Minutes
October 27, 2025 - Recreation Commission Meeting

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1. **Attendees:** Mark Dahn, Carolyn George, Christine Geertsma, Ed Kingsley, Sean McDonnell **Absent**: Michael D'Aquila (arrived at 7:20), Doug Caruso. Official meeting start at 6:42 pm;
2. Town Resident, Joe Iadanza, in attendance.

3. **Chairman News:** Debbie Varnerin has submitted her resignation as Rec Commission Chair and member. Sean McDonnell assumes the position of Rec Chair, from Vice Chair, for the remainder of 2025 and until the next executive session is established in January. Ed Kingsley makes the motion; Mark Dahn second; all in favor

4. **Fields & Parks News**
    - Lower Columbia: Sean reached out to Harbor Consultants for estimates and to set up subsequent meetings for the continuation of recommendations to modify the turf field proposal with a grass field & drainage, lighting and refurbishing of the basketball courts.
    - As a reminder, turf would be both cost prohibitive due to the hydric soil remediation necessary and turf is viewed as a permanent structure by the state.
    - Conducted preliminary high-level conversation around type of grass and other resources to consult for comparison. Ie, what does Yankee stadium use.
    - Viewed preliminary mock-ups from Harbor on design and drainage but not enough info. Sean's next steps to meet with Tom Solfaro, Harbor, and Mike D'Aquilia for further discussion.
    - There are time bound deadlines on applying grant money toward this project including donations from Fiserv and Connell. High level preliminary estimates ~$600K
    - Continued next steps include working with the township on plans and communication with the BOE and discussed having additional rec commission meetings to keep dialogue and decisioning accelerated.
    - Also discussed Snyder field front lot owned by Township as a non-priority but potential for future additive playing space availability.

1. **Scheduling News**
    - Putting a lock on the box at lower Columbia to better control light management.
    - Scheduling has been quiet

2. **Grant News**
    - Union County Rec Kid's Trust Fund – received $35K matching grant
    - Sean to reach out to Debbie for pending grant information for commission follow up

3. **Recreation Programming News**
    - Working on the winter flier
    - Speak with Doug/PAL on programming to understand if there are new program opportunities we need to co-address

4. **Miscellaneous**
    - Budget processing kicked off. If there are new capital projects we need to request we need to address it now (ie, overhang at camp, tent, etc – reference the RMP).
    - Moved to executive session at 8:18pm

Motion to officially adjourn meeting at 9:05 made by Ed Kingsley. Second made by Mark Dahn.