

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.
draft MINUTES**

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

Adrienne Smythe	Chair
Brian Sokel	Vice Chair
Lee Abberley	Member
Christina Kerper	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Nick Matteo	Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative
Neil DiFranco	School District School Board Representative
Charles Wattley	School District Representative

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

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

3. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

The Township Administrative staff has returned to regular office hours open to the public from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm from Monday through Friday.

4. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

During the summer season, the Township Parks and Recreation Department successfully hosted 11 weeks of summer camp programming, offering 46 camps that engaged a total of 993 participants.

Registration continues on RecDesk for the Springfield Township Fall Youth Soccer League, which includes the Pee Wee, Youth Boys, and Youth Girls divisions. The Fall season is scheduled to begin the weekend of September 6–7. Currently, enrollment stands at 255 participants.

5. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysher Park:** No Update.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Update.
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** Surfacing repair scheduled.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Walking path connection in progress.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Update.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Update.
- **Marlow Field:** No Update.
- **Mermaid Park:** PA Game Commission Partnership – Chimney Swift
- **Sandy Run Park:** Lifesaving ring stolen (second occurrence).
- **Veterans Park:** No Update.
- **Wyndhill Park:** No Update.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Update.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Update.
- **Walnut Avenue Master Site Plan Committee:** PORT Urbanism Design Presentation May 7
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Revision of strategy to lower final project cost.

6. Old Business (*All*)

7. New Business (*All*)

Update: Towns at PennyBrook Pedestrian Trail – 525 ft path: The Committee discussed the pathway located adjacent to the new Towns at Pennybrook property which will span 525 feet. The Committee discussed that it is not a destination trail and leans more toward a pathway connecting neighborhoods.

Discuss: Use of Sandy Run by Private Company: Recently, the Township received interest from a private company requesting access to Sandy Run quarry to conduct product testing. The company specializes in underwater remote operated vehicles. The company largely sells the product to emergency services, however, there are also private sale opportunities. The Committee discussed the potential issues associated with allowing private companies to test products in the quarry. Suggestions included

implementing a fee per test event, restrictions on type of power source (electric vs. gas) and limiting use to research and development testing rather than sales demonstrations.

Review: Facility Permit Process: The Committee reviewed the Park and Recreation – Rentals and Permits page on the Township website. Information covered important requirements such as residency, roster expectations, insurance coverage, fees and more. Recreation facilities include recreation center, field, gazebo, etc. Rentals are limited to residents, organizations based within the Township, and organizations with rosters of 75% Township residents (minimum).

8. General Public Comment (*All*)

Dog Park: A request was made for a dog park limited to small dogs. The PRAC members suggested the resident review the Project Proposal process on the Township website under Parks and Recreation.

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

Mr. DiFranco reported school has resumed on September 2nd. High School sports have started and Middle School sports will begin soon. The Middle School expansion is going well. Back to School night will occur over the next several weeks.

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

No report.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 6:30 pm