

Assembly  
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**Memo: Skate Park/Ball Field**

Over the past few years there has been discussion about turning the ball fields over to the little league to manage and maintain. As of right now Parks and Recreation and Little League are in discussion on how to make a transition like this work and become a mutually desirable opportunity.

Over the next few weeks this discussion will begin to take shape and we will be bringing a lease option before you to review and to vote on a resolution if we can come to terms that each party feels that will be beneficial. Today (March 2<sup>nd</sup>) we are seeking to begin a part of this transition and also, open up discussion with the community so that the voice of the people can be heard.

Attached you will find my thoughts and concerns about our current skate park and a proposal from Little league to turn it into an enclosed batting/hitting cage. I am supportive of this change and believe that it would be a smart use of our resources. Our local Little League serves a 100+ kids every year on those ball fields and this would allow them to begin serving these same kids during the winter, and it would provide a place for the High School teams to begin practices while snow is still on the ground.

A skate park is something that we as a community want, unfortunately the format we have now is wrought with problems. We as a borough take a large amount of risk with our skate park in its current form. Our youth deserve to have a place that they can truly enjoy, and that parents can feel that their kids are safe. As the Parks and Recreation Director I am searching diligently into how we can create a skate park that is worthy of the youth in our community. A skate park where the youth and adults who skate can have a voice in its design, and implementation. What we have now is unsafe, unsupervised, and unrealistic.

At this point I feel that that facility turned over to the Little League would be of more benefit to our community than under its current form. I believe that although we will see some push back passing this resolution will be a move in the right direction for our community.

Donnie Hayes

Parks and Recreation Director

## Skate Park Standards

- ASTM construction standards – Our ramps fall under these specs and are certified
  - Steel surface ramps can exceed OSHA safety standards (our ramps are steel)
  - <http://www.skatepark.org/park-development/vision/2012/09/just-say-no-to-modular-skateparks/>
- Recognized Insurance standards – There are concerns (Can be referenced on the CA Joint Powers Insurance Authority):
  - Public Telephone within 50 yards
  - Lighting for use during evening hours
  - Fencing (8 ft. above grade) protecting participants from dogs or children running into the area/protecting spectators from being struck by skateboards or skateboarders
- Grade vs Cement Pad Height
  - 8 inches to a foot difference all the way around the skate park (See Pictures)
  - Creates an additional risk of injury taller than typical steps according to building code
- Skate park structure
  - Metal I-beams are not protected and are placed in a manner that becomes a liability for injury especially next to the half pipe
  - Cement is sloped leaving gaps between the ramps and the cement floor
  - The roof does not over hang the cement floor and the building allows rain to be blown into the facility. This creates large puddles and wet areas that may become
- Original Build problems
  - <http://www.skatepark.org/park-development/parkdesign/2008/02/top-10-design-mistakes/>
  - We made just about every one of these mistakes when we designed our skate park. Our kids deserve a well-designed, thought out skate-park.
- Ball field transition
  - Little League sees the use of the skate park as an enclosed pitching and hitting instructional area.
  - Can be used year round
  - Great place for High School Baseball hitting and pitching drills during the early season when snow is still on the fields
  - 110 little Leaguers using the facility on an annual basis.
- Current costs

- Insurance is negligible. It is wrapped into our insurance and the loss of the facility would not change the costs. Our Liability if something were to happen, I believe would be significant because of the way the skate park was constructed.
- Maintenance is minimal at this time. Power washing in the spring, perusal of the equipment to make sure nothing is broken or in need of repair, daily trash pick-up.
- Replacement of equipment: \$20-25,000. This equipment has a typical lifespan of 10 years. We are coming up on the end of their lifespan.











