

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

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

Christopher Tomlinson	Chair
Dave Morris	Vice Chair
Noelle Powell	Member
Adrienne Smythe	Member
Michael Needleman	School District School Board Representative
Jeannine DePaul Nelson	School District Representative
Emily Croke	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ed T. Graham, Esq.	Commissioner

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

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

3. Administrative Report (*E. Croke*)

The Committee voted to keep Christopher Tomlinson as Chair and Dave Morris as Vice-Chair. The Committee welcome School District Representatives: Michael Needleman - School Board Member and Jeannine DePaul Nelson – School Representative. These two individuals were appointed by the School District to sit on the Committee.

4. Recreation Report (*E. Croke*)

The Summer Recreation Guide will be sent to schools in the upcoming weeks. Finishing touches are being put on programming which will contain information regarding summer camps and events. The summer guide will be available online as well.

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:** Replacement platform was delivered with damages. It was sent back. A replacement for the replacement will be shipped within the next month. Due to the age of the structure, the pieces are now custom made and no longer a stock item.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** Input was received on the proposed path and wetlands cleanup. The Committee reviewed concept plan for the proposed revitalization for Mermaid Park. The plans include a paved, ADA walking path and a clean river initiative which will rid the pond of the stagnant cloudy water. The committee suggested to add more benches.
- **Sandy Run Park:** No Issues.
- **Veterans Park:** No Issues
- **Wyndhill Park:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** ADA restroom renovations are underway. The project is scheduled to be complete by the end of March. This project will upgrade two existing restrooms into ADA compliant restrooms.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Issues.

6. Old Business (All)

The Parks and Recreation Department does not have a Mission Statement. In an effort to provide the quality services to the community, it is beneficial for the department to implement one. The committee reviewed the current philosophy (listed below) and revised the proposed Philosophy and Mission Statement (edits are made in red and bold below).

Current Philosophy:

It is the goal of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board to enrich the lives of our residents through recreation, enhancing natural beauty and by maintaining a safe, clean environment. We consistently strive to meet the best interests of the community in short term as well as long term goals. Our Sports Programs are based on the fact that children perform best in a positive, fun, learning environment.

Proposed Mission:

The mission of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Department is to enrich the quality of life by providing year-round leisure opportunities through diverse recreation activities, parks, and facilities that promote health, wellness and education inclusive of all residents of Springfield Township.

Proposed Philosophy:

The philosophy of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of seven fundamental components:

1. Springfield Township shall provide safe open space, parks, recreational facilities and programs for all residents.
2. All children in our community who meet the basic program registration requirements will have the opportunity to participate in Springfield Township facilitated programs.
3. Springfield Township will offer programs at a reasonable cost while providing quality facilities and quality equipment to both volunteers and participants.
4. The Springfield Township staff will **train and** recruit volunteers who will act as role models, mentors and facilitators.
5. All participants in Springfield Township programs shall be treated fairly, and without regard to **sexual orientation** race, color, disability, religion, sex or national origin.
6. Springfield Township youth sport practices and games should be an enjoyable, challenging and learning experience for all participants. The sport program should focus on the enjoyment of the sport and the development of the athlete ~~—not the score.~~
7. Those involved in coaching and leadership positions in Springfield Township facilitated youth sports shall lead by example through the promotion of fair play and sportsmanship.

Changes to the proposed statement are outlined in red. The final proposal will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

7. New Business / Public Comments (All)

The Committee discussed the Montgomery County Proposed Trail and the Cresheim Creek Trail. These two trails meet alongside the 309 Bypass and the Suffolk Road / Norfolk Road neighborhood. Mr. Morris noted the trail would violate privacy of those who bordered the trail. Mr. Tomlinson noted this trail would welcome visitors to walk through the School District property where children are. Ms. Smythe noted it has the potential to raise property value and would provide an active pathway for residents.

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

Mr. Needleman detailed the final steps of the Enfield Elementary Project. When the 2019-2020 school year closes in June, the school district will begin transferring all materials to the new site. Once all materials are removed from the current building, the demolition process will begin. Once the location is completely raised, two PIAA middle school softball fields and one PIAA middle school multi-use field will be installed. Discussions surrounding a snack stand / pavilion are still being flushed out. The new location will be open for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

The School District and Township will meet on February 7 regarding the property on Hawes Lane. Residents have urged either party to purchase the land to eliminate the potential for additional construction. Chris Tomlinson suggested the lot be used for overflow parking to eliminate cars from parking in surrounding neighborhoods during school events.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm