

**Dunellen Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 11, @ 7:00 pm**

Type of Meeting: Monthly Recreation Meeting @ the Recreation Office.

Meeting Facilitator: Jim Brennan

Commission Members: Jim Brennan (Facilitator), Chris Cashin, Kathy Wilson, Tim Howard, Melissa Paltjon, Grace Cordero, Elena Buccino, Alternates: BJ Johnson, Jessica Dunne and Laura Ruskuski,

Councilmember- Trina Rios (Council Liaison to the Recreation Department)

Recreation Director: Alex Miller

Recreation Program Coordinator: Kelly Seader

A. Call to Order: 7:10

B. Roll Call: Absent: Jessica Dunne, Grace Cordero, BJ Johnson

C. Public Session:

D. Follow up from the last meeting:

E. Open Issues:

1. **Easter Egg Hunt:** Scheduled for Sunday, March 24, at 1:00 PM. **Rain date:** Saturday, March 30
 - a. Set up at 11 AM
 - b. Easter Egg Stuffing will take place March 20th 6pm at the senior center
2. Hometown Hero banner order has been placed. 7 banners were ordered. Banners will be hung up in the downtown in May.

F. New Issues:

1. Scholarships- Jim Brennan **Rec will give out 3 scholarships this year. Gavornik, Hummel and Ruskuski–May 30th on awards night.**
2. USABL- Host Baseball Tournaments in the summer at Columbia Park- **They just put the request in to run tournaments in the summer**
3. Out-of-the-park field use: 10 hours a week (Columbia Park and Mccoy) \$250 per week, \$1,000 per month. -
4. Opening day Baseball parade and ceremony will be Saturday April 20th **-Parade starts at 10 AM, Route will be the same.**
5. Opening day Softball in the Somerville league will be April 13th. We will have one rookie team and one minor league team. -

G. Next Meeting: April 8

Upcoming Events:

Meeting Adjourned: Melissa- 7:45, Elena -second

Dunellen Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 8, @ 7:00 pm

Type of Meeting: Monthly Recreation Meeting @ the Recreation Office.

Meeting Facilitator: Jim Brennan

Commission Members: Jim Brennan (Facilitator), Chris Cashin, Kathy Wilson, Tim Howard, Melissa Paltjon, Grace Cordero, Elena Buccino, Alternates: BJ Johnson, Jessica Dunne and Laura Ruskuski,

Councilmember- Trina Rios (Council Liaison to the Recreation Department)

Recreation Director: Alex Miller

Recreation Program Coordinator: Kelly Seader

A. Call to Order: 7:14

B. Roll Call: Absent: Melissa Paltjon and Grace Cordero

C. Public Session:

D. Follow up from the last meeting: accept minutes from last meeting: Tim, second: Elena

E. Open Issues:

1. Easter Egg Hunt took place on March 24th. We had all 4 egg hunts on the football field. It was nice having it all in one place so everybody could watch, it also seemed to make the structure more organized. **Thanks to rec program coordinator Kelly Seader, the commission and Bobby Seader for his help**
2. Opening day Softball in the Somerville league will be April 13th. We will have one rookie team and one minor league team. Our Rookie league team will be participating on that day.
3. Opening day Baseball parade and ceremony will be Saturday April 20th starts at 10 AM. The route will be the same. Games will be at McCoy and Gavornik. We have 3 T-ball teams and 3 Coach Pitch teams.
4. Scholarships- Jim Brennan **Dunellen Rec is giving out 4 scholarships this year- Gavornik, Hummel and 2 Ruskuski**
5. Hometown Heroes: 7 additional banners were ordered for the spring. Banners will be hung up in May. That brings our total up to 104.

F. New Issues:

1. Financial Disclosure: Must be done by the end of the month
2. Youth Tennis- We are up to over 45 kids. The program will run on Saturday's for an hour and Tuesday nights for middle schoolers. Tennis begins on April 13. **Our numbers are highest**
3. Track begins April 18 and we have 28 kids. Track runs Thursday nights from 6-7:30 **Our numbers are up from last year**
4. Open Soccer- we are still waiting for volunteer coaches. An email was sent out. **We are waiting for coaches, maybe we can get high school players to volunteer.**

G. Next Meeting: May 13

Upcoming Events:

Adjournment: Tim, second: Kathy 7:48

**Dunellen Recreation Commission
Meeting Agenda
May 13, @ 7:00 pm**

Type of Meeting: Monthly Recreation Meeting @ the Recreation Office.

Meeting Facilitator: Jim Brennan

Commission Members: Jim Brennan (Facilitator), Chris Cashin, Kathy Wilson, Tim Howard, Melissa Paltjon, Grace Cordero, Elena Buccino, Alternates: BJ Johnson, Jessica Dunne and Laura Ruskuski,

Councilmember- Trina Rios (Council Liaison to the Recreation Department)

Recreation Director: Alex Miller

Recreation Program Coordinator: Kelly Seader

A. Call to Order:

B. Roll Call: absent: Grace Cordero, Elena Buccino and Jessica Dunne

C. Public Session:

D. Follow up from the last meeting:

E. Open Issues:

1. Opening day took place on April 20th. It was a great turnout. We have 3 teams at each level (coach pitch and t-ball). We also have 2 softball teams- one minor and one rookie. All of the teams played a game on opening day. **Went well. Turnout was good. Thanks to the Dunellen Lady Destroyers for their participation. Sound system worked well. Jim Brennan paid tribute to recreation assistant coach who passed away the day before last year's opening day: Joe Gallagher.**

2. Hometown Hero banners are up: 7 additional banners were added this season.

F. New Issues:

1. **Volunteer Picnic Day:** Mayor & Borough Council along with Parks and Recreation hosted a very first volunteer picnic day. This day was a way to thank volunteers for their hard work and service. It was also a good way for them to showcase their work and mingle with the community.
2. **Memorial Day Parade-** Monday May 27 at 10:00 AM, Line up/staging will begin at 9:30. The brass band will be returning. The High School Madrigals will be singing the National Anthem and God Bless America. Alex and I have met with the Legion and VFW as we are working with them in organizing the parade. **All planning is continuing for Memorial Day. Girls school softball will have a float.**

3. **Doubles Tennis Tournament** will be Sunday June 2nd. Registration is now open. It is open to high school students and adults. **12 teams signed up.**
4. **Rec night at the ballpark** will be Thursday June 20th. Who would like to attend?

G. Next Meeting: June 10

Upcoming Events:

**Dunellen Recreation Commission
Meeting Agenda
June 10, @ 7:00 pm**

Type of Meeting: Monthly Recreation Meeting @ the Recreation Office.

Meeting Facilitator: Jim Brennan

Commission Members: Jim Brennan (Facilitator), Chris Cashin, Kathy Wilson, Tim Howard, Melissa Paltjon, Grace Cordero, Elena Buccino, Alternates: BJ Johnson, Jessica Dunne and Laura Ruskuski,

Councilmember- Trina Rios (Council Liaison to the Recreation Department)

Recreation Director: Alex Miller

Recreation Program Coordinator: Kelly Seader

A. Call to Order:

B. Roll Call:

C. Public Session:

D. Follow up from the last meeting:

E. Open Issues:

1. **Memorial Day Parade** was May 27th. It was a great turnout of marchers and watchers. The high school Madrigals sang the Anthem and God Bless America. The brass band also returned and played music throughout the ceremony and while the parade arrived at Washington Park. BJ and Grace were very helpful during the staging process at the library parking lot. They helped direct the recreation groups and helped them enter the parade line up.
2. **Rec night at the ballpark** will be Thursday June 20th. **73 tickets are reserved. Our players will walk around the field prior to the game.**
3. **Spring sports have wrapped up:**
 - a. **Track** we had (1) 3rd grader, (9) 4th graders, (6) 5th graders, (6) 6th graders, (4) 7th graders and (2) 8th graders. 28 total registrations.
 - b. **Tennis** grades 3-5 we had 28 players, grades 6-8 we had 19 players. 47 total registrations. **Kate Ruskuski ran the program along with high school players.**
 - c. **Baseball/Softball** will wrap up this week

F. New Issues:

1. **Summer Camp:** will begin June 17th and end August 16th from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Kate Ruskuski will be the Summer Camp Director. Most counselors will return. We have 38 registrations, which

is our highest enrollment. **Fridays will be going back to the Theater while the senior citizens have their meeting. There is no deadline for registration.**

2. **National Night Out:** will be held August 6th at 6:00 PM. **Same setup as last year. Rec will be responsible for hotdogs again.**
3. **Laura Ruskuski Donations:** The Tricky Tray Fundraiser which was held in April brought in \$7,325. We have also received several donations in honor of Jerry Sella which are towards Laura's fund. As of today with those donations we have \$8,575 in Laura's Scholarship Fund. **The Ruskuski daughter's plan on giving out 2 scholarships next year (and each year after). The recreation would like to acknowledge the passing of the rec department's good friend Jerry Sella. He was at our opening day this year on 4/20/24.**
4. **Senior Fall Picnic:** September 20, 11:30 am- 1:00 pm at the American Legion.
5. **Scholarship winners:** Gavornik- Alexander Christian, Hummel- Emily Chalecki, Clem Santy- Tyler Mayer, Sulayman Khan. Ruskuski- Tyler Mayer, Justine Halko. Rec has been giving out a scholarship for over 50 years.

G. Next Meeting: September 9, 2024

Upcoming Events: