

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP  
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020 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: 825 2691 1824**

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

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

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

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

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

Applications have closed for the new Finance Director position.

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

Winter 2020 programming is starting mid-November. Winter 2021 programs are scheduled but not yet featuring active registrations. In the event COVID-19 cases increase, programs may be postponed or canceled. To eliminate potential refunds, registration will not become open until mid-December.

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

- **Bysher Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiamonte Park:** Park closed until further notice for facility improvements.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** First meeting underway for the DCNR grant project. Political vandalism.
- **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:** No Issues.

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

Hunt for Halloween Event was hosted on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all of our volunteer organizations that participated. Several families sent notes expressing thanks for hosting an event for the community.

## **7. New Business / Public Comments (All)**

### **1. FELL and OWLL Merger and Field Reassignment Proposal**

Flourtown-Erdenheim Little League (FELL), Orelan Wyndmoor Little League (OWLL) and Springfield Little League Softball (SLLS) presented plans for the organization merger and field reassignment. FELL and OWLL have agreed to merge and become Springfield Little League Baseball. Tom McGeehan (OWLL), Scott May (FELL) and Joe Kaub (SLLS) presented merger plans to the Advisory Committee. Each of the three organizations has reached facility maximums and are at full growth which limits the amount of participants they are able to accept. Boys who wish to play baseball from ages 13-15 must leave Township boundaries due to the lack of appropriate field sizes. The presentation detailed plans to remediate the lack of facilities while providing further growth for each organization.

The first phase of the merger will result in SLLS relocating to Veteran's Field. Veteran's would be the new home for SLLS which provides additional benefits such as access to restrooms and management of their own snack stand. The increase in field space allows the program to grow. The program was founded two years ago and experiences exponential growth annually. SLLS had 250 players participate during a COVID-19 season. FELL and OWLL have agreed to assist SLLS in transitioning from Bysher to Veterans. Phase two of the field reassignment will transition the two softball fields at Bysher into baseball diamonds. This will allow SLLB to provide a home field for players' ages 13-15 within Township boundaries. In addition, both softball fields rest in a flood prone area. With the addition of grass, the fields will no longer flood.

The Parks Recreation Department currently houses the ICGSL program at Bysher field. Prior to COVID-19 cancellations, ICGSL was set to field a 12U and 15U team. In 2019, the program had 60 registrants. In 2020, the program had 30 registrants. The Park and Recreation Advisory Committee discussed the merger's effect on the ICGSL program. While the program would no longer be played at Bysher, Veteran's provides ample space in addition to school facilities that are currently utilized. Little League Baseball has a long-standing history in Springfield Township.

As one singular organization, the program will grow as a feeder program directly into the school district. Playing together at a young age will provide the foundation needed to build a competitive team on a high school level. Additionally, by reassigning fields, Springfield Little League Softball will have an equal opportunity to cultivate a robust program for girls at a young age.

After discussion, the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee voted unanimously to write a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners endorsing the merger and support for Springfield Little League Baseball and Springfield Little League Softball field reassignment.

### **2. Veteran's Memorial Park**

Members from the American Legion are interested in pursuing a revitalization of the Veteran's Park Memorial. The Committee discussed financial contributions from surrounding organizations and businesses.

### **3. Board Appointment**

The Committee unanimously voted Dave Morris to the position of Chair with Kerry Boccella as Vice Chair.

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

School will resume in person on November 9 for two days per week hybrid sessions. Demolition of Old Enfield will be held for potential student overflow. If Montgomery County hits 8% positive COVID-19 cases, the school will reconsider in person school.

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

No report.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 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/82526911824>
- 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: **825 2691 1824**
- VIA CALL-IN (no video): Dial +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Meeting ID: **825 2691 1824**
- PASSCODE: **Parks**