

Florence Township Recreation Committee Minutes 5/4/26

The Florence Township Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on 4/6/26 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, Vince Mancuso

Absent: Toniann Carroll

Public: Scott Schuler, Cristin Mustillo, Kristin Quigg, Tammy Warren, David Yansick, Danielle Yansick, Robert Castro, Recreation Baseball Vice President Adam Jackson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of March 2, 2026 (Golway; Sadler)

Special Meeting of March 26, 2026 (Golway; Sadler)

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Robert Castro – Inquired if there was a determination by the committee from the Special Meeting on March 26th as to the status of the matter in question regarding the coaching status and/or permission to attend recreation activity by an individual. The recreation committee responded that the decision was that coaching permission has been paused, but the individual is permitted to attend recreation activity and a letter has been forwarded outlining details.

David Yansick – Spoke about matters involving the recreation baseball 10U program and challenges associated with the conduct of an assistant coach and the handling of the status of the team which was ultimately dissolved and players shifted to other teams. Mr. Yansick expressed that the programs coaches agree to a code of conduct and that terms of such were violated by an individual and it resulted in a variety of negative interaction. Mr. Yansick asked that the committee and respective recreation programs align with the how the codes of conduct are written and any consequences based on things that take place if not followed.

Danielle Yansick – Mrs. Yansick addressed the committee from a parent perspective relating to the challenges associated with the 10U baseball program. How dialogue continued between parents, the assistant coach, communication with the baseball board and the ultimate shifting of some players initially, caused confusion and disappointment to players that remained on the team as well as the parents, prior to the team dissolving. Negative comments by the assistant coach about the head coach or the skill level of players was felt to be inappropriate and goes against the reason that recreation coaches volunteer. The goal is to “coach” and work with others to develop fundamentals and skills in preparation of the approaching season. Mrs. Yansick concluded that the whole matter is saddening and wasn’t fair as to how several were treated or not communicated with in the process.

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Kristin Quigg – Addressed the committee as a grandparent. Ms. Quigg expressed that it was disheartening as to how the team was broken up and how it felt to the players. Many felt that they weren't a part of things or unwanted. She provided that the communication should have been better and feels that when there is poor conduct by a coach, the league should handle appropriately.

COORDINATORS REPORT

2026 Recreation Baseball and Softball program shared that the Opening Day festivities will take place on Saturday, April 25th. Ceremonies will take place on Muchowski Field and parade details are being coordinated between the police and fire department through the league. Several activities will fill the day in addition to games. Various vendors, giveaways and appearances by Freddy the Flash and Boomer. Marty is sending the flyer and memo to council inviting to opening day.

CORRESPONDENCE

The committee discussed in further detail the happenings associated with the 10U division in recreation baseball. The programs president and vice president, Vince Mancuso and Adam Jackson provided detail as to how the situation progressed and what led to the board's decision to consolidate the 10U division to hold two teams. As a new board there is a great deal of preparation for the upcoming season. Assessing players and assigning teams to participate in the draft allowed coaches the opportunity to select their teams. It wasn't until practices had begun that some concerns began. The league officers shared that they discussed options and as the timing between the practice period, ordering uniforms and the start of the season was in a tight window, several factors were considered. Vince Mancuso expressed his support for Coach Yansick and expressed thoughts on the lack of conduct of the assistant coach, where he believes started the correspondence by concerned parents. He felt that the information being relayed to parents was not a fair portrayal of the team of the head coach. Mr. Mancuso has addressed the now former assistant coach and the board discussed the matter on the whole. Member, Cindy Golway agreed that there should be thoughts on a universal code of conduct so that everyone is following the same and the committee has a uniformed way to review incidents.

Vic President, Adam Jackson shared that the program is continuing to prepare for the season and that a lot of positives including a large spike in overall participation has the league pointing in a great direction for the future. Adam Jackson shared that there are plans to develop more of a travel presence within each division moving forward as well. The committee did caution that as travel components are added, it is important to maintain the same guidelines as in the past and current through recreation softball, where players must participate in recreation divisions in order to play on the travel team. Due to the amount of players and the balance within the divisions, dividing the league between recreation and travel is observed to cause damage to recreation divisions. This portion of the baseball program will need to be reviewed further prior to the 2027 season.

