

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP  
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order** (*J.Murphy*)

Lee Abberley	Member
Christina Kerper	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Nick Matteo	Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative
Rob Goldberg	Commissioner Liaison

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

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

**3. Administrative Report** (*J.Murphy*)

N/A

**4. Recreation Report** (*J.Murphy*)

Throughout the month of March, Springfield Township Parks and Recreation offered several programs including martial arts, yoga, adult/youth pickleball, girls technical soccer training, indoor soccer, a speed, agility and quickness clinic, spring break drama camp, adult pottery class and gymnastics. During the month of March there were a total of 179 participants in rec programs.

**Summer Camps**

Kidz Klubhouse registration began 3/3, so far we have received 66/100 registrations for the full 6 weeks and around 20/40 for each individual week. Kindergarten & 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition camps opened 3/10, Kindergarten is almost full. All specialty camps opened 3/17 (multi-sport, ultimate warrior, Brazilian soccer, golf, basketball, flag football, girl lacrosse, pickleball, pottery & jewelry design, drama, spy training, nature adventures, princess, creative constructors, adventures in STEM, young artist). All the camps are filling up quickly

**5. Park Report** (*J.Murphy*)

- **Bysher Park:** At the request of SLLB, potholes were filled in at gravel parking lot
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** New Memorial Bench added (Tyler Davis Solomon)
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Update
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Hillcrest Pond stocked for fishing, Memorial Tree for former commissioner Pete Wilson to be planted during Arbor Day celebration
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Update
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Update
- **Marlow Field:** No Update
- **Mermaid Park:** No Update
- **Sandy Run Park:** Gates to the quarry open today, Opening Day for fishing Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>
- **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:** No Update
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Building construction material sampling April 9<sup>th</sup>

**6. Old Business** (*All*)

N/A

## 7. **New Business** (*All*)

### Spartan Lacrosse Club Requests

Representatives from the Spartan Lacrosse Club, Matt Herzog and Kevin Murphy, presented two separate requests:

- in-season team and sponsorship signage at Cisco Park
- construction of an equipment shed at Cisco Park

The Club asked for renewal of permission to hang 6-10 Small Sponsor Signs (~1.5' by 4') facing inward toward the field and 1 Spartan Lacrosse Sign facing the road to help with visiting team directions indicating the field of play. In 2024 they had 6 sponsorship signs and 3 in 2025. They hope to have 7/8 this year. The Spartan Lacrosse Sign is located on the corner facing the intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Paper Mill Road. The signs are placed at the beginning of the season in March/April and taken down immediately after the season which is typically June 1<sup>st</sup>. After a brief discussion ensuring the sponsorship signage met Township code, the Club's representatives moved onto their second request.

The second request was for the Club to construct an equipment shed and bounce back wall at Cisco Park. This request was originally brought to the PRAC back in 2021. The project is being proposed because the club is in need of an equipment shed at their primary field, Cisco Park. The shed will house lacrosse nets, bounce backs, uniforms, goalie equipment, field lining equipment and game items (table, multiple buckets full of lacrosse balls, timers & score keeper). Currently this equipment must be stored in multiple locations. Some are being stored in the communal garage at the township recreation center and the remainder at Club member's houses.

The original proposal asked for a professionally built prefabricated 12 x 20 equipment shed with a crushed stone foundation and secure key entry, that had an estimated cost of \$7,000. At the time, the PRAC was favorable to the idea, however wanted something more in line with the park's character. They did not want a temporary structure, preferring a permanent structure that the Club would maintain. Support was indicated for proposal if the Club could deliver on funding the building and maintaining of the structure.

The Club is now proposing an approximately 15' H x 45' L x 20' D concrete block to house the cinderblock wall shed and bounce back wall. The shed will not require any utility connections. The Club has an approximate cost estimate for the structure of \$75,000. They have been able to raise around \$60,000 to date and anticipate having the remaining funds by the end of the spring season. The project would be fully funded by the Club. In their plan, ongoing maintenance will also be covered by the Club. The Club will form a committee designed to inspect, keep up and maintain both the wall and the shed. This would include painting and the necessary upkeep to keep both structures aesthetically pleasing for years to come. A regular maintenance schedule will be put together which will include both preventative and reactive maintenance. The Club will also provide a maintenance report to the PRAC each fall. Three separate locations were proposed for placement of the structure.

