

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.
draft MINUTES

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

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| Adrienne Smythe | Chair |
| Brian Sokel | Vice Chair |
| Lee Abberley | Member |
| Christina Kerper | Member |
| Robert McGrath | Member |
| Nick Matteo | Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative |
| Neil DiFranco | School District School Board Representative |
| Charles Wattley | School District Representative |
| Asher Dahlgren | Student Representative |
| Susanna Ratsavong | Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2 |

Guests: Geoff Cooper President, Springfield Little League Softball

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

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

3. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

The Parks and Recreation Department welcomed a new Program Coordinator to the staff on February 3.

Adrienne Smythe was presented with a plaque for over 10 years of volunteer service. The Township thanks her immensely for the time and dedication she has spent advocating for her community.

4. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of January, programs included Martial Arts, Yoga, Jump Start Sports Basketball, Magarity Tennis Clinic, Speed and Agility Training and the Recreation Basketball League. During the month of January, 451 registrants participated in recreational programming.

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:** Netflix Filmed in December.
- **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:** Burst water pipe repair.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** Heat Issue – Oil Tank
- **Walnut Avenue Master Site Plan Committee:** PORT Preliminary Data Collection
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** MKSD Presentation at February Commissioner Meeting

6. Old Business (*All*)

None.

7. New Business (*All*)

Springfield Little League Softball – Veterans Park Improvement: Geoff Harris, President of the Springfield Little League Softball program, presented a request on behalf of the organization, outlining several proposed improvements to Veterans Park, including:

1. Installation of an additional 8'x12' equipment shed
2. Construction of a concrete patio

3. Addition of a snack shack canopy
4. Installation of overhang fencing/netting atop the backstop fence on the 12U field

Letters were sent to adjacent property owners notifying them of the proposed enhancements. Several neighbors attended the meeting to express ongoing concerns regarding parking congestion and increased traffic generated by the program. Additionally, water runoff along Abington Ave. remains an issue within the park.

Following a discussion, PRAC Members voted to table the proposal until a meeting could be held with neighbors to address these lingering concerns.

8. General Public Comment (*All*)

None.

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

Mr. DiFranco noted, the School District adjusted the annual calendar and has posted the update to the website. He also noted the Land Development project continues on track as planned.

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

Commissioner Ratsavong informed members of a vacancy on the Planning Commission and encouraged anyone interested to visit the Township website for more information. Additionally, it was reported that MKSD would present findings from the Recreation Center needs assessment and data collection process. To ensure a more accurate financial evaluation of the project, the Township approved the addition of a Cost Estimator, who will help determine the expenses associated with either rehabbing or rebuilding the facility.

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at **7:00 pm**. The Walnut Avenue Steering Committee will host an Open House from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.