FACILITIES

Municipal Facilities

Public works continues to maintain fields, parks and playground areas in anticipation of a busy Spring/Summer. Superintendent David Wright communicates regularly with both the baseball and softball program to coordinate field maintenance needs. The programs communicate with Marty and there is follow up to ensure everything is ready for the start of the season.

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Board of Education Facilities

Recreation Softball completed use of the school's indoor facilities for clinics. Nothing reported by either the school or softball program. Donna Sadler said the program appreciates the opportunity to use the school during the winter and is hopeful there may be other options next year if the high school has openings for use.

OLD BUSINESS

Pickleball Project: Public Works has scheduled to begin the perimeter fencing around the courts. Once the weather reaches a certain consistent temperature the surfacing will be completed and posts/nets will be installed. Marty has already communicated with the vendor and is also looking at signage at neighboring towns courts in consideration of posting something on the entry fence (No Pets, tennis/pickleball only, etc.) Donna Sadler discussed similar use concerns at the outdoor batting cage.

2nd Saturday Events: The committee shared that the 2nd Saturday events remain successful and there will be a musical evening in April where Radio Fiction will play. Tony Pastore confirmed setup & clean up was covered and the flyer has been posted on social media. The committee has a gmail for communications and would like to consider a social media page to promote the 2nd Saturday events. Marty is going to inquire if that is something that the committee would be able to do.

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Roebling Carnival: Marty provided that the carnival prep continues. The agreement and insurance had been approved for the event. Local vendors are set to participate and several details are ongoing to ensure a safe and enjoyable 4-day event.

Confidentiality Question: Committee member Vince Mancuso inquired about a matter identified during closed session and comments from that portion being repeated post-meeting. Mr. Mancuso, expressed concern that those portions of meetings are just so and that all members should maintain a level of confidentiality and not speak about discussions outside of the meeting. It was determined that closed session covered a specific agenda item and had concluded along with the meeting. However, it has been noted by the committee as a reminder that in the event a portion of the recreation committee meeting entered a closed session status, that all members are to follow closed session guidelines.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Cristin Mustillo – Ms. Mustillo expressed that she was following up on past discussion where as the township considers acquiring a property or properties in Roebling, which may be subject to future development that there be consideration to identify opportunities to create access to adjoin with the nearby Roebling Park. Ms. Mustillo spoke about the natural beauty of the park, access to its walking paths and the connection to the Delaware River Heritage Trail, enjoyment of the views of the river, sunsets and wildlife that inhabit the area. Ms. Mustillo understands that the recreation committee may not have a specific role with approvals for development, but as a committee if it is observed that there are benefits to the community to consider, support is greatly appreciated. The recreation committee appreciated Ms. Mustillo's input and passion to support a means to consider opportunities and will submit a memo to council as such for when there are discussions by appropriate parties that these sentiments may be expressed for consideration. The committee thanked Ms. Mustillo for her participation and input.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tom Boracci - Has spoken with Brunner Electric. They are working on the Veterans Field lights and are confident that they had located the problem. The electrician will be visiting the field this week to make repairs.

Tom Boracci – Shared that soccer will be moving forward with a Challenger Camp this summer, taking place the week of June 22nd. More information to follow soon. There will be some adult soccer coming as well.

Cindy Golway – Shared that we need to create an update to the website where field locations and signage are easy to locate. Don Nemeth agreed and shared that signs that were posted in the past were in poor condition and were removed, but new signs have not been placed.

Cindy Golway – Noted that the pet waste stations in the parks are filled and appreciates that these are available for dog walkers for the parks. Marty shared that he will let public works know and believes they are part of the rotation when they empty cans, etc.

Marty Eckert – Marty shared that he is working on summer opportunities to utilize opioid funds and is working with the police department on options as well.

Tom Supey – Member & Boy Scout Toop 3 Leader was joined by an Eagle Scout candidate interested in placing “Little Libraries” in appropriate areas in the township. The Scout provided a detailed presentation and interacted with our committee fielding questions and providing thoughtful responses. In the recent past, Florence Dental Studio had offered to support the purchase of kits towards little libraries, therefore we will connect the Scout Leadership with Florence Dental Studio. Councilman Frappolli along with committee members participated in considering potential locations. More information to follow this summer. The committee unanimously approved the project.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Motta, second by Sadler – 9:04 pm