The PRAC members' main questions were regarding the size and location of the structure. It was suggested to separate the shed from the bounce back wall for safety and aesthetics. Both the Club and the PRAC members agreed that placing the shed near the pavilion where the current unused softball backstop would be the best location. This would allow the Club to resod the sand infield, expand the field size to potentially regulation size for both lacrosse and soccer as well as move the field down closer to the pavilion which would allow for placement of the bounce back wall away from most of the public's use in the back corner of the field along Paper Mill Road. It was suggested to add trees or shrubbery along the fence line of Paper Mill Road to keep the bounce back wall out of sight and as a way to garner public support for the project. The Club's representatives asked if a pole barn-style building for the equipment shed, similar to the Bysher field indoor facility (though not that size), would be a possibility, in an effort to cut costs. The PRAC members were amenable to this along as it fit the aesthetics of the park. The PRAC members asked the Club to take all the information from the discussion to consult a professional and formulate a more detailed plan.

Lee Abberley made a motion to approve the Club's signage request. PRAC unanimously voted in favor.

Bob McGrath suggested tabling the vote on the equipment shed pending the Club's consultation and development of a more detailed plan using the suggestion from the discussion. PRAC unanimously voted in favor.

## Next Play Basketball Request

Matt Paul presented on behalf on Next Play basketball to request an exception to the requirement of 75% resident enrollment for their permit request this summer at McKelvie basketball courts. Matt presented an overview of the league and its history. The league has been operating every summer at the courts since 2021. It has seen fairly steady enrollment and increases in girls' participation rate; however, it has seen a decline in Township resident enrollment. Matt highlighted the impact that having a fun, learning based league can have on the local community. He also mentioned the benefit to the local business community as many of the shops either sponsor the league or participate by giving discounts to league participants. He also spoke about having members of the Springfield Police Department come out and play with the kids last summer as a way to create community cohesion.

After Matt's presentation, the main questions the PRAC members had for him were, where do the other 70% of the participants come from, why the league has seen a decline in Township participation rates and what the league is doing to try to reverse that trend. Matt told the PRAC that given the lack of similar recreational summer leagues in the surrounding communities, the majority of the 70% come from those communities such as Philadelphia, Jenkintown, Cheltenham and Whitpain. He believes there are a few reasons for the decline in Township resident participation. The relatively small size of the Township, more talented kids being recruited out of the Township to play in other leagues and the single sport mentality that has many kids playing club ball in other sports over the summer as opposed to a more relaxed, recreational basketball league. The three main focal points to try to help reverse the trend are offering a \$30 discount off the \$150 registration fee, expanding the league to include older kids (14-17 years old) and rebranding of the league to the Oreland Summer League.

Bob McGrath made a motion to make an exception to the requirement of 75% resident enrollment. PRAC unanimously voted in favor

### **8. General Public Comment** (*All*)

Resident Candace Cashner, who lives across the street from Mermaid Park, spoke about the dying arborvitae that were planted along the fence line adjacent to Opus Pickle Ball and other trees in the park being removed. She wanted to know who planted them and what was going to be done about removal as well as an update on the Community Canopy Project's proposal for plantings at the park.

Jim Murphy informed her that the Township is aware of the dying arborvitae and is in the process of coming up with a solution which could include the proposed project of the Community Canopy group and that she should attend next month's PRAC meeting as the group will be presenting their project at that meeting.

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

N/A

### **10. Commissioners' Report** (*R. Goldberg*)

Rob informed the PRAC and community members in attendance that there will be a discussion regarding potential skate park locations at the Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners workshop meeting.

### **11. Call for Adjournment** (*All*)

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 6:30 pm