

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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
<i>Vacant</i>	School District Representative
Asher Dahlgren	Student Representative
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2
Cara Green	Nominated School District Representative
Christine Heser	Walnut Avenue Steering Committee Member
Amy Jacoby	Walnut Avenue Steering Committee Member
Katie Widmeier	Walnut Avenue Steering Committee Member
Seth Harrison	Springfield Soccer Club
Ken Ferguson	Springfield Girls Lacrosse Club
Tom McGeehan	Springfield Little League Baseball
Bob McCormick	Resident, Wyndmoor

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

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

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (*All*)

No public comment.

4. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

Craig Lloyd was promoted to the Assistant Manager and will continue serving as the Director of Finance.

5. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of August, programs included Martial Arts, Theatre Horizon Drama, GeoVentures Nature. Jump Start College Days, Jump Start Olympics, Kindergarten Transition, Pottery Design, Jewelry Design, Girls Lacrosse, and Kidz Klubhouse camps. During the month of August, 408 individuals participated in recreational programming.

Fall Soccer League registration opened on June 13 for the Pee Wee and Youth programs. The League will run from September through November at Cisco Park and Laurel Beech Park. There are currently 294 children registered for the league. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program.

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.

6. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysher Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiamonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** August storm damage.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** Tree replacement scheduled for Fall.
- **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:** Steering Committee Formation.
- **Walnut Trail:** Construction on hold.
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Public Meeting on September 7 at Library.

7. Old Business (All)

Park by Park Assessment (S. Ratsavong): 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.

8. New Business (All)

Walnut Avenue Master Plan Steering Committee (Tank Car Property): The Township is moving forward with development plans for the property located at 1725 Walnut Avenue, Oreland - commonly referred to as the "Tank Car Property". The Township will assemble a Walnut Avenue Master Plan Steering Committee comprised of members of the PRAC and three property owners from the adjacent neighborhoods. The three members have been formally appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The Walnut Avenue Master Plan Steering Committee meetings will occur on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm, prior to the start of the PRAC meetings. These meetings will be open to the public and will involve public input.

Athletic Sponsorship Sign Policy Development: Over the past few years, the Township has received varying sponsor sign request from sporting clubs, most recently the Lacrosse and Soccer Clubs. 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.

Land Use Agreement – Little League Softball & Little League Baseball: The Land Use Agreements for the Springfield Little League Softball and Springfield Little League Baseball organizations will expire in December 2023. The PRAC will review the agreements prior to renewal. It was noted that the Springfield Little League Softball organization has not been compliant with the Land Use Agreement. Neighbors of Veterans Park have requested these issues be addressed. SLLS has provided little to no response. The PRAC requested a letter be sent by the Commissioner Liaison to the Little League Softball organization to give formal notice of the agreement violations.

9. General Public Comment (All)

Mermaid Park Storm Debris: Due to recent storms, several trees have come down at Mermaid Park. The PRAC members recommended a wood donation program for residents to take.

Pickleball – Wyndhill Courts: Over the summer, a rules sign was posted for Pickleball play at the Wyndhill Courts. While the sign has been working, players have ignored the hours of play on various occasions. Neighbor Bob McCormick inquired about next steps from the Township. After discussion, PRAC members noted the Pickleball courts have been in place for one full year. The courts have been a burden on neighbors closest to the courts. Noise and parking are the primary issue encountered daily. The PRAC was in a consensus that the lines should be removed out of courtesy for the neighbors. Much like the process followed by the Skate Park Association, the Pickleball Community will be encouraged to follow the Project Proposal Policy in order to incorporate public input which was absent during the initial decision to install temporary Pickleball lines. The PRAC will discuss the future of the courts at the October meeting.

10. School District Report (N. DiFranco)

The School District continues to work on the Middle School athletic field project. The field project will include a regarding, track resurfacing and goal post installation.

11. Commissioners' Report (S. Ratsavong)

The Hawes Lane acquisition process continues and will be allocated toward open space efforts.

12. Call for Adjournment (E. Baiada)

- Save the Date: Community Day – Sunday, October 1 at Cisco Park
- Next meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm