if the issue persists as it would be the costliest in concrete and rewiring.
  - Organization Status
    - Mr. Leiser has emailed latest financial statement. There are currently no pending or outstanding issues to report. There was a question whether the Township would pay/reimburse for the newly required Babe Ruth, Certification for the volunteer coaches. Recreation Secretary Cole stated that it is in comparison to the USA Football requirements that are for the UT Football Association, and that since it is a league requirement and not a Township requirement, that the organization itself is required to make payment for this certification.

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- There was also a question from Board Member Mr. Loteck regarding the rules and that the UT Baseball follows the Little League Rule Book.
- Basketball
  - UT Basketball – Fran Willett
    - Program Status
      - The season is over, and the last tournament was held in early March. The final player count was 498 kids. They are still holding 35+ Basketball is on Tuesday nights, and 18+ Basketball is on Thursday nights.
      - There was also a mention that There is an interest in one night a month for Basketball to be open to the kids in the off season. There was a mention that before they implement a program like this that there need to be a commitment from people to run it and not the Board members. Mr. Willett to reach out to Township if they wish to pursue.
    - Facility
      - Committeeman Mr. Young mentioned that there was damage to the plywood walls and no one has claimed responsibility. Currently there was no video evidence that supports the damage and specific people. To help minimize the issues Secretary Cole has created an online form that can be accessed from a smartphone to relay information to the Township when there is an issue with the facility. It is to be used ALL times when using indoor facilities and only time for fields should only be reported when there is an issue found.
      - Secretary Cole pointed out that the bathrooms in the facility are being vandalized by the kids, not horribly, just mischievous. There is an effort to install soap dispensers instead of home versions, so they do not get thrown around. Also, the Janitorial personnel have been asked to not leave any extra toilet paper rolls on top of the dispenser, as they too become an issue with getting thrown around.
      - Mr. Willett has also asked for access to the Trophy Cabinet to update with newer trophies. Secretary Cole to provide the key to access.
    - Organization
      - The status of the board is that there is a need to fill two board positions. Two members are stepping down Sue Repetti, and Elsie Jamison. They are working on fulfilling those roles at this time the UT Basketball association has submitted all its yearly Township required paperwork
- Challenger
  - UT Challenger President – Daryl Ditroia
    - Program Status
      - They are currently in the middle of the Special Olympic Track and Field practices at Middle Township. They are working towards the State Meet in TCNJ June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
      - There is a Dance Program – in conjunction with Startstuck Dance Academy. There are currently 10-12 participants for two and half months and the registration are \$20 per participant
      - There is also a Baseball Program for approximately 40-45 Players the registration is \$10 and will be starting on Sunday April 7, 2019 at the UTMS fields
    - Facilities

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- There was also in the past Carpenter Bee issue at UTMS fields, Mr. Adams stated that they are going to spray and set up the traps to help minimize the infestation
- There will also be two Handicapped Port-o-Pot units placed at UTMS Fields when the time comes for the Challenger Baseball program
- There was a lockbox that was for their equipment that was moved closer to the soccer fields in the horseshoe parking lot
  
- Organization
  - At this time, they will provide the required Township documents once taxes are completed. There will be a Change in Board Members and they will provide update once finalized
  
- Cheer
  - UT Secretary – Michele Drewnowski
    - Program Status
      - They are currently holding a 3 Day Spring Clinic 58 Girls at the Community Center. For the first time this year they are Opening Registration to all online They are opening the registration from the Middle of April – July 1, 2019. They will provide all uniforms again this year instead of personalizing them. They are planning on holding their annual Camp from July 29 to August 1, 2019 in the evening 2 hours each night. During the season they intend on practicing on Tuesday's and Thursday's.
    - Facility
      - There is a request for some equipment. Secretary Cole stated that the Township is waiting for the budget approval. The UT Cheer Association is requesting to have the Township purchase 2 mats for the upcoming season. Secretary Cole requested that they are to email the specifications of the mats for further investigation.
    - Organization
      - They plan on holding a fund raiser Beef and Beer for the parents to help fund the upcoming season and keep costs down.
      - Secretary Cole will send the paperwork and requirements to the Organization so that they can provide the missing documentation.
  
- Football
  - UT Indians President – Mark Pancoast
    - Program Status
      - Not much has changed since the last meeting they are currently in their off season. The 2019 registration opens April 1, 2019 and will cost \$135 per player. The increase in cost is to accommodate the player specific reversible jerseys which is theirs to keep at the end of the season and will have their names on them. They are anticipating the same roster size for 2019. And will be holding their annual Summer Camp on July 15, 2019 for 4 days Mon – Thursday
    - Facility
      - The Lighting at Caldwell Park is being addressed before the upcoming season

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- Organization
  - They are having their Kickoff Fundraiser August 10, 2019 at Surfdogs. They have also submitted their facility request for the upcoming season and has provided the necessary paperwork to the Township.
  
- In-Line Hockey
  - Absent
  
- Lacrosse
  - Absent
  
- Soccer
  - UT Vice President – Chris Vliet
    - Program Status
      - Registration closed on February 22, 2019. At this time there is 88 Pre-Kindergarten registered. 58 Kindergarten with a total Recreation program 1-8 of 356 athletes. There are 173 in the travel program with a total of 675 athletes in the program. There are 5 girls Travel teams and 8 boys travel teams. There is 18+ teams in the Recreation program. The 1<sup>st</sup> games for travel were cancelled due to weather over 40 teams in the entire program between Rec and Travel soccer.
      - After February 22, 2019 there were 18 New Registrants added to their program from the request of the Township. 17 Pre-Kindergarten and 1 New Kindergarten added by the request of the Township in which the Kindergarten did not show up after signing up.
      - The Recreation season starts on March 25, 2019.
    - Facilities
      - The Facilities are in great shape and no complaints from the Soccer Association. The Township Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled, and the programs are to schedule away games during this day. There is a conflict in scheduling for the UT Lacrosse tournament. The UT Soccer Association will be relocated for the last week and make up games at the Old Tuckahoe fields. The 2019 Fall Fest will be on September 28, 2019 in which the Recreation Secretary will notify the organizations of blackout dates
      - Turtle Fencing along the fencing to stop low rolling balls
    - Organization
      - The relationship between GPS soccer and the UT Soccer Association was a success for both programs this year as there were no conflicts and or interference with facility use as they are scheduled to only utilize the Tyler Davis Fields.
      - There will be a change in the Board Members for the UT Soccer Association as there will be 5 members leaving and will update the new members once voted in by the organization.
      - UT Soccer to provide the Township required paperwork once Secretary Cole sends them the status of what is on file.
  - Softball
    - Absent

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- Wrestling
  - UT Secretary Michele Drewnowski
    - Program Status
      - The program had a great success this season with the SJYL Wrestling Champ 1<sup>st</sup> place. They also had 24 athletes qualified for states in which 10 of them placed in the top 8 in the state. They had multiple 1<sup>st</sup> place finishers. Committeeman Young stated that the Township is planning on providing information to UT Rec Sec for Resolutions.
      - They are planning for Summer Camp and will be contacting Recreation Secretary Cole with the details and dates
    - Facilities
      - At this time Mr. Adams placed the extra mats were in long term storage until they are needed for the summer camp.
    - Organization
      - The Board members are working on the updates on 501c3 Organization paperwork and filings.
      - UT Wrestling to provide the Township required paperwork once Secretary Cole sends them the status of what is on file.

**Correspondence**

- Anthony Jackson Spring Soccer Fees
  - Committeeman Young requested that the email be added to Agenda for review and discussion. Mr. Jackson has requested to pay half to soccer or pay full due to their child only playing the Spring Season. Secretary Cole suggested to pay in full and not to abstain from playing if they plan on playing this season. Upon review of the UT Soccer Bylaws there is no indication of any less payment to only play one season. Mr. Vliet stated traditionally there is no break in fees, but if they have financial issues then they will work out an agreement with Mr. Jackson. All information was provided to Mr. Jackson on Registration Mr. Vliet continued that they paid a yearly fee which an accommodation was made for him in the past for Mr. Jackson because when he just started in the program after just joining in the spring with their older child, but that is not the case anymore as all people pay the same whether it is half a season or the entire spring fall year.

