

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order (E. Baiada)

Kerry Boccella	Chair
Adrienne Smythe	Vice Chair
Nick Matteo	Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative
Lee Abberley	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Neil DiFranco	School District School Board Representative
Joe Ferraro	School District Representative
Jim Lee	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 3

Guests:	Ken Ferguson	Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club
	Ronnie Hilferty	Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club
	Jason Purcell	Spartan Lacrosse Club
	Matt Herzog	Spartan Lacrosse Club
	Patrick McGranaghan	Springfield Soccer Club

2. Approval of Minutes from January (All)

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously approved the January minutes.

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (All)

None public comment.

4. Administrative Report (E. Baiada)

The Parks and Recreation Department has issued all summer camp contracts. The Summer Guide will be designed and published by mid-February. The Department will release the Summer Recreation Guide in mid-February. Summer camp registration will open on March 1 at 9:00 am via RecDesk. Kidz Klubhouse will feature a priority registration window for residents. Resident registration will open on March 1. Non-Resident registration will open on April 3.

5. Recreation Report (E. Baiada)

Throughout the month of January, programs included Martial Arts, Yoga, Soccer Shots, Magarity Tennis, Adult Ceramic Class, After School Ceramic Class, Jump Start Basketball Clinic, and School's Out Quidditch Academy. During the month of January, 266 individuals participated in recreational programming with 17 individuals on the waitlist.

Summer Camp Employment: 2023 spaces will be extremely limited. The retention rate of 2022 employees is incredibly high this year. A total of 19 employees will return out of the 21 staff employed in 2022. Kidz Klubhouse Summer Camp Counselor and Counselor in Training (CIT) applications opened on January 30, 2023. Openings are contingent upon the number of returning employees. Staff from 2022 will be contacted regarding rehire on January 2 with a deadline of January 30. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and will remain open until April 4 or until filled.

6. Park Report (E. Baiada)

- **Bysher Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Gabion and Bridge Footing Repairs Completed. Montco CDBG 2023 application for new wooden bridge near pavilion. Playground rehabilitation to begin in 2024.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.

- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** Geese population has increased. Recently 75 geese were counted on site.
- **Sandy Run Park:** No Issues.
- **Veterans Park:** Water runoff issue resolution - winter project.
- **Wyndhill Park:** Wood sandbox removal in winter months.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Issues.
- **Tank Car:** Abatement & demolition of existing structures scheduled for spring 2023.
- **Walnut Trail:** Construction scheduled for fall 2023; \$44K secured for Phase II.
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Site tour on February 2.

7. Old Business (All)

Youth Committee Member (Non-Voting): The Board of Commissioners will review the PRAC recommendation from the January meeting requesting the addition of a non-voting student member.

Youth Sport Programs: The Board of Commissioners will review the PRAC recommendation from the January meeting. The Committee voted to discontinue competitive youth sport leagues overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department. This will not impact local volunteer run groups, only Park and Recreation Department run programs.

Rec Center Advisor Committee Update: The selected committee members will meet for a site tour on February 2 of the existing recreation center campus. The committee will host their first public meeting on March 2, 2023.

Trails Plan Taskforce Update: The Taskforce reviewed a draft plan presented by the county in January. The next public meeting is being scheduled for February/March.

8. New Business (All)

Spartan Lacrosse Club & Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club Sponsorship: In an effort to fundraise, the Spartan Lacrosse Club is requesting permission to hang sponsor signs at the Upper Field at Cisco Park. The signage would hang on two locations: the softball backstop along Montgomery Avenue and the fence along Paper Mill Road. SLC intends on reaching out to local businesses to solicit sponsorships. In return, a sign featuring the company logo would be displayed on either the fence or backstop for the duration of the season. The season runs March through June. The signs will be 18"x24" one-sided coroplast yard signs. After review, the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee voted in favor of the request to hang sponsor signs on the fence and batting cage. In addition to sponsor signage, the club requested permission to hang the 24"x60" club banner at the corner of Montgomery Ave and Paper Mill Road. Cisco Park is the home field for the Springfield Lacrosse Club. After review, the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee voted in favor of hanging a banner with the club logo only (no sponsor logos).

