

VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF A MEETING

February 25, 2014

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A meeting of the **Parks, Playground and Community Services** of the Village of Brooklyn Heights, Ohio was held on **February 25, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.** with Councilman Howard Selig presiding. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the recreation soccer program.

Present at roll call:	Councilmen:	Black, Selig, Foote, Walsh, Hatgas
	Mayor:	Procuk
	Clerk/Treasurer:	Clymer
	Service Director:	Hatgas
	Comm. Service Dir.:	Guilfoyle
	Recreation Dir.:	Presot
	Guest:	Narlin Shadd

Recreation Director Joe Presot stated that he was told by Mayor Procuk that he had been contacted via phone calls and e-mails with requests to expand our soccer program. Joe was told that Narlin Shadd was running a soccer program at Seven Hills Recreation Center and some of our resident children were attending. They asked if we could do something similar here.

Mr. Presot met with Narlin Shadd to discuss his ideas and it became apparent during that meeting that Mr. Shadd wanted to take over the entire soccer program and Mr. Presot could take care of the rest of the sports.

Mr. Presot was not in favor of this, but told him that he would entertain the idea of hiring Mr. Shadd as an independent contractor and Mr. Presot would oversee the program. Mr. Shadd did not like that idea.

- Mr. Presot called the council members the next morning to let them know what transpired with Mr. Shadd
- Mr. Presot discussed a soccer camp with Todd from Valley View using college students from the United Kingdom (which Todd said he would like to do) and we could be on board with them.
- Mr. Presot spoke with the soccer coaches from Cuyahoga Hts. High School and because the Girls soccer team uses our fields for practice they said there would be no charge for their help. They would use 9th – 12th grade players to help with the clinic and they would earn community service hours.
- Mr. Presot put together a questionnaire for parents of the soccer players asking what they would like to see for our program.

Mr. Presot asked for council's input on the questionnaire.

Councilman Black asked if this would be adding a skills camp to our summer program.

Sandy Sturgill stated that the Valley View Camp is expensive and it is run by college students. She said they had been to Narlin's camps and feel it was reasonable.

Mr. Black asked what the cost was and Mr. Presot answered \$95 for a week (4 hours / 5 days). Mrs. Sturgill confirmed that it was under \$100.

Mr. Walsh asked if the camp was held here in Brooklyn Hts. and the response was yes.

Mr. Presot said he didn't think we charged Mr. Shadd for using the fields but he bought the paint and gave it to the Service Department to line the fields.

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Mrs. Sturgill was asked what the age group was and she said U14 and feels the 6 and 7 year olds would benefit because she feels the rec program doesn't teach them enough. She said one of her daughters plays elsewhere.

Mrs. Hatgas asked if she (daughter) is on a city team or an association and Mrs. Sturgill said she plays on an Independence Travel team and a club team. She feels that Mr. Shadd has a good coaching background.

She said that her 12-year old would like to come back to the rec program but Mrs. Sturgill isn't sure she would want her to.

Mr. Hatgas said that it costs \$1500 to \$2000 for a child to be on a club team. The travel teams are a little cheaper and then you have the rec teams.

Mr. Selig asked Mrs. Sturgill what she is looking for. He said that the rec league is parents coaching. Mrs. Sturgill said that other communities have better programs and when Mr. Black asked which communities she couldn't give an answer.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Presot if we could sponsor a clinic. Mr. Presot said that he is offering an alternative.

Mr. Narlin Shadd passed out his resume'. He said he is offering his services to the village because he thinks the program can be better. He wants to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with the children and parents. He said he is not here to take over the program but to help the program. He said he has had a number of residents ask him to offer his services. His primary purpose is to make the kids better players and more enthusiastic about the game and to involve the parents in the program.

Mr. Shadd said we could do a soccer clinic but he feels the kids would want more. He said there are soccer organizations in Middleburg Hts., Broadview Hts., North Royalton and Brecksville that are awesome.

Mr. Selig said he (Mr. Shadd) is speaking of cities, but what about villages. Mr. Shadd said he didn't know of any villages with this kind of program.

Mr. Presot stated that last year we played against some of these teams and we had one team go 8-0 and another went 0-8 so it is a moot point.

Mrs. Hatgas...addressing Mr. Shadd...said that he has used the term 'offering his services' many times and asked what he means by this. Mr. Shadd said that he would be hands on with the coaches and players at the park. He said that he was at the park when Mr. Lahiff asked for help and the same with Jesse Atkins. He is offering his expertise.

Mr. Selig said that his sons played rec soccer and while they enjoyed it they were not interested in taking it to another level. He said one son plays basketball year round and the other plays baseball. He asked if we should bring in a director of basketball, or a director of baseball, or of flag football, or cheerleading. Mr. Selig asked Mr. Shadd if he is looking for a monetary position and Mr. Shadd answered "yes, of course".

Mr. Shadd asked who coached his kids in soccer and Mr. Selig answered that he was the coach. He said that Joe Presot was also a coach. Mr. Selig said you are taking a handful of kids and creating a position as director of soccer.

Mr. Walsh interjected that we don't have anyone in our village that can give us what Mr. Shadd can give us and he said that if we did this Mr. Shadd would work under Mr. Presot as possibly a contract employee for the Spring and Fall sessions and see how it goes.

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Mrs. Hatgas asked how many children are in the soccer program. Mr. Presot answered 80-85 including 25 Smurfs. Of that about 75 are residents.

Mayor Procuik asked how many are in the baseball program and Mr. Presot responded about 170 with 130 being residents.

Mr. Shadd said he could bring more kids into the program with his enthusiasm. He feels that if the village has the resources, a large enough interest and the finances why not hire directors for all sports. He is currently doing a foot skills clinic at Seven Hills Rec Center and has 7 or 8 Brooklyn Heights kids in the program.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Shadd if he has volunteered recently as a Brooklyn Hts. soccer coach and Mr. Shadd answered he has not.

Mr. Black asked if he would be willing to conduct a skills camp to help the rec league with a nominal charge to the participants.

Mr. Walsh said a skills camp is a bandage for kids and parents. He would be willing to bring Mr. Shadd on board as an experiment for two seasons as Director of Soccer.

Mr. Selig asked if Mr. Walsh would then be willing to use our resource of our head varsity baseball coach who lives on Schaaf Road as Director of Baseball.

Mrs. Hatgas asked how much Mr. Shadd would want to be paid.

Mr. Shadd said he did not put a dollar amount on his resume' because he would leave it up to council to pay him what they feel he is worth. He said he is not trying to take over Joe Presot's position.

Mr. Shadd proposed to:

- Implement small size games
- Host a series of coaching clinics for parents
- Develop age appropriate coaching sessions
- Conduct skill development with parents and children practicing together
- Update parents with soccer updates online
- Develop and hold referee clinics
- Hold weekly foot skills practices

Mr. Foote agrees that Mr. Shadd brings a lot to the table but he is not prepared to make a decision tonight. He would like to continue this discussion at another time.

Mayor Procuik said that there are people in the audience here for this meeting so he would like to continue and he said he is not willing to cut Mr. Presot's pay.

Mayor Procuik asked that Mr. Shadd put together a proposal with a fair compensation figure. Mayor Procuik said he cannot appoint someone to a nonexistent position without a figure for compensation. He is not interested in adjusting the Rec Directors pay but he is intrigued by Mr. Walsh's suggestion of something experimental but council needs know what he (Mr. Shadd) wants and what we would be getting in return.

Mr. Shadd said he would also bring in non-residents who would pay money and he would be happy to take half of the rec directors pay. He said he would also be coaching the kids and that he bought paint to line the fields and donated \$1,000 for a soccer goal that he said the rec department has used for the last three or four years. He stated that he feels if he is going to do half of the Rec Directors job he should be

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adequately compensated and he is willing to give up his Explosion Club Team to come into the village and be the resource for the village as hands on working with the kids inside the village.

Mr. Walsh told Mr. Shadd to come up with a written plan and a fair compensation and that we hire him as a contracted employee for Spring and Fall and then we see what it looks like.

Mr. Shadd asked what the Recreation Director's salary is and Mayor Procuk said it is \$14,247.

Mr. Walsh reiterated that Mr. Shadd comes up with a plan and council set another meeting to discuss it.

