

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order (*E. Baiada*)

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:	Tom McGeehan	Resident, Springfield Little League Baseball
	David Delacato	Resident, Bysher Avenue
	Steve Wilmont	Resident, Bysher Avenue
	Joseph Lynch	Resident, Bysher Avenue
	Chris Tomarelli	Resident, Bysher Avenue
	Daniel Carmen	Resident, Wissahickon Avenue
	Lauren Carmen	Resident, Wissahickon Avenue
	Patrick McGranaghan	Springfield Soccer Club

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

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

3. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

Welcome to the newest members Lee Abberley and Robert McGrath to the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Office Manager, Carol Taylor, kindly reminds committee members to please RSVP to the upcoming 45th Annual Award Ceremony being held on December 15th at the Flourtown Country Club.

4. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of November, programs included Martial Arts, Yoga, Jump Start Soccer Clinic, Magarity Tennis, and Springfield Travel Basketball League. Across all programs during the month of November, 151 individuals participated in recreational programming. The Recreation Basketball League began on December 3rd with 350+ participants.

5. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysher Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** Lights will turn off on December 9.
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Gabion repairs scheduled for December 2022. Community Development Block Grant 2023 application for wood bridge upgrade. Playground rehabilitation to begin in 2024.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** Project Complete
- **Sandy Run Park:** Closing for the season on December 9.
- **Veterans Park:** Water runoff issue resolution - winter project.
- **Wyndhill Park:** Wood sandbox removal in winter months. Toy dumping reminder.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Issues.
- **Tank Car:** Abatement schedule for fall 2023.
- **Walnut Trail:** Construction scheduled for Spring 2023

6. Old Business (All)

Community Needs Assessment Review: The Committee continues to discuss survey results.

7. New Business (All)

Springfield Little League Baseball Indoor Facility Proposal: Tom McGeehan, President of Springfield Little League Baseball presented a proposal for the construction of an indoor practice facility at Springfield Township's property, Bysher Field. The proposed indoor facility is a 70'x70' pole barn style building equipped with turf flooring, batting lanes, and retractable netting to allow for a full infield practice. The proposed structure would replace the outdoor batting lanes currently located along the back corner of the property next to Flourtown Country Club. Restrooms are not proposed for the facility. The plan illustrates additional parking spaces along the front of the structure. In the evening hours, the building would utilize a motion sensor light, similar to the one currently used on the existing garage. Springfield Little League expects to use the facility year round for small team practices and clinics. The facility is intended to be used during winter months and during rainy spring, summer and fall practices. The building would provide shelter during rain delays and storms. The facility would be built and maintained by the Springfield Little League with no cost to the Township.

Springfield Little League currently facilitates a program called the Challenger League, an adaptive league for those with physical and intellectual challenges. This league would utilize the field adjacent to Flourtown Country Club to take advantage of the ADA accessibility. The proposed plan outlines paved ADA parking along the front of the building as well as a paved path along the backside leading directly to player dugouts. The paved path would create an ADA accessible route for players and families. The current parking lot is compacted gravel. The Challenger League intends to utilize the building to remain active year round.

Immediate neighbors of Bysher Park received a letter in the mail as notice of the proposed facility. The letter included an invitation to attend the meeting to express questions or concerns. Several neighbors living on Bysher Avenue and Wissahickon Avenue were in attendance. The two main concerns amongst the residents were regarding water runoff and the production of additional traffic. Mr. McGeehan noted the water runoff originates at the Flourtown Country Club and leads to the park. Bysher Field absorbs a large volume of the existing runoff with the remainder flowing to the street. Neighbors asked for the Township to address this issue as soon as possible. Several homes encounter flooded basements during large storms.

With regards to traffic, Mr. McGeehan noted the building usage would be limited to small practices and clinics. Usage of the building would also be limited to players enrolled in either Springfield Little League Baseball or Softball. Organized practices and clinics would be limited to specific hours to reduce traffic.

Per the Zoning and Code Department, the Little League will need to apply for building and electrical permits. These applications should include a set of drawings on the structural make-up of the building. Springfield Little League would be required to submit a sketch showing an aerial view of the site with measurements for the distance between the proposed building and existing garage. The Township noted the distance between the proposed building and the existing garage should be wide enough for emergency vehicle access. Additionally, Springfield Little League would be required to provide an aerial view of the site with measurements for the distance between the proposed building and the property line shared with Flourtown Country Club. This building will not generate any additional storm water run-off, however, plans should verify that the downspout discharges would not cause an issue with the playing fields. There is currently a swale between the parking lot and Flourtown Country Club fence line.

After review, the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposed project. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

2023 Sponsorship Form: Mr. McGrath suggested the Township add the Instagram page to the sponsor form as an additional sponsor incentive. The PRAC felt the form was mail ready once the Instagram page was added.

8. Public Comments (*All*)

All public comment was noted during the Springfield Little League Baseball Indoor Facility Proposal.

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

The Old Enfield site will receive new sod. The fields are scheduled for use in Spring 2023.

10. Commissioners' Report (*S. Ratsavong*)

Commissioner Ratsavong noted the Township plans to offer a Storm Water Management workshop for the general public in 2023. Given the concerns presented by neighbors of Bysher Park, it appears to be a relevant topic to address. Commissioner Ratsavong discussed the potential addition of a student member to the PRAC. Members felt a student could also contribute to the new Recreation Center ADHOC Committee.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm