

**Millstone Township
Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021**

Chairperson Adornetti opened the Meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Statement of notice is read.

Roll Call: Present: C/Adornetti, C/Simels(7:42), C/Kilcomons, C/Lourenco, C/Strickland(7:54), C/Randazzo (7:37), C/Italiano, C/Curtis

Absent: C/Skowronski

Public Comment: Opened Public Comment at 7:37 p.m., closed at 8:08 p.m.

Mike Baldino residing at 43 Cheryl Lane spoke about the wrestling program. Although he is no longer in a position to run the program, he hopes that Recreation can get volunteers to continue the program. The Grapevine League that Millstone participates in needs to know soon if Millstone will field a program this year. Everything was cancelled last year due to Covid. Prior to Covid, Millstone had about 25 participants. 3 of the 4 coaches who ran the program last year are no longer participating in recreational wrestling. Matt Schloss would continue to coach provided we can get at least several parents to help take over the program. Most wrestlers from 2 years ago are involved in club programs and would not be interested in recreation wrestling.

C/Italiano asked if an inquiry can be made to parents without opening registration so we don't have to collect money only to refund it later.

C/Randazzo commented that putting a feeler out only won't provide a good gauge of the level of commitment from parents. There is a large time commitment needed from volunteers to run this program. We can open registration and roll the participants over to another town if we can't get enough volunteers.

Mr. Baldino noted that there is a very large price difference between Millstone's wrestling fee and other towns. Robbinsville is the closest option and they charge \$250 per player versus Millstone's \$75.

C/Lourenco commented that although recreation does not want to lose another year of wrestling, it will be an uphill battle if we don't have the people to run the program. Wrestling needs multiple players in each weight class to hold practices. You can't group ages and weights and easily as you can with other sports.

Committeeperson Morris noted that if wrestling does not get offered for a 2nd straight year, it will be very difficult to revive it later. He suggests opening registration with payment, then telling parents to step up or it will be cancelled. If the program is sent to another town, we will never get it back.

C/Randazzo suggested that the program make a stronger effort to recruit female participants.

Mr. Baldino noted that participation among females has been increasing over the last few years. This program needs a minimum of 25 participants to make sure you have enough players in each specific range. Many parents don't offer to coach because they are not familiar with the sport.

C/Italiano asked if the recreation program can partner with the Middle School program.

Mr. Baldino replied that the school program starts right after school and ends before recreation starts. School programs and recreation programs don't usually mix.

Acting Secretary DeFelice noted that before the program is opened, practice dates and times would have to be established so parents can avoid conflicts and gym time can be reserved.

C/Lourenco commented that he will reach out to Matt Schloss to see what days and time work with him and confirm that he will be the lead coach.

Public comment closed at 8:08pm/

Adult Programs: Acting Secretary DeFelice noted that adult programs are not running yet. Waiting on the school to confirm gyms and Covid protocols. Mens Basketball will be open next week. Adult Volleyball coordinator will confirm if they have enough players that want to start indoor program.

Basketball: Warriors tryouts were very weak. Only 3 teams at this time. No update on Recreation basketball

Pop Warner: C/Kilcomons noted that PW football is going well. Registration numbers look good.

Cheer: C/Randazzo noted that there is 1 issue with the 10U cheer program. 1 participant was removed due to excessive absences. She was placed on the Sideline cheer program. The parents were not happy and have asked for a review. The A&M board and the Recreation Commission liaisons reviewed the documentation provided by the coaches and have agreed with the move.

C/Lourenco asked if the cheer program and coaches have made it very clear to the parents what the requirements are for the competition cheer squad.

C/Curtis noted that cheer makes sure parents understand the requirements. They have a parent meeting at the beginning of the year and go line by line through the agreement which the parents sign.

C/Italiano suggested that cheer update its bylaws and incorporate a tryout process next year for the competition squads.

C/Curtis noted that A&M Redbirds cheer is in the process of doing that and anticipate presenting the revised bylaws to the Recreation Commission before the end of the current cheer season.

Flag Football: C/Strickland – First games went well. Saw an increase in Millstone players. Need more coaches.

Soccer: C/Italiano – Soccer began this weekend. Strong turnout for younger age groups. See a drop off in numbers when we get to 3rd grade and older. The soccer fields at Brandywine were not evenly cut. Hopefully it was due to the resources being deployed to Millstone Park to prepare for Millstone Day and things will return to normal.

Lax: Nothing to report

Field Hockey: Andrea Pintimalli is our instructor. We have 11 girls registered as of today.

Millstone Day: C/Randazzo noted that Millstone Day went very well. She will follow up with vendors to see what can be improved upon for next year.

Committeeman Morris commented that it was a great event for Millstone Township. There was a strong turnout by the community. We increased the number of food trucks this year and we ended up running out of food towards the end of the event.

Buildings and Grounds: Acting Secretary DeFelice – Wagner Park fields will be aerated and overseeded. Millstone Park Field 6 will be closed and aerated and overseeded. Trying to get DPW to move forward with repairing leaks on Millstone Park Fields 8 and 9. Won't have hockey rink up on Field 5 until next Spring. We will need ordinances for fee structure for Hockey and Pickleball by Spring.

New Business:

The Recreation Coordinator position is still vacant. The individual that was expected to take the position backed out.

COVID Protocols – C/Curtis noted that there is some confusion about current Covid protocols. Monmouth County is currently at the High Risk level. That means 14 day quarantine for group sport activities. There is an option for return with a negative test after 5-7 days for economic hardship. A&M Pop Warner flag football wants to confirm that they can apply the rule that allows for a return after 7 days with a negative test.

C/Randazzo questioned how the economic hardship rule could be applied to sports activities.

C/Lourenco noted that the policy has to be consistent across all recreational sport programs. Regardless of personal concerns, if the CDC states 14 days, we as a Township entity have to comply.

C/Italiano commented that we need to err on the side of caution even if some parents get upset. We don't have an option to go against current Monmouth County health policy.

Acting Secretary DeFelice noted that the Monmouth County Board of Health had already contacted the recreation department about failure to adhere to the guidelines.

Committeeperson Morris noted that the Township's policy is to follow the Monmouth County Covid policy regardless of personal beliefs. 14 days is the current quarantine requirement due to Monmouth County's current risk level.

C/Kilcomons noted that our guidelines are dictated by the County not the State. Some students that attend schools outside Monmouth County may have different protocols at school because of the County risk level where the school resides. Parents need to understand that.

C/Adornetti – 14 days is our policy for quarantine due to close contact. That needs to be applied across all programs.

C/Adornetti motioned to adjourn the meeting. C/Kilcomons offered a second. Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm