

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 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
Asher Dahlgren	Student Representative
Jim Lee	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 3

Guests:	Joe Kaub	Springfield Little League Softball
	Danielle Mathews	Springfield Little League Softball
	Tom McGeehan	Springfield Little League Baseball
	Ronnie Hilferty	Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club
	Seth Harrison	Springfield Soccer Club
	Christine Hesar	Walnut Avenue Steering Committee Member
	Bob McCormick	Resident, Wyndmoor
	Gary Pogue	Resident, Oreland
	Terry Kane	Resident, Oreland

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

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

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (*All*)

No public comment.

4. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

Eileen Henry began her role as the Finance Officer and Administrator on September 25.

Special thank you to Kerry Boccella and the Erdehneim Civic Association for hosting an amazing Community Day on October 1 at Cisco Park. Thank you to all of the volunteers that made the event a huge success.

5. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of September, programs included Martial Arts, Jump Start Basketball Clinic, After School Golf, Elite Tennis Clinic, Soccer Shots Clinic, Yoga, Skateboard Clinic, Indi Studio Ceramic Workshop, and the Youth Soccer League. During the month of September, 502 individuals participated in recreational programming. Winter Basketball Recreation League registration opened on August 29. The program is for boys and girls grades 1 through 8. The program begins on Saturday, December 2. Travel Basketball is being facilitated by the newly formed Springfield Basketball Club.

6. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysher Park:** ADA paving project is set to begin this week.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Community Day cleanup.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** No Issues.
- **Sandy Run Park:** Several holes found in security fencing.
- **Veterans Park:** No Issues.
- **Wyndhill Park:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Issues.

- **Walnut Avenue Master Site Plan Committee:** Committee formed.
- **Walnut Trail:** Construction on hold.
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Public Meeting on October 5 at Library. – Canceled 10/5

7. Old Business (All)

Land Use Agreement – Little League Softball & Little League Baseball: The Committee discussed various issues presented by the neighbors of Veterans Park. Several alterations were made to the Land Use Agreement set to be renewed in January 2024.

8. New Business (All)

Athletic Sponsorship Sign Policy Development: The Board of Commissioners requested the PRAC develop guidelines for these requests to eliminate continued Board requests. The PRAC will develop a set of guidelines for future requests.

Pickleball at Wyndhill Park: Members reviewed all concerns presented by neighbors who are impacted by the use of the temporary Wyndhill Park Pickleball courts. After several months of a trial period, neighbors reported that they experience daily noise interruptions, street parking obstruction and traffic congestion.

In June 2023, the Township distributed a letter and pickleball survey to 156 properties located within 500 feet of the Wyndhill Park property. The survey was paired with a letter explaining the origin of the pickleball lines and the temporary nature. Although the initial data demonstrates a collective support in favor of keeping the Pickleball lines for permanent usage, a heat map demonstrated respondents in favor of keeping the lines live a further distance from the court and are not directly impacted by sound, traffic, or blocked driveways. Respondents living within 50 feet of the courts demonstrated an overwhelming opposition to keeping the current lines and would like to see the court limited to tennis.

As the lines were installed on a trial basis, the Pickleball Community is encouraged to follow the Project Proposal Policy to incorporate public input which was absent during the initial decision to install temporary Pickleball lines. The Committee was in consensus that the temporary lines should be removed out of courtesy for the neighbors. The PRAC voted unanimously in favor of removing the Pickleball lines, equipment and signage from the Wyndhill Park facilities. The Committee noted that the Flourtown Swim Club is now offering local weekend Pickleball play.

9. General Public Comment (All)

Creek Erosion: Tom McGeehan, President of Springfield Little League Baseball noted the Land Use Agreement is set to be renewed in January 2024. The current agreement stipulates the organization is responsible for maintenance of all fences installed for baseball use. The creek running alongside Marlow Field is slowly eroding the park plot which is making it increasingly more difficult to maintain the fence line. Mrs. Baiada noted the Township engineer would need to take a look at this in the coming days to assess the structural integrity moving forward.

10. School District Report (N. DiFranco)

Mr. DiFranco noted the School District Property Committee met recently to discuss capital improvement projects specific to Springfield Middle School. The improvements are not recreation based but education based. The SMS track project is ongoing and was halted due to patrons walking across the wet rubberize surface as it was curing. Despite property closure signs, the individuals continued to use the space which ultimately required the track project to be restarted. Mr. DiFranco reminded guests that all school meetings are available via zoom and are always open to the public.

11. Commissioners' Report (J. Lee)

The Commissioners continue to discuss the 2024 budget which is scheduled to be approved in December. The Shade Tree Commission appointed a new member. During the October Board meeting, the Commissioners will update the verbiage of the Single Use Plastic Bag ordinance. The Board will also listen to a brief presentation of the Springfield Township Trails and Connectivity plan from the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

12. Call for Adjournment (E. Baiada)

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