

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024, AT 6:30 P.M.
DRAFT 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
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2

2. Approval of Minutes from May

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously approved the May 2024 minutes.

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (*All*)

No public comment.

4. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

The Township is currently observing summer hours as follows:

- Monday through Thursday 8:00 am – 5:30 pm
- Fridays 8:00 am – 11:30 am

Summer hours are in effect until Labor Day. Normal hours of operation will resume on September 3.

5. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of May, programs included Martial Arts, Yoga, Soccer Shots Clinic. During the month of May, 129 individuals participated in recreational programming. Currently, 791 registrants are enrolled in summer camp programs. Parks and Recreation staff hosted the annual summer camp staff training on May 30. This summer, the Township has 21 counselors and 15 Counselors in Training.

The Summer Concerts in the Park series begins on Thursday, June 6. The concerts will be on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm at the Cisco Park Pavilion. Concerts will conclude on July 18.

6. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysher Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Construction update – Anticipated completion by early July.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** No Issues.
- **Sandy Run Park:** No Issues.
- **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:** Request for Proposal Approved by DCNR.
- **Walnut Trail:** Construction update – tree plantings to be completed.
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Award Update

7. Old Business (*All*)

Mermaid Park Neighbors Request: The Friends of Mermaid Park requested the delivery of mulch for native garden from the Township leaf waste program. The Friends of Mermaid also asked for permission to weed the area as needed. The group also requested to leave an informative sign for park users to identify each planting. All PRAC Members voted in favor of each request.

8. New Business (*All*)

No new business.

9. General Public Comment (*All*)

Youth Sport Organizations: Several parent members of the Springfield Baseball Little League were in attendance to address several concerns specific to their personal experiences in the league over the past few years. The plane fly over that occurred on May 18, 2024, at Bysler Field has encouraged families to bring these issues before the Township. Many parents expressed concerns surrounding the plane event, bullying, and lack of Little League Board transparency. Those in attendance requested Township assistance and noted several items they wish to address.

1. Little League Board investigation results determining the individual responsible.
 - a. Immediate removal of the responsible individual.
2. Transparent election process and the opportunity to vote for board members.
3. Reserved spaces for women on the Little League Board.
4. By-laws with more specific courses of action.
5. Fair access to facilities (both indoor and outdoor), transparent financial records for league fees and sponsorship allocation.

Parents requested the Township take action and hold the Little League Board accountable to recent events. The present individuals also recommended the Township revoke the Land Use Agreement for the Little League Baseball organization and reinstate the use agreement when the above items are resolved. The parents were aware that a revoked Land Use Agreement would result in no baseball to which all parents agreed was necessary to address the matters at hand.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 6:30 pm