

Ridgewood Fields Committee Minutes

January 9, 2024 – 7:00 am via ZOOM

Attendees: K. Cook, N. Bigos, S. Winograd, H. Kwak, R. Brooks, G. D’Andrea, Z. Pace, P. Thomas, C. Holt, P. Coopersmith, C. Duschang, Z. Pace, B. Lynch, C. O’Keefe, Ann & Boyd Loving, P. Vagianos, C. Herndon, K. Kazmark, M. Schwarz, R. Lasky, M. Hefferan

I. Roll Call

RECOGNIZED GROUPS IN ATTENDANCE-Ridgewood Lacrosse Assoc.-B. Lynch, Ridgewood Jr. Football-Z. Pace, Ridgewood Soccer Assoc.-C. Herndon, Hoops Basketball-P. Thomas, RHS Athletic Department-K. Cook, Ridgewood Parks and Recreation Department-N. Bigos

ABSENT-Ridgewood Baseball & Softball Assoc. Maroons Soccer, Ridgewood Jr. Wrestling, Ridgewood Roller Hockey, Rebels Basketball, Community School

II. Approval of Minutes-December 5, 2023

Approved by all

III. Public Comment

P. Coopersmith- Is still working on getting all the required documentation together for the Ridgewood Adult Soccer Association to become a recognized group according to the Fields Policy.

IV. Correspondence

N. Bigos-S. Winograd shared an email from resident B. Dellatorre sharing his thoughts about the remediation of Upper Citizens Field. His opinion of the lack of maintenance and altering the stated use of the field. This information is reported to the Fields Committee concerning changing field designation and will be shared with S. Muller President of the RBSA and we will address spring field maintenance issues. She wanted the committee to be aware of his concerns, though realigning field use must come through the Fields Committee and PRC Board.

V. Turf Field Remediation-Flooding, Dec. 18, 2023

K. Cook-Sports Care, Land Tek and Keystone Sports met with both the Village and BOE and assessed all three-turf fields. Keystone does not have the interest to do remediation, staff are being cautious to act on remediation given today’s forecast. No activities are scheduled on the turf fields for the months of January and February. Remediating the turf is a two-step process. First, removing debris from the surface (mud, branches, silt), then will be the removal of silt and infill and replacing with new infill mix. We will reevaluate after this current storm. The Army Corps of Engineers came last week and viewed the flooding areas within the Village.

K. Kazmark-Reported that this storm is predicted to be the worst of the three storms to date. He is glad that we waited on remediation of the turf fields. Himself, C. Rutishauser and Superintendent Schwarz met with the Army Corps of Engineers and did a walking tour of the fields that are susceptible to flooding. Also discussed were the properties susceptible to flooding along the Ho Ho Kus Brook and the Saddle River. In addition, to the damage from the last flood to the first floor of Village Hall. The ACE are in a data collection process and the community is to share with them information about previous flooding. They will contact FEMA about repetitive loss information. They will be meeting again in February.

H. Kwak-Asked if the federal government will possibly expedite action due to the severity and frequency of flooding in the Village or will it still take years?

K. Kazmark-Replied, it will take years either way. He has informed them of the frequency of flooding and that they understand this is the third flood since the last week of September. There is a report from decades ago that studied the Ho Ho Kus Brook and Saddle River. He asked for a copy of the document so it can be reviewed. The information is dated and there has probably been land development since that report was completed, but it is a starting point. We were told of some funding sources, one is under the Water Act, which is renewed every other year. Congressman Gottheimers Office sent the application for the funding to study these flood prone areas through the Water Act. The application has been completed and submitted by the Village. He wants the committee to know this is no guarantee of funding. This will take time even if the funding is approved, the appropriation of funding time, then the completing actual report will take additional time.

VI. Spring Field Maintenance Requests

K. Cook-Any non-surface facility maintenance related concerns should be brought forward. Orchard Field is closed until the surface can be brought to an acceptable condition. BOE is waiting to deal with the repairs to the pitcher's mound at Somerville before it is used for any games or practices.

VII. 2024 Field Policy Revisions

K. Cook- The subcommittee is still discussing the potential for expanding the use of Stevens and Stadium Field in the evening, possibly expanding the curfew times and the sport camp situation. These are the items that will be brought to the committee to discuss.

VIII. Master Library

K. Cook-The Parks and Recreation Department will host a Tuesday training January 30 at 7:00 pm for all to become familiar with the platform. K. Frey Recreation Supervisor has been uploading the Village field information added to Master Library.

S. Winograd-The Recreation Division is hosting intern Cole Duschang from Lafayette College who is assisting with the importation of information into Master Library. The more information the sports groups provide now to the Village the quicker we can be on board and the application will be ready.

IX. Youth Sports Organizations

K. Cook-The registration numbers that have been submitted are impressive. Village programs continue to expand do to the level of activity and the willingness of village youth to try new sports. He has a great appreciation for the volunteers that set the foundation for everything. Through their time, effort and ability to manage these numbers that are just unbelievable. He has talked to other Athletic Directors and they are in awe of just how active this community is as a whole. This results in a greater need for maintenance of our facilities. This is a priority of the district that Aramark continues to improve and maintain the facilities. BOE has ordered Port-A-Johns for all BOE fields. Starting Monday, March 10 through Friday, June 28. Due to the closure of Orchard School Field, the additional use of Glen School Field will be considered for programs.

X. Schedler Property

S. Winograd-No update

XI. New Business

K. Cook-The audio system at the Stadium Field has been replaced with directional speakers to reduce the noise bleed out to the adjacent neighborhood. The system will be tested over the next week. The test will determine the volume range of the system.

XII. Next Meeting Date-February 6, 2024; 7:00 am, In person, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Ed Center/ZOOM

XIII. Adjournment 7:47 am