

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 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

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

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

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (*All*)

No public comment.

4. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

On April 12, 2023, Assistant Township Manager Brandon Ford, Director of Parks and Recreation Emily Baiada, and Commissioners Mike Maxwell and Peter Wilson drove to Harrisburg for the Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence. Springfield Township was recognized as the winner of the Governor's Award for Revitalization Initiatives and Sound Land Use Practices for projects such as the Mermaid Park Stream and Habitat Restoration, Chiamonte Park ADA Playground Improvements, 1725 Walnut Avenue/Tank Car Park Redevelopment, Bysher Fields ADA Improvements, and the upcoming Cisco Park Playground Rehabilitation.

On April 25, 2023, Director of Parks and Recreation Emily Baiada represented Springfield in Harrisburg at the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, presented by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Springfield Township was selected for the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for the Mermaid Park Stream & Habitat Restoration Project.

5. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of April, programs included Martial Arts, Yoga, Soccer Shots, Magarity Tennis, and a Skateboard Clinic. During the month of April, 198 individuals participated in recreational programming with 12 individuals on the waitlist.

6. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysher Park:** ADA improvements scheduled for late spring/early summer 2023.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiamonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Playground rehabilitation set for 2024.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** Additional tree plantings scheduled for May/June 2023.
- **Sandy Run Park:** Request for additional fishing opportunities such as extended pier.
- **Veterans Park:** No Issues.
- **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 summer 2023.
- **Walnut Trail:** Construction scheduled for fall 2023; \$44K secured for Phase II.
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Public Meeting on June 1 at Library.

7. Old Business (All)

Park by Park Assessment: The Committee will continue to visit each park independently. Members will present their findings when the committee reconvenes after the summer months.

8. New Business (All)

Springfield Basketball Organization Presentation: During the January 2023 PRAC meeting, members voted to issue a Request for Proposal to not-for-profit groups who were interested in establishing a designated volunteer run club for basketball players in Springfield Township. Members of the “Springfield Basketball Club” presented a formal proposal to establish a designated basketball club in Springfield Township. PRAC members voted unanimously in favor of the establishment of the Springfield Basketball Club and the transition of the Travel Basketball program from the Park and Recreation Department to the newly founded club.

Pickleball at Wyndhill Park: Kathy Hodgkiss assembled various community members and neighbors of Wyndhill Park to establish set court rules for the mixed-use tennis / pickleball courts. Several neighbors expressed growing frustration with the volume and traffic. After review and discussion, the committee suggested the Pickleball groups connect with neighbors to discuss a more feasible solution to the noise. Mrs. Baiada noted she would connect with other local communities to investigate if sound panels are successful given the high cost of installation.

Travel Softball – ICGSL: During the January 2023 PRAC meeting, members voted for 2023 to be the final year hosting the Travel Softball program under the Park and Recreation Department. Starting January 2024, the Travel Softball league would either be run independently by the coaching staff or merge with Springfield Little League Softball. The PRAC voted again in favor of this transition.

Project Proposal Process: The project proposal process is intended to streamline the steps an organization or resident needs to follow upon submitting an idea to the Township. After review, PRAC members voted unanimously in favor of the Project Proposal Procedure.

Athletic Sponsorship Sign Policy Development: The Board of Commissioners requested the PRAC develop a policy for the placement of athletic sponsor signs by all sport clubs and organizations at the Township parklands. An established policy will create uniformity across all Township parks and limit individual requests before the Board of Commissioners.

Tank Car Property Master Site Plan: At the April meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board agreed to allow the PRAC to serve as the steering committee for the creation of a Master Site Plan for the Tank Car property, 1725 Walnut Avenue, Oreland. The PRAC will develop a Request for Proposal for professional design of a Master Site Plan. Assistant Township Manager, Brandon Ford has secured a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to assist with the cost of the master plan. All neighboring properties have been notified by letter of the steering committee.

9. General Public Comment (All)

Public comment was made during **New Business**.

10. School District Report (N. DiFranco)

The new athletic fields have officially opened for spring sport usage. The upcoming budget review will take place in June.

11. Commissioners’ Report (S. Ratsavong)

The Tank Car Master Site Plan will be steered by the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Board of Commissioners has a board vacancy which will be filled in June.

12. Call for Adjournment (E. Baiada)

- Next meeting: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm (*Committee does not meet in July or August*)
- Future meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm