

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

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

Lee Abberley	Member
Christina Kerper	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Nick Matteo	Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative
Neil DiFranco	School District School Board Representative
Grace D'Amico	Student Representative
Kedar Moore	Student Representative
Rob Goldberg	Commissioner Liaison

2. Approval of April Meeting Minutes (*All*)

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

3. Administrative Report (*J.Murphy*)

All Parks & Recreation permits (Athletic Field, Community Center, Park Event) were revised and posted to the Township website along with a permit Fee Schedule. No major changes were made; the documents were updated to have a cleaner and more consistent look. Upcoming program flyers will now be posted in the Cisco Park Community Board

4. Recreation Report (*J.Murphy*)

Throughout the month of April, Springfield Township Parks and Recreation offered several programs including martial arts, yoga, gymnastics, track & field, girl's flag football, fitletics, indoor soccer, adult pickleball, pottery and two community bus trips (Washington, DC & NYC). A total of 193 people participated in rec programs during the month.

New sessions will be starting in May for martial arts, yoga and gymnastics. We will also be offering a new mosaics class and a one-day adult field day program.

5. Park Report (*J.Murphy*)

Parks are now on the summer schedule which includes regular weekly trash collection, water fountains turned on, quarry and pond open for fishing, basketball court lights on until 10pm and regular mowing schedule

- **Bysher Park:** SLLB season started 4/11
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Update
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Update
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Two trees planted for Arbor Day on 4/25
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Update
- **Laurel Beech Park:** New playground mulch installed
- **Marlow Field:** No Update
- **Mermaid Park:** No Update
- **Sandy Run Park:** No Update
- **Veterans Park:** SLLS season started 4/11, SOS Native Wildflower Meadow 5/31
- **Wyndhill Park:** New playground mulch installed,
- **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 9th, DDE submitted on 4/30

6. Old Business (*All*)

Matt Herzog and Kevin Murphy presented on behalf of the Spartans Lacrosse Club. Matt began by reviewing the Committee's feedback back from the April 2026 meeting. The Committee was favorable to the idea as long as the Club could deliver on the funding the building and maintaining of the structures. It was also asked that the shed and wall be built in separate locations to reduce the visual impact and that a contractor was consulted to get quotes on the construction. They presented images of a 12'W x 20'L x 15'H green and stone colored shed to match the aesthetics of the existing pavilion at Cisco Park as their proposed location is directly across the walking path from the pavilion along Montgomery Avenue. The proposed location for the now separate rebound wall is across from the shed along the tree line of the creek. The size of the wall is 15'H x 36'W. They reiterated 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 in order to keep both structures aesthetically pleasing for years to come. A Maintenance Schedule will be as needed plus once annually (August). This will include both preventative and reactive maintenance and the Club will provide a maintenance report to the PRAC each fall. The old softball cage would need to be taken down for the shed to be built.

Nick Matteo asked if there would be a setback issue with the shed close to the street. Commissioner Goldberg said he would investigate that. He also suggested that the Club research and present a second option of the field being moved closer to the pavilion and the shed and rebound wall located along Paper Mill Rd.

7. Commissioners' Report (*R. Goldberg*)

As the two topics were related, Commissioner Goldberg gave his update on the subcommittee's discussions on finding a location for STSA's proposed skatepark before a vote was held regarding the Lacrosse Club's shed/wall proposal. He presented the grass lot in McKelvie Park as the most favorable location and Cisco Park as another option that has already gotten some pushback. In order to shed light on the criteria used to come to these choices, Jim Murphy presented his research findings on best practices for skatepark construction which highlighted five criteria when it comes to site selection; visibility, accessibility, safety/security, activeness of the area and comfort. The size of the facility based on community population as well as distance to a residential home (factoring in natural buffers), are also key factors. A google maps image was shown to help visualize the location.

Members of STSA were present and asked what size skatepark could fit in the space. Jim Murphy replied that around 5-6000sqft could fit and that in the future potentially smaller pocket parks could be installed in other locations around the Township. A formal vote was not held as Commissioner Goldberg suggested the BOC simply wanted feedback as to the favorability to the findings. The PRAC and STSA found the location of McKelvie Park to be a suitable solution.

With that, the discussion went back to the Lacrosse Club's proposal. Lee Abberley made a motion to recommend the Club be allowed to construct the shed and rebound wall with the stipulation that both location options were presented to the BOC.

The PRAC members voted unanimously in favor

8. New Business *(All)*

Andrew Conboy, President of The Community Canopy Project presented their proposal for riparian buffer plantings at Mermaid Park. He began by giving background on the CCP, they are a local eco-restoration non-profit founded in 2020. They were awarded a C2P2 grant for 10 acres of riparian buffer restoration in Montgomery County and Philadelphia. The stipulations of the grant are as follows:

- Plant and protect 175 native trees and shrubs per acre, roughly one plant every 16'x16'
- 3:1 ratio of trees to shrubs.
- Areas must currently have less than 30% woody canopy cover
- Landowner must sign Landowner Agreement. Key point: Landowner cannot remove plants for twenty-five years unless dead, diseased, or otherwise hazardous.

He then presented an image of Mermaid Park with 6 proposed locations for the plantings, making note that these are only proposed locations and that almost anywhere in the park is within 300 feet of a waterway so other locations can be selected. Two questions that were asked were:

- Are tolerant species selected?
- Are native species selected?

The answer to both was yes. If the proposal moves forward, there will be a process to select species and locations. A decision about whether the Township or CCP will mow for the first 3-4 years would be discussed as part of the Landowner Agreement. Neil DiFranco asked about the Rotary Club's arboretum project and if the two projects could work together. Andrew works with the Morris Arboretum, whose staff is conducting that work and thinks the two projects will work seamlessly. The last comment was regarding leaving pond views and access to the bank of the pond. This would also be a part of the planning process should the proposal move forward.

Lee Abberley made a motion to recommend the project to the Board of Commissioners. PRAC members voted unanimously in favor

9. General Public Comment *(All)*

None

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

Neil DiFranco noted that Dr. Yannacoone will be taking over as the middle school principal for Dr. Mangano. The school board's next meeting will be Monday May 18th and the Academic Affairs meeting will be Monday, June 1st

11. Call for Adjournment *(All)*

- Next meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:30 pm