**New Business**

- Soccer Spring Registrations
  - Mr. Vliet stated that Spring and Fall Registration in the past was based on the 2017 bylaw version which was how they ran the organization. People reached out after registrations were closed on March 5 and 12, 2019. Mr. Smith was not going to take the information in kind and decided to repeatedly contact the organization and even knocked on door of board members house. The issue was not directed at any one person as Mr. Vliet stated. It is a matter of help as the parents do not offer to volunteer, especially for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten program. The UT Soccer board chose to not have registration in the spring for the K and Pre-K group as they did not have enough Volunteers to assist.
  - The Township intervened and requested that the UT Soccer Organization was to open registration for Mr. Smith in which he registered his kid and did not show up.

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- Secretary Cole offered some solutions for the future which included requiring parents to sign up before games to manage the kids on the sideline and provide the ultimatum that they will not start the game unless they satisfy the organizational requirements of parents on the field. There was also a comment to eliminate one of the seasons spring or fall for the Pre-K and or K programs as it is entirely too much to manage. Lastly to hold two registrations one for the Spring and one for the Fall and reorganize each season for coaches.
- Mr. Vliet asked for communication between the township to the organizations and not just directing orders as they did in this case. There is not one person to take charge in the current layout for the Sports and Recreation township plan. Chris Vliet gestured that the Township is underutilizing the Recreation Secretary as he does everything needed for the organizations. He is underutilized and should oversee Recreation.
- Committeeman Young stated his goal is to have Larry as the head of Sports and Rec. The Committee has the power to make the changes.
- There was a continuing discussion on the Bylaw Modifications
  - Clarify Bylaws
    - The discussion lead to cap the number in the teams versus volunteers and that parents must volunteer to work sideline. Only do PreK in spring as they have had more teacher time and will listen to directions from coaches better and that it is not necessary to maintain Pre-K as there are no other orgs having kids that age group. The parents are using the Organization as Day Care when in PreK and it is not fair to the program.

**Unfinished Business**

- No Business to report

**Public Comment**

- Committeeman Young stated that the Township will maintain some sort of control as we are not here to bust stones, and that the Township has a responsibility to the Township Residents/Kids first over the organizations. We must be able to work back and forth with the programs.
- Mrs. Drewnowski suggested that the UTPTO Facebook Page is helpful to share the information as people do not get the information. People are not getting the information for the sports program as there is not enough communication from the Township to the People. The Township Website is available for them to post and to contact Larry.
- Currently Rec Secretary Cole places information on the Township Facebook page to help facilitate the communication for the programs, but it needs to be from Organizations Facebook pages and not people personal Facebook pages.
- Committeeman Young, the Township is pushing for Digital Signage to help keep the residents informed of programs in the future.
- Committeeman Young stated that the Sports and Recreation Advisory Board is to set up for appeals situations and problem areas and not to direct programs on decisions every 2 or 3 months. That should be one person's job within the Township. If there is a disagreement to a problem then it would go to the S&R board. He is not sure if he will see it in his term, but he is going to keep working at it.

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- Mr. Willett UT Basketball suggested Organizations not getting coaches to look into the High School Kids to assist. Secretary Cole warned that this is a slippery slope as they had a High School Kid when running UT Football that had previously that week got incarcerated but was relayed this information from a person with inside knowledge to the situation. The issue arises that kids under 18 can't get a background search as adults go through. He was a kid who came through the UT Indians teams and unfortunately made poor decisions but does pose a risk to the players on the field. Committeeman Young stated that as a Township we are regulated by the JIF and need to adhere to their regulations. Since this is a bigger topic the board agreed to table the discussion until a further meeting.

**Closed Session**

\*\*Resolution to conduct a closed meeting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, from which the public shall be excluded, for possible discussions on items of litigation, contract negotiations, and/or personnel matters.

**Adjournment**

\*\*Please note—the order of the agenda may be changed at the discretion of the Sports and Recreation Advisory Board.

- Meeting Adjourned March 28, 2019 - 8:30 pm

