

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

Please note that this Meeting will be held via the Zoom web conferencing program. (Instructions for participating are included below)

ZOOM Meeting ID: 852 3120 8681

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

Dave Morris	Chair
Kerry Boccella	Vice Chair
Sara Hughes	Member
Adrienne Smythe	Member
Michael Needleman	School District School Board Representative
Joe Ferraro	School District Representative
Emily Croke	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ed T. Graham, Esq.	Commissioner

Guests:	Robert McGrath	Wyndmoor Resident
	Margret Einarson	Wyndmoor Resident
	Jennie Harris	Wyndmoor Resident
	Joseph Harris	Wyndmoor Resident
	Joseph Kaub	Springfield Little League Softball, President
	Melinda Williamson	Springfield Little League Softball, Secretary
	Tom McGeehan	Springfield Little League Baseball, Vice President

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

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

3. Administrative Report (*E. Croke*)

Assistant Township Manager, Brandon Ford reviewed Zoom safety protocols to be used at all advisory meetings. All Advisory Board Members will be assigned “co-host” abilities during meetings. Co-host assignment allowed individuals to mute, un-mute and turn on and off camera capabilities. All guests will use the “raise-hand” function to indicate interest in public comment. At that point, the host will un-mute the individual interested in making public comment.

The Board of Commissioners approve the appointment of Joe Ferraro for the School District Representative position on the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee.

4. Recreation Report (*E. Croke*)

The 2021 Summer Guide was released to the public in late February. Registration opened on March 1st. Over the course of three days, over \$54,000 in revenue came in. All programs are limited in capacity due to COVID-19 protocols. In the event registration restrictions change, Park and Recreation staff will update each program and open additional seats to the public. Ms. Croke thanked the School District for allowing the Parks and Recreation Department to host camps in school facilities. Many of these programs are not possible without the assistance of the School District.

5. Park Report (*E. Croke*)

- **Bysher Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** No Issues.
- **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:** Broken Window on 2/27.

6. Old Business (*All*)

Little League Baseball Field Improvements: The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Springfield Little League Baseball (SLLB) plans for new dugouts for the Majors Field located in Bysher Park.

Little League Softball Field Improvements: The Springfield Little League Softball volunteers (SLLS) have submitted proposed plans for Veterans Park. Wyndmoor residents Robert McGrath, Margret Einarson, Jennie Harris and Joseph Harris were in attendance during the meeting to review all final plans. Mr. McGrath noted the expansion of the parking lot could cause water displacement. Joseph Kaub, President of the Springfield Little League Softball organization, explained the surface intended will be porous and in accordance with storm water management requirements. Ms. Einarson noted the parking was close to the fence line of residential homes. Mr. Kaub acknowledged the concerns and noted the plans would be in accordance to all code requirements enforced by the Township. Tom McGeehan, Springfield Little League Baseball, Vice President, explained the extension of the parking lot would eliminate street parking. Mr. and Mrs. Harris approved of changes made to the plan. Ms. Croke noted the infield mix corral will be removed from the complex.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Springfield Little League Softball (SLLS) plans for shed relocation, batting cage relocation, parking lot expansion, fence extension and future open air dugouts at Veteran's Park.

Field Permits: No permits have been issued. Ms. Croke noted the department has received field requests from Springfield Soccer Club, Spartan Lacrosse Club and Spartan Girls Lacrosse Club. Ms. Croke is working with Little League Softball and Little League Baseball on permits for Spring/Summer.

Fish Stocking: Mr. Morris has arranged and ordered fish stocking for both Sandy Run Quarry and Hillcrest Pond. Mr. Morris is also making strides to reestablish the Fishing Clinic organized by the Friends of Hillcrest Pond.

Seed Exchange Partnership with Shade Tree: Ms. Hughes has been discussing plans with the Township Shade Tree Commission. Ms. Hughes concluded that hosting a traditional seed swap may not be safe during a pandemic. Ms. Hughes has plans to reimagine the event and create a safe experience for the community.

7. New Business (All)

COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan for Sport and Recreation Organizations: While COVID-19 is still prevalent in community, the Parks and Recreation Department intends on providing a Health and Safety Plan to sport and recreation organizations that utilize Township facilities. Specifically, the plan will outline methods to mitigate issues faces in 2020.

Park Use Classifications: During the pandemic, several groups have requested to use public parks for private events. With several parks residing in close proximity to residential homes, does the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee feel it is appropriate to set defined uses for each park? Discussion will continue during the April meeting.

8. Public Comments (All)

No public comments.

9. School District Report (M. Needleman)

Mr. Needleman reminded everyone the plan to raze the former Enfield Elementary School is in progress.

10. Commissioners' Report (E. Graham) (moved to start of meeting)

Commissioner Graham shared his report at the start of the meeting as a result of a meeting with Cheltenham officials regarding Sandy Hill Road traffic patterns. Safety concerns surrounding the traffic patterns are to be addressed as a result of a near death incident. All PennDOT regulations are to be met.

As a result of recent Zoom “bombing” during Black History Month, Commissioner Graham organized meetings with fellow Commissioners, Multicultural Parents Association of Springfield Township, Cheltenham and Norristown NAACP Branches and residents. Robin Bernstein, Senior Associate Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, presented methods to combat further issues.

11. Call for Adjournment (E. Croke)

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00 pm

To join and participating in the Zoom Meeting:

- VIA WEB BROWSER: Copy and paste this link into your web browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85231208681>
- VIA ZOOM APP: if you have the Zoom App on your smartphone, tablet, or computer, open the program, click join a meeting, and enter the Meeting ID: **852 3120 8681**
- VIA CALL-IN (no video): Dial +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Meeting ID: **852 3120 8681**
- PASSCODE: **Parks**

PLEASE NOTE: Should any audio or visual disruptions appear during the meeting, the Administrator may end the meeting immediately.