Spartan Lacrosse Club, Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club, and Springfield Soccer Club – Park AEDs: Ken Ferguson and Ronnie Hilferty from the Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club (SGLC) requested the Township hanging AEDs in public parklands. The Spartan Lacrosse Club and the Springfield Soccer Club were also present to support the request. SGLC primarily uses Laurel Beech, but is requesting the Township consider mounting outdoor units for public use in the event of an emergency. Recent events have demonstrated that an AED is a lifesaving tool and should be available in public spaces such as parks, especially where youth athletic competitions are taking place. Sudden cardiac arrest is increasing among young athletes and the risk for fatality is high. SGLC, along with the Spartan Lacrosse Club and the Springfield Soccer Club are requesting the Township pay for these units, maintain them and have them serviced annually. Member of the advisory committee made several inquiries regarding the request. The clubs noted that providing units to coaches would be costly and not effective when they have simultaneous events at several independent locations.

The Park and Recreation Advisory Committee collectively agreed this is a safety matter that should be further investigated. The Park and Recreation Advisory Committee is requesting the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Services Board investigate the viability of placing AEDs in public parks during the March 2023 Commissioner Meeting. In the meantime, the committee asked the three present sport groups to investigate the cost of each unit, the cost to provide annual service, the cost of the mounting system for a public property and the lifespan of each unit.

Grant Applications: The Township will submit applications for the DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) and the Montco 2040 Program.

9. General Public Comment (All)

Union Soccer Partnership: Patrick McGranaghan of Springfield Soccer Club provided an exciting update on the recent partnership with the Philadelphia Union soccer team. The partnership will provide access to professional training and a variety of other benefits. Details can be found on the club's website.

Tank Car: Patrick McGranaghan of Springfield Soccer Club inquired about next steps for the Tank Car property once demolition and abatement are complete. Mrs. Baiada noted that a committee would be assembled, similar to the Recreation Center Advisory Committee process. A group of community members would be charged with determining the design of the site based on public input. Mr. McGranaghan noted the soccer club is extremely interested in the space as a potential home base for the Springfield Soccer Club who would be willing to contribute financially to the project. Mr. McGranaghan indicated an interest in working with the Lacrosse Clubs to ensure everyone has an opportunity to access green space.

Lack of Green Space: Ronnie Hilferty of Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club noted that green space within the community is limited which forces clubs to pay for use of school and township property. Ms. Hilferty stated that green space in Springfield is sparse and encouraged the Township to keep this in mind.

Carson Valley School Property: Mr. McGranaghan inquired about potential use of the Carson Valley property located at 1419 Bethlehem Pike. The parcel is 75 acres and serves as a children's aid facility. The three youth sport teams collectively inquired why the Township has no access to the fields as they are currently used by Chestnut Hill programs. The local sport groups requested the Township determine the reason for lack of access to the parcel.

Unifies Sport Program Outside School District: Dr. Lee Abberley requested the local sport groups consider offering a program for those with physical limitations, similar to the Challenger baseball program or Unified Sports at the Middle School. Turf fields may be necessary for lacrosse and soccer. Field access may be available through special request during a school board meeting for this program.

10. School District Report (N. DiFranco)

Mr. DiFranco noted the Property Committee plans to proceed with update to the Middle School Athletic fields and track. Updates will include regrading of the field hockey field, replacement of the track with rubber surfacing and the installation of a triple jump and shotput ring.

11. Commissioners' Report (S. Ratsavong)

Commissioner Jim Lee provided a report on behalf of Commissioner Ratsavong. Commissioner Lee noted the February meeting will cover the following topics: STOAC 'No Stigma Day' presentation, traffic review, Skin Smart Mixed Use, upcoming grant applications and review of the recommendations provided by the PRAC from January.

12. Call for Adjournment (E. Baiada)

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6:30 pm