

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
RECREATION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.
FREE LIBRARY OF SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order (E. Baiada)

Joy Bergey	Member
Kerry Boccella	Member
Sarah LoGiudice	Member
Edward Morris	Member
Jay Overcash	Member
Beth Zenuk	Member
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2
Jim Lee	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 3
Ian Hammer	Director of Public Works
Emily Baiada	Director of Parks and Recreation

2. Introductions (All)

Committee members introduced themselves and explained their experiences as it pertains to the recreation center master site plan project.

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (All)

No public comments regarding the agenda were made.

Mrs. Baiada made an announcement regarding various 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.

4. New Business (All)

Recap February Site Tour: 1200 Willow Grove Ave., Wyndmoor: The Committee toured the current recreation center campus buildings which included the former church/ library and the gymnasium. Committee members were provided with information pertaining to rentals and programming.

Recommendation for Rehabilitation or Rebuilding: The Committee made a unanimous decision to demolish and rebuild the Recreation Centers located at 1200 E. Willow Grove Ave., Wyndmoor, PA. The Committee evaluated the buildings and determined they require several repairs in the near future. With repairs, the facilities would continue to fall short of providing the necessary space for community sports, programming, and events.

Request for Proposal: The Committee will oversee the development of a draft RFP for a Master Site Plan of 1200 E. Willow Grove property, inclusive of the recreation center and playground rebuild. Mrs. LoGiudice, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Overcash volunteered to form an RFP subcommittee.

Consideration for Chair and Vice Chair Positions: Vote in April

5. Committee Off-Site Facility Tours (E. Baiada)

Location Proposal List: Mrs. Baiada noted several locations for local facility tours such as Montgomery Township, Haverford Township, Upper Chichester Township and Conshohocken Borough.

Committee Schedule Availability: The committee noted they were free during the workday to attend tours and see how the buildings were utilized in the morning hours.

6. Public Comments (*All*)

The Committee fielded various questions from meeting attendees. Questions included the following:

Q: How much will this project cost?

A: The project is in the preliminary stages and has not yet been developed enough to determine the cost.

Q: Will taxes be impacted?

A: At this stage in planning, there is no cost associated with an increase in taxes.

Q: How much space is on the site?

A: The full property is 1.6 acres. The property that will be included in the Master Site Plan will not include the green space known as Laurel Beech Park. This grass space is to remain undeveloped per the open space funding utilized to purchase the property. Laurel Beech Park is to remain green and is not eligible for development.

Q: Has the committee entertained other sites for a recreation center?

A: No. Opportunities to secure large properties in Springfield are minimal.

Q: Will the committee consider a LEED building?

A: Green practices will be a priority during the planning process, provided the scope of work is cost effective.

Q: Will people pay to use the building? Will the building be free to the public or require membership?

A: The Committee will investigate memberships and pay for program fee models.

Q: Based on the brief discussion leading very quickly to a consensus to focus on only new construction, the decision to move forward with new construction vs. a rebuild [modification of existing Rec Center A & B buildings] has already substantially been made, based on some initial investigative work that occurred before this meeting [the initial Recreation Center Advisory Committee Meeting on March 2, 2023]. Is that impression, correct?

A: Yes.

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

- Next meeting: Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Free Library of Springfield Township