Resident Lyndie Schuckert this is frustrating and that they are spinning their wheels. She said they (parents) are not happy with the status quo. They are paying to send their children to other programs and paying an arm and a leg so that they get the quality that Mr. Shadd can give them so why not let Mr. Shadd take over soccer with him being paid half of the recreation director's salary. Mrs. Schuckert argued that the city is not going to pay an additional cost and if Joe is not handling soccer any longer why pay him the \$14,247.

Mr. Walsh said that Joe will remain the Recreation Director and Mr. Shadd would report to him because there is only one captain of the ship.

Mr. Shadd said he is talking about soccer as an all year program not just Spring and Fall. He said he is working with Seven Hills and has gym time to work on soccer during the winter time. He said he wants to take a team out to Concordia or another soccer venue for indoor soccer.

Mayor Procuk said there is one position – Recreation Director – but he is interested in a proposal to work under the Rec Director.

Mrs. Schuckert said she and Brandi approached council a year ago and not one thing damn thing has changed.

Mr. Shadd said he is not looking to take over Joe's job. He is offering his services to the community at a fair marketable value.

Mr. Hatgas asked what the coaches at Concordia get paid and Mr. Shadd said it depends on the coach.

Mr. Hatgas responded that they are all volunteers and so are the coaches at Sportsplex.

Mayor Procuk said that soccer will be starting soon and asked Mr. Shadd when he would like to begin this program. Mr. Shadd said by mid-March the latest. He told Mr. Black that he volunteered a few years ago giving a foot skills clinic in the Community Center. He said he wonders what nights the community center would be available for him.

Mayor Procuk said we have 70 kids in the program with the potential for another 70 who may or may not be interested in soccer. He asked that he put some numbers down on paper and come to the next meeting on March 4th. Council has to make a monetary decision on how they want to structure the program so they need something written to look at. That way they will make a decision as to if they create a position or not.

Mayor Procuk said that if this becomes a contract proposal under \$5,000 it would be a vote of council. If they create an employee position it has to be an ordinance.

Council set a Parks, Playground and Community Service Committee meeting at 6:30 on March 4th.

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Resident Aaron Frank, father of five ages 6 to 17, feels Cuyahoga Heights is failing at the higher levels. This would be a way to kick start the programs again. He feels that whatever we pay Mr. Shadd he is worth every penny. He agrees with Mr. Walsh about experimenting with this program.

Mr. Selig asked Mr. Frank how he feels about expanding every sport in the village and Mr. Frank said he loves the idea.

Mr. Foote said that is a question for another time. He is convinced that Mr. Shadd is passionate about what he does and he doesn't feel we need to discuss the 'what if's' at this point.

Mr. Frank said that Mr. Presot has a lot on his plate and if soccer is taken away he will be able to focus on the other sports.

Mr. Walsh said that if he (Narlin) is the czar of soccer then Joe is the boss of the czar and if that is not the case then he is not voting for anything because he has worked with Mr. Presot for the last fifteen years and his job, other than the mayor's job, is a thankless job.

Mrs. Schuckert said why we are not saying that maybe it is time for the Rec Directors position to be changed in Brooklyn Heights. Why are we saying that things are acceptable the way they are. She said she doesn't understand why council is not questioning that. She said that when she and Brandi came to council they told them things they were upset about and asked if they had heard anything from other parents about coaching or anything.

Council answered they had not.

Mrs. Presot said that she went door to door and heard nothing. She said that she had the paper they handed out a year ago and that improvements were made.

- Request for coaches was put on the sign-up sheets
- Equipment was purchased
- He brought in the recreational equipment for the park

Mrs. Schuckert said that Cuyahoga residents are choosing Valley View over Brooklyn Hts. to play.

Mr. Presot spoke up saying that the directors assign where the kids play based on team needs.

Mrs. Presot said that council is willing to bring in Mr. Shadd to make Mrs. Schuckert happy. She doesn't understand why Mrs. Schuckert wants to argue with Mr. Presot.

A heated argument between Mrs. Presot and Mrs. Schuckert ensued and was brought to a halt by Mr. Walsh.

Mrs. Schuckert told council that she would like them to be opened minded because of the statement that they are not interested in changing the position of the rec director she asked that they hear the parents and residents.

Mr. Walsh said they would meet next Tuesday at 6:30.

Mr. Selig closed the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer