

March 4, 2014

A meeting of the **Parks, Playground and Community Services** of the Village of Brooklyn Heights, Ohio was held on **March 4, 2014** at **7:30 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

Mayor Procuk let Mr. Selig know that copies of all the documents, emails and proposal have been handed out to all council members and members of the audience.

Mr. Selig asked Mr. Presot for his comments.

Mr. Presot told the committee that they did not discuss his proposal at the last committee meeting and Mr. Foote asked him to review the proposal for them.

Mr. Presot said he had put together a questionnaire for the parents and had spoken to the high school varsity coaches to see if they were willing to conduct any type of clinics and both said they would.

Mrs. Hatgas said she had the opportunity to read the emails and the Mr. Shadd's proposal and that while she agrees with the residents that Mr. Shadd's program is great and that he is a great coach, however if it is worth it to you (residents) to have him do a soccer program then she feels that this should be done privately as an association with the fees being paid by the parents who want their children to participate. This should not be a business for the village to be in.

Resident Lyndie Schuckert said that if the rec director is reaching out to the high school coaches then why not use Mr. Shadd with his experience. She doesn't see the conflict.

Mrs. Hatgas said the conflict is the cost. Who is going to pay it? We could have all the things he would bring but the village shouldn't pay the costs.

Mrs. Schuckert said that the village is spending the money by paying the Rec Director and if he isn't handling the soccer program then his salary should be reduced.

Mr. Foote said Mr. Presot's salary is based on the whole program....soccer, baseball, basketball, etc. and he goes beyond his job description to get the job done so Mr. Foote is on record that he is opposed to affecting his salary any way that this works out. He feels we have a good deal going with our current rec director and he is worth every penny we pay him. He does not feel that any decision should be made at this time regarding Mr. Presot's contract because a very capable and passionate man has come up with an alternative plan. This is not the time to make those kinds of decisions regarding the personnel of our village. We can only allocate so many dollars to the rec program. Perhaps there would be a way to subsidize the program.

Mr. Walsh agrees with Mr. Foote as to not reducing Mr. Presot's pay or responsibility but he would like to see Mr. Shadd brought on as a contract employee. He feels that we can spend the money and reevaluate the program in the fall.

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Monika asked if this would mean that the residents would be charged to play and Mr. Foote said he believes the basic rec program should remain free as it is now.

Mrs. Schuckert asked when the contracts are looked at and if he (Mr. Presot) isn't doing his job then why isn't it looked at.

Mr. Walsh asked her if she is here as an advocate for Mr. Shadd or to get Mr. Presot terminated and she responded that it is no one's business why she is here. She said she is here because she does not like the program. She said they now have someone who is a solution to the problem and if it means someone be terminated then ok. She wants better programing for her children.

Mr. Foote thanked her for her concerns.

Linda Neyman said her daughter volunteers as a 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl's soccer coach at the middle school. She asked if Mr. Shadd would consider volunteering for a year to see how the program would work or find someone who would be willing to volunteer to do clinics. Mrs. Shadd said he is dedicating every day to this program and Mrs. Neyman told her that her daughter volunteers four nights a week.

Donna Tesar said that the calendar seems to show that Mr. Shadd would be trying to develop a premier team. We have "rec" soccer with our kids playing against other "rec" soccer teams. As a taxpayer, Mrs. Tesar does not want to pay for "your" kids to go to premier soccer classes when we have a perfectly good rec league here. If you want your kids to further their skills then you should pay for it yourself.

Mrs. Schuckert responded that this would be teaching the basics and we have the resource in Mr. Shadd. She also said that she is being a little selfish because she feels that the cost should come from the rec director's salary.

Mr. Selig asked Mrs. Schuckert if she felt \$6,000 was a good figure and she responded that she didn't know but that he is talking about this being more than just three months in the spring and three months in the fall. He would also like to take teams to indoor soccer and that maybe the parents would have to pay some of the fees for that.

Terry Safranek stated that Narlin is an amazing asset but she would like to see the program phased in. She said the Thursday Advanced Development class could have a fee attached. Mr. Presot would still be needed to facilitate the program, field lining, scheduling referees etc. so she would not like to see his salary adjusted. She would agree that the village not pay for anything that is travel because that is exclusive and kids are excluded.

Jamie Shadd spoke and said that the committee is focusing too much on the money and not on the sense of the community and how a program like this could bring it together.

Mrs. Hatgas responded that the focus has to be on the money because the village funds are a top priority and additional funding for a soccer program cannot take precedence over other necessary items.

Mr. Walsh does not agree with Mrs. Hatgas and feels that putting another \$5,000 to \$6,000 into the soccer program is worth the investment.

Mr. Shadd said that he feels the animosity in this room. He explained his program. His intention is to get the kids involved in the program and to get the parents involved in coaching by holding coaching clinics. He would also hold a referee clinic and the referees would be paid by him.

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Mayor Procuk said if council creates a position then he fills it by appointment. If council chooses not to create a position then we are done.

Mr. Black then invited Mr. Shadd and any other man, 21 years or older, to join the Men's Service Club. He then said he is not prepared at this time to create a position but asked Mr. Shadd what he could do for about \$2,000. Could he do a skills clinic or a coach's clinic?

Mr. Black also said that he represents 1500 people in this community and a decision has to be made whether they put \$8,000 into the soccer program or do they put it into safety, or economic development or garbage collection or the streets.

Mr. Selig asked Mr. Shadd if this is an all or nothing program and Mr. Shadd said that considering the current program it is an all or nothing.

Mrs. Schuckert said that she and her husband hear from parents all the time that they are not happy with the programing or the status quo in the city.

Mindy Armbrust said that her husband would coach soccer if he knew anything about it other than you kick a ball. She would like to see a coach's clinic held but she agrees that the village can't afford another position.

Monika said she sees the program diminishing and Mr. Selig said it could be an age thing or the preference of the kids.

Mr. Shadd said that he feels that if he were paid half of Mr. Presots' salary the village would be getting two employees for the price of one.

Mr. Black asked for a straw vote to see if they want to draw up an ordinance.

Mr. Foote asked Mr. Presot how he feels about Mr. Shadd's proposal. Mr. Presot replied that this schedule is very involved. He proceeded to explain how outside activities would affect this schedule and that the rec schedule ends on May 10<sup>th</sup> concluding with the Elk's Soccer Shootout. He also said that going through May will interfere with the beginning of baseball practice on the fields.

Mr. Shadd felt there has never been a problem with soccer and baseball at the same time.

The question was asked if this (director of soccer) would open a Pandora's Box for the other programs.

Mr. Black said that as it is structured he would not be in favor of it.

Mr. Selig asked council who is in favor of hiring a director of soccer and this program at \$6,000 -\$8,000.

- 1-4 vote against
- Mr. Selig asked if council wants to continue these talks.

Mr. Foote said that council has monetary pressures in front of them at this point.

Mr. Selig asked if Mr. Shadd would like to continue with a lesser program. Mr. Shadd said that he would like to sit down with Mr. Selig, Mayor Procuk and one of the council members who voted no. Mayor Procuk said this would not violate the State of Ohio Sunshine Laws.

Mr. Shadd asked for Mr. Foote to be involved.

Mr. Selig called the meeting to an end at 8:57 pm.

Howard Selig, Committee Chairman  
Parks, Playgrounds and Community Services