Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 4/6/26

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on 3/2/26 at the Florence Township Municipal Building 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting in person.

The meeting was called to order by Recreation Committee Chairman, Tony Pastore at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Tony Pastore, Mary Pieretti, Don Nemeth, Tom Boracci, Martin Eckert, Cindy Golway, Donna Sadler, TJ Lovenduski, Councilman Joseph Frappolli, Caitlin Motta, Tom Supey

Absent: Toniann Carroll, Vince Mancuso

Public: Mayor Kristan Marter, Administrator Tom Sahol, Recreation Football Board including – David Traynor, Tom Carroll, Lisa Frappolli. Recreation Baseball Vice President Adam Jackson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of February 2, 2026 (Nemeth; Sadler)

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Mayor Kristan Marter and Administrator Tom Sahol thanked the committee for not only their continued efforts serving and supporting the recreation programs, but also for the continued growth of offerings that the group is responsible for supporting. From the creation of the wellness programs to the annual Fall Fest and now the 2nd Saturday Events, each has provided residents and visitors to the community the opportunity to get involved and enjoy being a part of the community.

RECREATION FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING PROGRAM REPORTING

Representatives from the recreation football and cheerleading program provided feedback from the 2025 season and expressed the success of the league through its participation with the West jersey Youth Football League and their appreciation of Florence Township for hosting annual weigh-ins. This event is well coordinated welcomes every team and participant through the entire league. Their annual visit benefits our local businesses, which is very nice as well. The Florence program hosts the annual flag football jamboree, supports the annual Bocce tournament and plays host to some of the leagues mandated conduct classes.

In 2025 the program expanded its October Breast Cancer Awareness month to include the support and awareness to all cancers. At the close of the season the program honors its 8th grade cheerleading and football participants. They support hardship needs with a goal of getting every interested participant out on the fields each season. Prior to the New season, registration is opened during Superbowl weekend with discounted rates, where nearly 50 participants have already been registered for the 2026 Fall Season.

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 4/6/26

From a competitive standpoint, several football programs participated in the playoffs and the cheerleading program has excelled at various competitions.

New plans for 2026 include developing a travel/competition component of the cheerleading program. There will be requirements to participate and information is already beginning to be shared with families so to receive feedback and answer questions in advance of the Fall season. Cindy Golway is heading up the coordination process for this new and exciting facet of the program and will provide updates as the fall season approaches.

Recreation Football Liaison, Don Nemeth shared that he attended league meetings and expressed his support and praise on the programs leadership for how well they manage the season. Both Don and Lisa Frappolli echoed that due to the consistency of crowds and observations of conduct in town and at away fields, that police presence is something that should be coordinated during the upcoming season. Every evening the practice fields are filled with players and families and the weekend game schedule welcomes residents as well as visitors, which create a demand for an active presence to maintain an acceptable and safe atmosphere. This request was made several times (weekly) in 2025 and formally is being requested moving forward.

Additionally, Don Nemeth noted there are field light maintenance needs, request for hand dryers to be located in the restrooms to prevent further clogging from paper towels, updated parking lot lines including Handicapped area(s), and a follow up to the request that a flagpole be situated in an area where the football, soccer, Babe Ruth Baseball and potentially Field Hockey may view. The program noted the excess of participants and families is too much for the limited restroom option. In the past there was a portable toilet located on the visitor's side of the field and that is being requested for the start of the next season.

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **2026 Recreation Basketball –** Marty and Mary discussed that recreation basketball is concluding and the program continues to host meetings and communicate details through the liaison and to families. There are considerations of a league change next season, which they feel will improve travel distance and overall coordination. Tom Carroll and crew have done an excellent job taking over this season. They also have plans to bolster the volunteer efforts to support the large registration of instructional players. There is a suggestion by Mary to engage with the high school teams to seek volunteers that will serve as positive mentors and it will assist with their volunteer hours needed to be satisfied.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Basketball Bylaws Update. Tom Carroll coordinated with the township, coaches and officials to adjust the existing bylaws to state that only the head coach may communicate with the officials. It was identified that assistant coaches when engage with officials and it has been counterproductive. All parties including the basketball board agree to this needed adjustment.

FACILITIES

Municipal Facilities

Marty shared that as the weather improves, all baseball and softball fields will begin receiving maintenance and surrounding fields, parks, playgrounds and facilities will

begin to be de-winterized and seasonal maintenance needs will be scheduled. Donna Sadler is working with Dave Wright regarding setting up a field day to prep with volunteers. Public Works has offered to send personnel to join these efforts and work together to get the fields ready. This is viewed as a great idea and a time saver to do the maintenance as a team. Dave will be coordinating with the baseball program as well for the same.

- **Board of Education Facilities**

  Recreation Softball use continues on Sundays at Riverfront School. Recreation Baseball has opted out at this time but may reconsider use opportunities next season.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Pickleball Project:** Will be completed in early Spring. Fence posts will be installed and then the painted surface and permanent lines will go in. Projected to be completed by the end of April. Mary Pieretti has reached out to US Pickleball and there will be opportunities for clinics and support for how to coordinate to present a nice surface of play this Spring/Summer.

- **Fieldhouse Updates**: Marty and Councilman Frappolli continue to follow up with the engineer on the status of the contractor scheduling.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Recreation League Fees:** Marty discussed that in advance of league registrations opening, he will ask the league to provide information as to the proposed fee structure, fundraising, sibling discounts or other league plans to communicate with the committee and receive feedback and/or approval prior to season registrations going live.
- **Recreation Vendor Selections:** Marty will communicate with all leagues in the off seasons to confirm existing vendors and encourage communication between leagues and to solicit quotes for uniforms and supplies. From time to time, expenditures seem to get high and it is important to be proactive to researching the best options from quality to cost to responsiveness, where all leagues may benefit. Tom Boracci expressed that league presidents should communicate with one another to help or guide new board officers as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Adam Jackson, Baseball – Adam provided various updates in anticipation of the fields opening, batting cage and concession stand improvements. Adam discussed that there have been several board meetings to coordinate the upcoming season and that codes of conduct, additional mandatory trainings through USA Baseball and adjustments to participate in the Northern Burlington League are all being covered. Dave Traynor is doing a great job coordinating background check needs and Tom Carroll has shared the current coaches list so Marty can confirm everyone is getting updated as needed.

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 4/6/26

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Tom Boracci - Has spoken with Brunner Electric. They have a plan to begin diagnosing the light situation at Veterans Field. They will communicate with Marty about keys needed or access.

- Tony Pastore – Cricket held their off-season meeting. Everyone in the league is happy with the flow and communication during the past season. There will again be 12 teams taking part in the league and all financials have been examined by the cricket board. The league is going to replace the pitch surface to be turf. It will be more durable. The program will also be looking to host summer clinics for children in the community to learn the sport.

- Donna Sadler – Donna noted the lighting issue at Veteran's Softball and the plan to coordinate with Brunner Boys as well. Donna also shared that she will connect with Dave Wright to talk fields to keep the communication going and will align with baseball about the same.

- Tony Pastore – provided an update on Gentle Fitness. They are steadily hosting about 30 participants weekly. This is a great weekly turnout and participants rotate, where there are 15+ additional people that come and go to make that number be the best of all programs offered and the benefits are tremendous and greatly appreciated.

- Caitlin Motta, Donna Sadler, Cindy Golway, Tony Pastore – Provided information about the details of the 2nd Saturday Event, "Science Saturday", schedule for Saturday, March 28th. Tony Pastore included information about the March 29th NJ Veg Event.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Motta, second by Sadler – 8:50 pm