

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M.
NOTES**

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

Kerry Boccella	Vice Chair
Adrienne Smythe	Member
Neil DiFranco	School District School Board Representative
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2

Guests: Robert McGrath Wyndmoor Resident
Richard Imperatore Wyndmoor Resident

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

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee did not vote due to do a lack of quorum.

3. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee currently has a member vacancy. The Township has received several interested applicants. The Board of Commissioners will interview interested applicants and assign a new member in the next few months. PRAC Members will vote on the new Chair and Vice Chair during the November meeting.

4. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

The 2022 summer camp season came to a close on August 25. Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Department successfully delivered 45 camps for 836 children over 10 weeks. The Township Recreation Youth Soccer league began on September 10 for children ages 6 – 8 years old. The girl's league had 80 participants and the boy's league had 116 participants. The Springfield Township Pee Wee Soccer League began on September 11 for children ages 3 – 5 years old. A total of 128 children registered for the program. The league will run through November 5th.

The Township Travel Basketball league registration opened to the general public on August 8th at 9:00 am and closed on October 3rd at 11:58 pm. A total of 166 players registered. Each team will feature a roster of 10 players resulting in at least 54 player cuts. This is a significant increase from the 20 player cuts that occurred in the 2021-2022 season. This year, 17 non-residents registered for the program. The Travel program will transition to resident-only starting in the 2023 – 2024 season.

The Township Recreation Basketball League is open to both resident and non-resident players. Registration opened on August 31st and will remain open until the week prior to the start of the program, or until full.

5. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **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:** Closed through fall 2022.
- **Sandy Run Park:** No Issues.
- **Veterans Park:** No Issues

- **Wyndhill Park:** Wood sandbox removal in winter months.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Issues.
- **Tank Car:** No Issues.
- **Walnut Trail:** No Update.

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

Skate Park Update: The Springfield Township Skate Association presented an update on fundraising and the project design progress. The Springfield Township Skate Association formally requested support to be included in the upcoming Recreation Center Master Site Plan. The Skate Association requested a recommendation from PRAC to the Board of Commissioners to include the skate park while working on the Master Site Plan. The three members present were in favor of the idea and will make an informal recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to be inclusive of a potential skate park while working on a Master Site Plan.

Trail Committee Update: A Public Trails Meeting was held on September 29 at the Library. The meeting featured stations with different trail focus points. Each attendee had the opportunity to discuss interests and disinterests in a one on one conversation with various committee members. Residents were able to have direct dialogue with members from the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Around 60 residents attended the open house style meeting. The survey is open to the public, please take time to provide input.

Community Needs Assessment Results: The present members reviewed the results of the survey. Results will be discussed during the November meeting.

Project Request Process Review: The present members will review the process in which patrons may request a project to the Township.

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

Baseball field at Cisco Park: The Township is considering the future of the existing baseball/softball field at Cisco Park (next to the lower field). Based on community usage and permitting, Township residents do not utilize the field for league or recreational play. The Parks and Recreation Department is recommending the Township let the grass grow in and utilize the space for soccer and lacrosse. The backstop will remain intact for players to use as a buffer between the field and woodlands. The three members present were in favor of the idea of the Township allowing the field to grow in.

Wyndhill Pickleball Courts: Usage of the courts picked up over the summer months. The Township is aware of a neighbors who are not in favor of the noise produced by the sport. Additionally, visitors are parking on the street and getting into arguments with individuals who are on site to play tennis.

Recreation Center Advisory Committee ADHOC: The Township Board of Commissioners have announced the creation of a Recreation Center Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to assist with the creation of a master plan for future use and possible renovations to the recreation center located at 1200 E. Willow Grove Ave. Committee members would provide technical advice and recommendations on the selection of the architect. This Committee will be responsible for the Community Center Master Site Plan.

PRAC Alternate Position: Commissioner Ratsavong noted that the PRAC may want to consider adopting two alternate positions as a way to ensure each meeting reaches quorum. Commissioner Ratsavong will make a recommendation at the October Board of Commissioners meeting.

8. Public Comments (*All*)

Richard Imperatore of Wyndmoor expressed concerns regarding the new Pickleball courts at Wyndhill Park. A letter and article were provided to the Committee that charted his various concerns. The letter outlined the courts are loud and can be very disruptive for his family who work from home. The Pickleballers start on the courts in the early morning and will play into the late evening which offers no reprieve from the noise. The courts are used by several non-residents which causes parking on the street to block residential driveways. Several arguments have ensued between players who are not sharing court time. One individual has been hosting paid instruction on the court for several hours at a time which eliminates resident opportunity to play. Mr. Imperatore requested the Township hang signage enforcing rules to restrict hours of play. He also requested the Township install noise canceling screens to muffle sounds of play and conversation. Lastly, Mr. Imperatore requested the Township not build additional courts at Wyndhill Park.

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

Mr. DiFranco noted the former Enfield site project is slotted to be complete by the end of October. The project will include two softball fields, one multi-use rectangle and a walking path. The fields will provide dedicated fields for the Springfield Middle School sport programs.

10. Commissioners' Report (*S. Ratsavong*)

No report.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 6:30 pm