

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order (*Chair*)

Adrienne Smythe	Chair
Lee Abberley	Member
Christina Kerper	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Nick Matteo	Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative
Grace D'Amico	Student Representative
Kedar Moore	Student Representative
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2

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

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

3. Administrative Report (*M. Taylor*)

- Director – new hire Jim Murphy anticipated start date January 19, 2026
Jim Murphy was present at the meeting and introduced himself to the PRAC and meeting attendants.
- Haws Lane property – request direction on official name for property known as “Harston Woods”
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously voted to continue to refer to the property on Haws Lane as “Harston Woods.”

4. Recreation Report (*B. Lash*)

Throughout the months of November and December, Springfield Township Parks and Recreation offered various programs, including the final weeks of the Fall Soccer League, Martial Arts, Yoga, Storybook Adventure Hike, Youth Chess Club, Mad Science STEM Odyssey, STEM FUNDamentals Using LEGO Materials, Adult Zumba, Adult and Youth Pickleball Clinics, Soccer Shots, Jump Start Sports Basketball, Ladies’ Night Out Chunky Yarn Blanket Workshop, Ceramic Pumpkin Workshop, Winter Night Out Holiday Ornament Workshop, Ceramic Winter Trees Workshop, the Winter Rec Basketball League, and two Winter Break Camps (GeoVentures: Forts and Shelters Camp and USA Sport Group Multi-Sports Camp).

During the month of November, a total of 501 individuals participated in recreational programming.

During the month of December, a total of 495 individuals participated in recreational programming.

The indoor Winter Recreation Basketball League is our largest program currently and will run until February 21. Information regarding the Kidz Klubhouse summer camp including employment information as well as registration details will be made available on January 29.

5. Park Report (*B. Lash*)

- **Bysher Park:** SLLB to replace dugouts at field closest to the Walgreens.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** Minor vandalism to playground fence (repaired).
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Update.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Staff securing budget estimates for a new pedestrian bridge.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Update.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Update.
- **Marlow Field:** No Update.
- **Mermaid Park:** No Update.
- **Sandy Run Park:** Quarry closed for the season.
- **Veterans Park:** SLLS planning to install underdrain along Wyndmoor Drive.
- **Wyndhill Park:** No Update.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** Boiler Repaired.

- **Walnut Avenue Master Site Plan Committee:** Master/Framework Plan presented Dec. 8, 2025.
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Architect and Construction Mgr. contracts awarded.

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

Skateboard Associate Project Proposal: The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously voted to conduct a formal vote on the Laurel Beech Park skate park request during the February 4, 2026 PRAC meeting. Residents in the vicinity of Laurel Beech Park and the Springfield Skateboard Association are to be notified about the formal vote.

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

Mermaid Park Arboretum Project: Amanda Helwig from the Rotary Club of Springfield Township presented the Mermaid Park Arboretum Project in partnership with Morris Arboretum Urban Forestry Consultants (Consultant). The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Mermaid Park Arboretum Project to the Board of Commissioners. This project is an environmental initiative intended to advance conservation, education, and public engagement within Wyndmoor's Mermaid Park.

PRAC approved the following Consultant services as part of the project:

- Conduct a Level II Tree Assessment for all trees greater than 6 inches in diameter within the designated project area.
- Map all trees over 4 inches in diameter at breast height to create a GIS Tree Management Data Layer.
- Tag trees using aluminum tags with sequenced numbers to be later referenced in mapping and reports.
- Document tree characteristics, including species, condition ratings, height range, effective lifespan, and cultural and structural concerns, to name a few. Provide a Management Plan Report outlining findings, recommendations, and qualified contractor suggestions.
- Develop an online interactive map for public use, to be accessed via a QR code and website link.
- Assist with attaining Arb Net Status for Mermaid Park.
- Provide additional consulting services as needed.

The project also includes the installation of a 24" x 36" aluminum panel sign at the primary entrance to Mermaid Park labeled "Mermaid Park Arboretum." The sign will include a QR code directing patrons to information about the arboretum project and the trees that have been mapped and tagged.

PRAC further recommended that:

- The website link also be printed directly on the sign, and
- Both the QR code and the printed link first direct users to a Springfield Township webpage. Which will then direct to the separate Arboretum project site created by the Consultant.

No additional education, staffing, or maintenance obligations were proposed as part of this project.

Piszek Pavilion Signage: Sharon Vecchione from the Rotary Club of Springfield Township requested the installation of an 18" x 24" sign recognizing William Piszek and the Piszek family for their contributions to the Springfield Township community. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously voted to recommend installation of this sign to the Board of Commissioners. The sign is requested to be placed at the Piszek Pavilion in James A. Cisco Park, containing details of the Piszek family's contributions and a picture of William Piszek.

Little League Land Use Agreements: The Little League Land Use Agreements expired on December 31. Little League elections occurred in December with the presidents of the Little League Board remaining the same. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee voiced concerns related to maintenance of fields outside of permitted hours under the agreement, loud music being played, and recurring parking issues. Geoff Cooper, Little League Softball, acknowledged each issue and noted that the organization would do better to address and prevent these issues from occurring again going forward.

PRAC unanimously voted to recommend approval of the updated Land Use Agreements between Springfield Township and Little League Baseball and Little League Softball to the Board of Commissioners, contingent upon the following edits:

1. The agreement shall run from February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027.
2. The Little League's annual meeting/presentation, previously held during the April PRAC meeting, shall occur in conjunction with the February PRAC meeting at which Land Use Agreement measures are discussed.

8. General Public Comment (*All*)

Outdoor AEDs Proposal: Kelly Moore, an Erdenheim resident, recommended the installation of AEDS at all Springfield Township parks and facilities, prioritizing parks that see frequent athletic and recreational use. She emphasized the critical role that rapid access to AEDs plays in saving lives during cardiac emergencies, and that even the quick response times of our township's police officers could be too late in some cases. She highlighted that other communities have installed outdoor AEDs in their parks and believes that Springfield Township should do the same. When concerns were brought up regarding damage and tampering, Kelly Moore noted that many modern outdoor AEDs can be installed in alarmed, temperature-controlled cabinets designed to protect units from weather exposure and deter tampering or misuse. Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator, Brendan Lash, volunteered to survey surrounding townships to gather insight regarding outdoor AEDs, specifically the cost of installation and maintenance, potential damage and tampering risks, training requirements for use, and liability risks. William David, a Wyndmoor resident, suggested adding Narcan emergency kits to AED cabinets.

Skate Park Opposition: A Wyndmoor resident conducted research regarding local skate parks and found that there are three skate parks located within 6.2 miles of the proposed site of the skate park at Laurel Beech Park. It was emphasized that neighbors are opposed to this project and that it would change the character of the park with the loss of green space. Brendan Lash acknowledged and read a letter from a local resident opposed to the skate park, addressing concerns related to a precedent that a project like this could create in which the township could be pressured to accept any special interest project proposal. Art Walters, a Wyndmoor resident, agreed with the initial comments made in opposition to the project.

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

No Board Meeting took place in December. The Middle School project is scheduled to finish construction by the end of December 2027.

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

Susanna Ratsavong announced her new role as the President of the Board of Commissioners and introduced Robert Goldberg as the new Commissioner Liaison for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The committee recognized and thanked Susanna for her efforts and service.

11. Call for Adjournment (*All*)

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 6:30 pm