

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

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

Kerry Boccella	Chair
Nick Matteo	Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative
Lee Abberley	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Neil DiFranco	School District School Board Representative
Cara Green	School District Representative
Asher Dahlgren	Student Representative
Jim Lee	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 3

Guests: Alison Target Springfield Little League Softball
Kathy Hodgkiss Resident, Wyndmoor

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

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

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (*All*)

No public comment.

4. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

The 2024 Township budget is being reviewed by staff.

5. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of October, programs included Martial Arts, Yoga, Jump Start Basketball Clinic, Elite Tennis Clinic, Soccer Shots Clinic, After School Pottery Class, Adult Pottery Class, and the Youth Soccer League. During the month of October, 489 individuals participated in recreational programming.

Winter Basketball Recreation League registration is open. The program is for boys and girls grades 1 through 8. The program begins on Saturday, December 2. Travel Basketball is being facilitated by the newly formed Springfield Basketball Club.

6. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysker Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiamonte 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:** Vandalism along fence.
- **Veterans Park:** No Issues.
- **Wyndhill Park:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Issues.
- **Walnut Avenue Master Site Plan Committee:** Committee formed.
- **Walnut Trail:** Construction on hold.
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Request for Proposal – Live on Township website

7. Old Business (*All*)

Land Use Agreement – Little League Softball & Little League Baseball: The Committee summarized the discussion held during the October meeting. Alison Target was present to speak on behalf of the Little League Softball organization. Clarification was made regarding communication and organizational expectations in the update and renewal of the Land Use Agreement. Future discussion regarding adding fines for violation of the Land Use Agreement resulted in a split vote. No specific fines will be listed in

the agreement; however, the Township will add a clause indicating fines may be implemented in the event of a violation.

Athletic Sponsorship Sign Policy Development: The Board of Commissioners requested the PRAC develop guidelines for these requests to eliminate continued Board requests. Township staff noted that the Parkland Sponsor Signage Policy will address sizes, colors, materials and locations for sponsor signs within municipal parkland properties. The Committee discussed the challenge of hanging sponsor signs on fields with no existing fence. The Committee suggested the use of yard signs with stakes to be collected at the conclusion of each competition day.

Park by Park Analysis: The Committee agreed to discuss assessments at a later meeting.

8. New Business (*All*)

No new business reported.

9. General Public Comment (*All*)

Pickleball: As a result of the recommendation made at the October PRAC meeting, the Commissioners accepted the recommendation to remove the pickleball lines and equipment from the courts at Wyndhill Park. The Commissioners sent a letter to the School District requesting consideration for Pickleball lines at either the High School or Middle School tennis courts. After consideration, the School District rejected the request to apply lines to the outdoor courts. The School District did however offer for the High School indoor courts to be made available for permit. These courts are lined for Pickleball as it is part of the gym curriculum. Anyone interested in renting the facility should contact the School District directly.

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

No report.

11. Commissioners' Report (*J. Lee*)

Commissioner Lee reported the Board of Commissioners are working through the 2024 township budget this month. The Commissioners are looking to implement an Open Space matching program to increase potential funding sources moving forward. During the October meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board approved the Recreation Center Request for Proposal, listened to a presentation from the Montgomery County Planning Commission regarding the draft Township Trails and Connectivity plan, and authorized additional testing at 1725 Walnut Avenue.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm