

July/August 2015 RAC Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Astri Baillie, Dave Carver, Colleen Castellano, Brenda Catalanello, Tony Gero, Peter Hiscano, Dutch Holland, Nick Spagnoletti, Ken Waer, Zach Ellis,

Regrets: Tom Haralampoudis

May meeting minutes were approved.

1] Youth Sports Update

We reviewed the proper approach to follow to recognize interim RAC members, Zach asked Dave to ID those individuals and send listing to Liz Osborne. At year end, survey all members/programs as to interest/availability for 2016. Then Provide names to Zach to submit to council in December.

Field hockey. 75 players in grades 1-4 clinics. 77 players in grade 5-8 leagues. Compete with other towns. Brenda arranging to staff/open Hut for field hockey event.

Soccer [boys/girls]. Rec program has 525 with 45 on wait list. 330 travel. Registration in process. Will have green village field access.

Baseball. 600 players in spring program. New dodge field scoreboard in place. Season complete.

Softball. Spring season complete. Only fall program is for 16u high school players. Things get active again in November in prep for December registration.

Recreation. All summer programs done. Theatre used FDU facilities successfully. Nature done. All camps complete.

Lax. All done. Season complete.

Ice hockey. Registration in place. Fall season starts soon. Games are played from Sept through March.

Basketball. This summer had organized pickup games. Low cost. 85 kids signed up. Only 2 rainouts. Had a good season. No assigned teams. Players in grades 5-8; Better attendance with younger kids.

The group discussed the email Brenda had forwarded.

-----Original Message----- From: Brenda <brenda@catalanello.com>

Sent: Tue, Jul 28, 2015 8:40 am Subject: Discussion item for next RAC meeting!

All — I just ran into the parent of a soccer player who told me a very disturbing story. During the soccer tryouts, the girls (5th/6th grade) were lined up by the coach/trainer and, one by one, grilled as to whether they were planning on playing field hockey in the fall. They were then told that if they planned on playing field hockey, they would be automatically cut from the soccer team. In addition, an email (that I saw with my own eyes) went out from the coach that said: "the club has asked us to find out whether your daughter plans to play field hockey this fall..." and goes on to say that those girls will be cut from the team, as it is too much of a conflict. First, I am disturbed that such young girls were put on the spot by someone in a position of power — as this parent put it, these girls were forced to decide whether to lie to an adult, or be kicked off the team. Second, why are these young children being forced to choose? Yes, I understand that these girls were trying out for the 'travel' team, however, field hockey is also technically a travel team — they play against other towns in a competitive league (Madison has been in the finals every year). We ask in our registration process whether girls play on a travel soccer team so we don't put all of the girls from one soccer team on the same FH team to avoid potential conflicts, thus encouraging girls to expand their horizons and play multiple sports. I have heard similar stories in the past, and I hope that MSC's new leadership (Colleen!) can help put a stop to it. We should be working together to foster teamwork and sportsmanship between and among the different sports organizations. These are 5th grade girls we are talking about — not high school or college kids.

The Groups discussion included the following topics

- I'd rather have fewer players in my rec program than lots of kids playing multiple sports and giving none of them full attention.
- Multiple sports were in agreement that travel teams, sourced from their rec programs, could and did let interested players/families know of time commitment required to participate. This was done in the information shared at tryouts or when announcing program details. We were in agreement that the process outlined in the original email was not a good practice. Colleen will be following up with the specific coaches. All sports programs committed to ensuring our coaches do NOT put similar pressure on players.
- We were all in agreement that changing families/parents perspective on over scheduling their children or avoiding single sport specialization would be difficult at best. We agreed to share articles on these topics with our families during our seasons.

US Youth Soccer on the problems with sports specialization:

http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/are_kids_specializing_in_sports_too_early/

National Institute of Health regarding early specialization:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3658407/>

Dogs continue to be an issue at MRC. They not allowed at MRC. Need better signage. All sports/coaches need to be consistent in policing their families.

In a follow-up to this meeting, Brenda spoke with the police & confirmed the cameras are working at the MRC. They are looking to upgrade the entire surveillance system for the borough, so they will be replaced with that upgrade.

3] Council Update

MRC Master plan Passive portion almost done. Expect a Sept report out. RAC was asked...Could the remediation area be covered and used for lax wall. Not good site. Expect a recommendation for a Playground site set to right of field house and next to community gardens. Will need a committee of parents to fund raise and manage project.

Council President Astri Baillie sponsored a discussion item at last night's Council Meeting directing the Borough Engineer along with the Rec Director and Borough administration to explore potential permanent seating lay outs, pricing, vendors, funding options etc. for the MRC. RAC input follows. There will be an Initial meeting in early Sept to see what's possible. (Zach, Ray, Bob Vogel, Jim) ON SITE.

BOE seating max TBD. Rec max. 250 MRC1 single side. MRC2 individual unit bleachers. Need to bring in BOE for land discussion [WHERE ON HILL DOES BOE/BOROUGH PROPERTY SPLIT]. There are also Lots of nuances with regard to future BOE needs.

The group discussion kept the Focus on MRC1 field. Did not think there was a need for bleachers to cover the entire 100 yards. Idea was for 3 sets of bleachers to provide approximately 150-200 seats in total. The sets would be placed, on the hill side of the field, as follows.

- Goal line to 15/20 yard line. This would cover the softball games and allow people to sit behind the dugout and also watch all the action at Home plate.
- 40 yard line to 40 yard line. This would provide bleachers to sit and watch the action from the center of the field for all full field sports.
- Goal line to 15/20 yard line. This would mirror the bleachers on the far side of the MRC1 field.

In between each set of bleachers would be an open concrete pad. Fans could stand against the fence here or also bring their own chairs and sit here as opposed to the dirt/mud that exists today.

2) Project update

This part of our meeting would allow us to discuss debate and resolve specific project related topics. Some may be recurring or ongoing; others may be a one time topic.

MRC Scoreboard Project.

Permits ready. Installs pending. SB still needs to make its proposal.

Rosedale Skating Rink Project.

Bids awarded Monday. On schedule on time.

Dodge Courts Surface/Lights.

Had a vendor with a \$16,400 bid who pulled out at last minute. Since that event, have had many issues with vendors. Looks like will have to repair not replace the surface to stay within 16-20k range. Lights in progress and moving along.

Fall fields schedule is locked. One spot, Wed 8-10pm MRC2, still open.

RAC Master Plan Update. We have a copy of previous work product. We discussed how we can update this document to recognize progress to date, confirm how other recommendations have been implemented, provide a snapshot into our current situation and document our desired path forward

Group Agreed to move forward. Please review the executive summary and come prepared to say how you will contribute to an updated document. Audit field mgt, update recommendations and set direction next ten years, update program stats, etc. Goal is to have updated document ready to submit to council by year end.

3) Field improvement update.

I would like to solicit from each of the groups represented on the RAC what their Top 3 priorities are for their sport/group. Specifically, I'm looking for facility issues - i.e., things we need to upgrade, add, modify, etc., along with an explanation of why it is needed, what other groups it would benefit or impact, any costs (if known) associated with the work, if your group will assist with covering all or part of the cost.

Will incorporate into our Master Plan update.

4) MRC fundraising update.

17 new M-Club plaques were installed at MRC.

5) What would you like this committee to accomplish in 2016? TBD