

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING
WEST GEAUGA COMMUNITY JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT
And West Geauga Recreation Council
DECEMBER 8, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Walt Waetjen at 7:00 pm in the library of West Geauga High School. Board members present: Ed Curtis, Linda Palchick, John Gromek, Chuck Poole and Bernie Mandel. Walt Waetjen stated that Bernie Mandel will conduct the meeting.

Rec Council members present: Ron & Maureen Petransky, president; Jeannie Jefferson, Dave Magden, Brenda Brown, Scott & Lynne Whitmore, Scott Lewis, John Gervasi, Linda (didn't get last name).

A special meeting was called for the Board's discussion of a situation with WG Recreation Council using a closed soccer field for their tournament in September, with damage resulting. Walt gave the summary of the situation, and asked Rec Council to respect the repairs to the field. Initial cost estimate was 6500.00, mostly for labor costs. Our Joint Rec Board contacted another landscaper who has a machine to do the work at a cost of 3500.00. \$2,000.00 was for the lower field damage, and 1,500.00 was for the junior soccer field. The machine aerates and slits the turf, while putting grass seed in the slits. Rec Council asked why the repair was done now. Walt said the weather cooperated, and we had to act immediately, so the fields can be used in the spring. Rec Council was told to stay off the lower field. Sign was posted that is was closed.

Ron Petransky said he does not deny that they used the field. There was a mis-communication on RC part. Walt stated sorry, signs were posted. Bernie Mandel stated there were 2 times of verbal communication, and we can't hold RC blameless. Our mandate is to have The Commons facilities available for use. Our budget covers general maintenance of the field. For this, we get tax monies. Fee monies go in the Capital Fund for Capital expenditures. The Joint Rec Board is not prepared for more. Walt Waetjen said the entire field was treated. The north end will get more work in the spring. Our Board would not have done this if it wasn't damaged.

RC stated that prior to the tournament, the field was torn up. Drainage was bad. Walt Waetjen said that is why the field was closed. RC said the south part of a field was ¼ under water at the NE corner. Bernie Mandel asked if RC was going to contribute, which is the bottom line. Ron Petransky stated the fields were not 100% when played on. Bernie said if the repairs weren't done this year, the entire field would have had to be closed for all of 2012. RC asked for the Board to explain how work is decided on what field work needs to be done.

Bernie Mandel said landscapers evaluate the weekly condition of the fields. Walt stated that 'error on the side of caution' is to let the kids play. It is earth. Budgeted amounts are used. Point is the field was closed. RC said we're all here for the kids. Walt stated and that goes with obligation and responsibility. The signs were ignored. RC said we pay taxes to be part of the community park. What is our budget. High school boys and girls are seen playing football on the fields. Did those kids play on those closed fields?

Bernie Mandel stated that people are not supposed to be there. When our Board members see it, they stop them. We can't be there 24 hrs/day. They're not practice fields. People with permits are scheduled for the fields; if the fields are not in good condition, they don't use the fields.

Ed Curtis explained that we get tax dollars of 62,900.00/year. Just to cut the grass it is 44,000/year. 18,000 remains. Path washes out; snowplowing; trees. RC asked how much is used for field repair. John Gromek said the lower fields had drain tiles installed. Monies are also spent on the volleyball courts, pump the restroom. We are breaking even every year; every penny is used. RC asked what is our Board looking for. They did use the fields. We all have to get along; we are both community groups. Ron said that what is discussed here has to be voted on by their group. Ed Curtis said that our meetings are open and in March every year, RC is invited, as are all the groups to that meeting. Ed Curtis said we need RC support for our upcoming levy renewal. RC said we are all here for the kids and Walt Waetjen said we are all volunteers.

Bernie Mandel said the fields are for everyone, but they have to be protected. Ask yourself 'What would I do?' Our facilities are fantastic. Ed said that fees to use the fields do not go to maintenance. A new restroom at the park this fall cost 36K, ODNR grant pays 75%. 9K came from our funds. The junior soccer field when installed, cost 65,000.00 and we had donations. Walt Waetjen said the lower soccer field has a retention pond. Our board needs to address it as it does not drain well. The upper soccer field drains good. What do we want? Whatever RC decides to be generous with. Ron Petransky said he has to consult with his board in January, 2012. This meeting was informational. Ron doesn't want to drag this out. RC is not going to walk away from their responsibility. RC acknowledged that the field was used. The 6500.00 bill was sticker shock. It's dirt and seed. Walt Waetjen said we leave decisions to the experts. RC said they appreciate the meeting tonight.

Walt Waetjen stated that we want our fields at the Commons to be the best. The original estimate was high. The Joint Rec Board searched for a better resolve. RC can't just go up and play on the fields. RC did not realize permits are needed. Russell patrols the park. The Joint Rec Board are stewards of the land.

Chuck Poole said is there anything else so we can close the meeting. Walt Waetjen stated there was 3 days work on the fields. The machine goes down 7-8", digs hole, puts seed in. Our goal is to have a community exchange. #2 our expectation is to get help in 2,000.00 bill on that 1 field. #3 our board took the responsibility. What about next time? We need to

have responsible parties on the fields. RC asked in the future if the nets can be taken down before RC uses the field. The Board said the fields have multiple users. John Gromek stated that this year was extremely wet – record breaking. Our Board has to rely on organizations to take their part of responsibility. RC said they saw signs up the week before. Bernie Mandel said that the coaches need to know the fields are closed.

RC asked what is the normal end of season routine? Bernie Mandel said nothing now. John Gromek said a final cut is done and feed in the fall. Maybe aeration. Ron Petransky will follow up with our Board.

Meeting was called for adjournment at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Gromek
WGJRB Clerk