

Board of recreation commissioners Special Meeting  
August 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

Michael Prulello (Chairman)	Present
Eugene Godlewski (Vice Chair)	Absent
Dino Kostantakis	Present
Don Morrell	Present
Jeff Devito	Present
Brian Joyce	Present
Kyle Lezette	Present
Joanie Diore (alt #1)	Present
Brian Harris (Alt # 2)	Present
Tony Como (Director)	Present
Councilman Gorman	Present

Chairman Prulello called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

*Director Como announced "That all requirements of the Open Public meeting law have been met for this meeting of the Board of Recreation Commissioners of The Borough of Dumont*

*Notices have been transmitted to the newspapers*

*Notices prominently posted in a space provided on the bulletin board  
At the Borough hall*

*Notice has been filed with Borough Clerk*

**Director Como stated that the only items that can be discussed are fall sports & the Bergen County Open Space Grants**

**Open Public Participation**

**Don made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. 2nd by Jeff roll call taken motion carried**

**Mayor Andrew LaBruno**

Mayor LaBruno stated that over the last 5years he has been a coach in flag football & soccer. He expressed that the one thing he really enjoys is coaching. He also stated that with this environment he would not put children on a field. He understands that the commission does not want to hear it from him so tonight the Borough Attorney and the Risk Manager will discussed the liabilities of having fall sports.

**Marc Leibman**

**Borough Attorney**

Attorney Leibman spoke about the liabilities of running fall sports programs. If we follow the executive orders and we miss one item we could be open for a law suit in which the Borough the Commission and the program administrators all could be named in a law suit .The responsibility would fall directly on the Recreation Commission to see that the executive order is carried out. Parents can sign a waiver but they cannot sign away the rights of their children. He stated that the commission should give this a serious thought before they make a decision.

**Commissioner Kostantakis**

Asked why we could not use a wavier that would protect the commission and the borough and the coaches.

Attorney Leibman stated that depending on the case and the situation the waiver may not hold up in court. I don't think that you would want to take that chance.

**Dominick Cinelli**

**Borough Risk Manager**

Dominick spoke about the risk in having fall sports, when he reviewed the executive order 149 he felt that the restrictions were just too difficult to run a program safely. He advised the commission to review the order and see if they could safely run a program. He also stated that it would be the responsibility of the commission to ensure that the programs are following the rules. That means that they would have to be on the fields assisting Taking temperatures and making sure that all participants and fans are following social distancing and wearing mask when appropriate.

**Chris Tully**

**Borough Administrator**

Administrator Tully spoke about the importance of the borough making sure that we are keeping the children and the residents safe. He said that the borough would be making the final decision on fall sports, but the opinion of the recreation commission was very important, He would hope that the borough and the commission would be on the same page when it came to making this decision. He that asked Director Como to speak about the research he has been doing.

**Tony Como**

**Recreation Director**

Director Como stated that over the last several weeks He has been speaking to several other Recreation Directors to see what each town is planning. Norwood the governing body has not made a decision on fall sports, Westwood is allowing registration but not sure of what is going to happen , Bogota the governing body has not made a decision , River edge is allowing registration,, Bergenfield has not made a decision yet ,Oradell is allowing registration not sure of what's going to happen. Director Como stated that he was speaking to the high school boys' soccer coach and he felt that there would be a possibility that he could be shut down within the next couple of weeks.

Chairman Prulello stated that with all the information that was presented here, that running fall programs may not be the right thing to do at this time.

Commissioner Morrell stated he does not understand how other towns are allowing sports, but if we cannot do it safely than we shouldn't do it.

Commissioner Morrell asked if the commission voted to have fall sports would the borough still keep the programs shut down

Administrator Tully stated that the Borough would not allow fall sports but he would hope that it would be a united effort between the commission and the Borough

Director Como stated that I have been going to watch games in other towns and no one is following the rules Players and coaches are not wearing masks nobody is following social distancing. In most cases I was the only one wearing a mask and staying away from everyone.

Director Como asked the commissioners if they any questions. At this time none of the commissioners had questions .Director Como ask for someone to make a motion.

**Commission Morrell made a motion for Dumont recreation to allow fall sports. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by commissioner Kostantakis, Roll call taken there were six no votes and 1 yes. The motion was defeated.**

**Director Como asked Administrator Tully if he would like to speak about the Bergen County Open Space grants.**

Administrator Tully explain to the commission what's going on with the Bergen County open space grants .There was an onsite meeting at Gina's field this week with the engineer some council members and the recreation committee . This was to decide the actual scope of work for the project . Administrator Tully stated that he will be handling all of the open space grants and prioritizing the funds and the projects that need to be done.

**Commissioner Kostantakis made a motion to adjourn the meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Morrell Roll call taken motion carried 7:58pm**

**Submitted by**

Tony Como



Recreation Director