

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP  
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 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: 894 5928 8237**

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

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:     Greg McNamee                     Springfield Soccer Club  
              Sharon Vecchione                 Rotary Club of Springfield Township

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

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

**3. Administrative Report** (*E. Croke*)

Don Sirianni will be retiring after 39 years with Springfield Township. Mr. Sirianni will be missed dearly by his colleagues.

**4. Recreation Report** (*E. Croke*)

This summer, the P&R Department is offering 45 in person day camps along with 4 virtual. Currently, there are 704 individuals registered for summer youth programming. COVID-19 protocols will remain unchanged and be implemented as advertised. Although the Governor has changed mask regulations, Springfield Township Parks and Recreation will continue to require masks for the comfort of all participants. Between January 1, 2021 and June 1, 2021 Springfield Township Parks and Recreation has hosted programming for 1,041 patrons.

**5. Park Report** (*E. Croke*)

- **Bysher Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** Vandalism and trash.
- **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:** Vandalism and trash.
- **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.

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

Park Use Classifications & Event Permit: The Parks and Recreation Department proposed the classification of each Township Park within the criteria defined by the National Recreation and Park Association. The classification practice will clarify the Township park system and the level of services and amenities available within each park property. Specifically, this classification will simplify which parks are available for athletic rental use, event rental use, and recreational or passive use.

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

Proposed Oktoberfest / Beerfest Event at Veterans Park: During the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee on June 2, Sharon Vecchione presented an Oktoberfest Event on behalf of the Rotary Club of Springfield. This event was previously approved for October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Springfield Recreation Center by the Board of Commissioners. The Rotary requested to add a rain date of October 23<sup>rd</sup> in addition to a change in location from the Recreation Center to Veteran's Park. The change in location to Veterans Park would require use of the multi-use athletic field and use of the parking lot located off Traymore Avenue. Ms. Vecchione noted the primary reason to move to Veterans Park was for grass to reside beneath the inflatable obstacle course rather than macadam.

The Rotary Oktoberfest is intended to raise money for a Winterfest event envisioned for December at Cisco Park. The Winterfest event will potentially raise funds for a Gazebo Lighting project. Members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee were unaware of these two events as well as the gazebo lighting project. As Secretary to the PRAC, Ms. Croke invited the Rotary Club to present the Winterfest event as well as the Lighting project to the PRAC in at the next meeting held in September of 2021.

In May, the Board of Commissioners approved a Park Classification model proposed by the PRAC. This classification eliminates the use of neighborhood parks as an event venue. The classification was proposed as a result of feedback received from the neighbors of Wyndmoor. Veterans Park is intended for athletic use and not event use. Additionally, Springfield Township ordinance 59-4 N prohibits the consumption of alcohol in public parks. Hosting a beer focused event in a public park would require special approval from the Board of Commissioners.

The relocation to Veterans would result in two game day disruption in both the Springfield Little League Softball (SLLS) and Springfield Soccer Club (SSC) seasons. The newly upgraded softball fields funded and maintained by the SLLS would experience significant traffic during this event. SSC was in attendance during the PRAC meeting and expressed strong opposition to the impact on the season's schedule. As primary paying users of the fields, potential damage to the fields was a cause for concern.

All present members voted in opposition to the Rotary Club's request to move the Oktoberfest event to Veterans Park. The Park and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners allow the Rotary to remain at the Recreation Center as previously proposed. To address safety concerns of inflatable obstacle course on macadam, the PRAC suggested use of the grass area beside the playground at Laurel Beech Park.

Trash and Vandalism in Parks: Trash and damages to equipment and fencing have continued to be a problem in Springfield Township. Numerous parks such as McKelvie Park experience copious amounts of litter on the ground in addition to intentionally broken fence posts. Fences are recommended when a playground does not have a buffer and borders a major road, similar to that of Chiaramonte Park. However, it is not recommended to fence in all playgrounds because it leads the guardian to pay less attention. It is also not recommended to have gates on playground areas due to people using the area as a makeshift dog park. The Township has begun to change direction when parks and playgrounds need updating.

The Township frequently receive calls regarding patrons using the playground at Wyndhill Park as a dog park. With the playground being completely enclosed, patrons feel it serves as a perfect dog park. Not only is it unsafe for children and dogs to be penned in together, it is also unsanitary. The Little League also encounters issues with patrons using the enclosed fields for dog training. One volunteer was chased and nearly bit by a dog that was unleashed on the field.

Park and Recreation Professionals Day: Third Friday in July:

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Locally, the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) honors the men and women throughout the state through Park and Recreation Professionals Day. This celebration is held annually on the third Friday in July during the nationally recognized Park and Recreation Month. The Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Department is requested a local adoption of Park and Recreation Professionals Day in Springfield Township. This celebration is held annually on the third Friday in July.

In Person Meetings: The general discussion was in favor of returning to in-person meetings, should the Commissioners feel it is appropriate. Members of the PRAC are excited to return to meetings held in the Township Administration building.

Fall Sport Leagues through P&R: At this point in time, no decision has been made regarding fall Parks and Recreation sport leagues. The Commissioners will provide guidance later in June.

**8. Public Comments** (*All*)

No public comment.

**9. School District Report** (*M. Needleman*)

Mr. Needleman informed the committee of plans to raze old Enfield Elementary. The complex will include two large softball fields, one large multi-use rectangle, a walking trail and outdoor amphitheater. The anticipated project completion will be September 2022.

**10. Commissioners' Report** (*E. Graham*)

Commissioner Graham noted the Hawes Lane townhome development project is being discussed moving forward. The Youth NAACP was able to make advances in the rules of equity within the Springfield Township School District.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 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/89459288237>
- 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: **894 5928 8237**
- VIA CALL-IN (no video): Dial +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Meeting ID: **894 5928 8237**
- PASSCODE: **Parks**

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