

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2

Guests: Beth Zenuk Resident

2. Approval of Minutes from February (*All*)

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

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (*All*)

No public comment.

4. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

Student Member: The non-voting student member position has been posted to the Township website. The position is open to any Springfield Township resident student, preferably a Junior who is interested in serving for multiple years.

Recreation Center Misinformation: Over the last week, several reports of misinformation were spread around various social media platforms such as Facebook and Next Door. Reports included conjecture of a potential sale of the current Recreation Center located at 1200 E. Willow Grove Ave. This report is incorrect as there is no discussion of selling the property. The Recreation Center Advisory Committee (RCAC) has been established to assess next steps with the Recreation Center and to develop a master site plan for the property. The plan will involve several opportunities for public input and community feedback. The RCAC will host public monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

5. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of February, programs included Martial Arts, Yoga, Soccer Shots, Magarity Tennis, Adult Ceramic Class, After School Ceramic Class, and School's Out GeoVentures Geocaching. During the month of February, 145 individuals participated in recreational programming with 25 individuals on the waitlist.

The Travel Basketball program is in the playoff stage of the season. 9 out of 12 teams made playoffs.

The Summer Recreation Guide was released mid-February. Registration opened on March 1 at 9:00 am via RecDesk. The RecDesk registration site crashed when it took 100 registrations in the first 6 minutes of opening to the public. Staff were able to reboot the system and have it back online by 10:00 am. The Township processed 270 transactions by 5:00 pm on March 1. Staff is working to resolve duplicate transactions incurred during the website crash.

Kidz Klubhouse will feature a priority registration window for residents on March 1. Non-Resident registration will open on April 3. Counselor and CIT positions are filled. Camp staff will consist of 1 Director, 1 Assistant Director, 24 Counselors, and 12 Counselors in Training. A waiting list has begun for new applicants.

6. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysker Park:** The exterior of the Little League indoor batting facility has been completed.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Playground rehabilitation set for 2024. “Do Not Feed Wildlife” signage hung.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** “Do Not Feed Wildlife” signage hung.
- **Sandy Run Park:** Annual Stocking – End of March
- **Veterans Park:** Water runoff issue resolution - winter project.
- **Wyndhill Park:** No Issues.
- **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:** First Public Meeting on Thursday, March 2 at Library. The Committee will discuss next steps in renovating or rebuilding the Recreation Center currently located at 1200 E. Willow Grove Ave. No formal plans have been established for the site.

7. Old Business (*All*)

Youth Sport Program Board of Commissioner Response: Travel Basketball RFP Review: Committee members were provided the draft Springfield Township Basketball Organization RFP. After feedback, the committee approved the draft for publishing.

Spartan Lacrosse Club & Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club Sponsorship: The Board of Commissioners will discuss this item during the March meeting.

Spartan Lacrosse Club, Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club, Springfield Soccer Club – Park AEDs: The Board of Commissioners will discuss this item during the March meeting.

8. New Business (*All*)

Park by Park Assessment: Members discussed methods to collect community feedback within each park. Mr. DiFranco suggested putting QR codes in each park for people to use when they wanted to report damage or provide feedback during their park visit.

The committee plans to independently visit various parks over the upcoming months to compile a list of ideas, recommendations, and observations.

Trails Plan Taskforce Update – Open House on March 13 at 7:00 pm: The Committee will host a public meeting to answer questions and address concerns. A draft trail plan will be shared during the meeting. The plan has been created based on community feedback. To better engage youth in the survey process, the Taskforce will host lunch and learns with students at the High School and Middle School.

9. General Public Comment (*All*)

None.

10. School District Report (*N. DiFranco*)

Mr. DiFranco noted the school has completed a Coach Resource Guide and a Student Athlete Parent/Guardian Handbook which outlines behavior expectations from spectators. Mr. Ferraro oversaw the inception of these guides. The School Board also approved the 2025-2026 School Calendar.

11. Commissioners’ Report (*S. Ratsavong*)

Commissioner Ratsavong noted a local Girl Scout Troop expressed interest in an Earth Day Park Cleanup. Details to follow.

12. Call for Adjournment (*E. Baiada*)

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm