

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M.
AGENDA**

1. Call to Order (*J.Murphy*)

Adrienne Smythe	Chair
Brian Sokel	Vice Chair
Christina Kerper	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Nick Matteo	Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative
Neil DiFranco	School District School Board Representative
Grace D'Amico	Student Representative
Kedar Moore	Student Representative
Rob Goldberg	Commissioner Liaison

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

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

3. Administrative Report (*J.Murphy*)

We have two new employees in Township Administration, Building & Zoning Administrative Assistant, Laura D'Angelo and Community Relations and Media Specialist Jenna Stark with Alex Clark moving over to the Police Department as the Police Chief's new Administrative Assistant

4. Recreation Report (*J.Murphy*)

Throughout the month of February, Springfield Township Parks and Recreation offered various programs including martial arts, yoga, adult/youth pickleball, girls technical soccer training, a speed, agility and quickness clinic and an adult pottery class. Rec basketball program ended as well. During the month of February there was a total of 370 participants in rec programs.

Kidz Klubhouse registration began on 3/3, and we received 57/100 registrations for the full 6-week camp and around 15/40 for each individual week

K & 6th grade transition camps registration will begin 3/10

All specialty camps registration will begin 3/17

5. Park Report (*J.Murphy*)

- **Bysher Park:** No Update
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Update
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Update
- **James A. Cisco Park:** No Update
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Update
- **Laurel Beech Park:** ADA swing was installed Wednesday 3/4
- **Marlow Field:** No Update
- **Mermaid Park:** Discussed meetup with Canopy Project, Friends of Mermaid Park and Friends of Cresheim Trail regarding developing a plan for plantings, MS-4 compliance and Cresheim Trail connection to the park
- **Sandy Run Park:** No Update
- **Veterans Park:** No Update
- **Wyndhill Park:** Removal of fallen tree, hopefully within a week or two, PW wants to let the ground firm up to avoid turf damage from necessity of a truck to expediate removal
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Update
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Update
- **Walnut Avenue Master Site Plan Committee:** No Update
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** Discussed Initial Exterior Renderings and progress of the project, recommended attendance at 3/5 RCAC meeting for more details

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

Outdoor AED Proposal- The findings regarding maintenance/inspection process for Springfield's current AEDs at Rec A & Rec B as well as surrounding Townships processes and research into the requested information and statistics regarding lawsuits related to AED use in Pennsylvania, were presented. Springfield and surrounding Townships use standard maintenance/inspection process for AEDs, checking 1-2x months to ensure display indicates AED is properly functioning as well ensuring the battery and pads are not expired.

Due to the increasing availability of AEDs, along with their proven success rate, legal issues surrounding AEDs are transitioning from concerns about improper use to litigation focused on the absence or non-availability of the devices. This transition has seen lawsuits filed when AEDs have not been used, are not available or are available but their presence is not advertised to the general public.

The Federal Cardiac Arrest Act and Pennsylvania's Good Samaritan laws protect both the user and municipality as long as emergency services are properly notified of the presence and location, the AEDS are properly maintained and tested, and the Township provides appropriate training to expected users (Township staff that are likely to use them, this does not include members of the public).

Brian Sokel asked where the outdoor AEDs would be located and how many would be needed. Rob Golberg mentioned the fact that SPD carries them in their vehicles. In response to both questions resident, Kelly Moore, suggested a pilot program at Laurel Beech and that although SPD carries AEDs every second counts in a life-threatening situation. Brian Sokel asked how much the units cost. Jim Murphy stated around \$3000 with the AED and protective case to house the unit. A discussion about using crowd-sourcing methods or grants to offset the cost ensued. Neil DiFranco suggested and made a motion to have a pilot program at both Laurel Beech Park and Cisco Park.

PRAC unanimously voted in favor of the pilot program at both parks.

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

Special Approval Request: Cisco Park Wood Bridge- Resident Sandy Lory presented on behalf of Springfield Township Service Unit's Girl Scout group for their request for special approval to add exclusive use of the wood bridge at Cisco Park to their Park Event Permit application for the Gazebo. The bridge will be used in their event which celebrates the girls who are progressing to the next level of Girl Scouts and recognizes those earning high awards. The troop already uses the park for many activities and it would have special meaning to have the ceremony using the bridge. The bridge will be needed for exclusive use for around an hour from 6:00pm-7:00pm during the main ceremony where the girls are guided across the bridge to symbolize their transition to the next level. The original date requested of Tuesday May 26, 2026, may need to be amended due to a conflict, however, Brian Sokel made a motion to approve the request with the date TBD by Sandy and the Parks and Recreation Director.

PRAC unanimously voted in favor of the request.

8. **General Public Comment** *(All)*

Parks Cleanup Initiative- Shade Tree Commission representative, Craig Hinton, presented the commission's idea for regularly scheduled park cleanups using community volunteers.

Grace D'Amico mentioned it would be a good way for the high school students to satisfy their required community service hours. Christina Kerper brought up that the Friends of Mermaid Park had proposed similar ideas in the past and waivers had to be signed to limit Township liability during the events and asked if there were other ways to implement for volunteers and groups without insurance. Adrienne Smythe suggested guidance on potential projects from Public Works and Parks and Recreation to avoid overlap and provide structure. Brian Sokel suggested investigating how surrounding Townships

implement similar community volunteer days, development of a specific plan and research into insurance requirements for groups and/or the Township.

Skatepark Location Opposition- Resident, Art Walters wanted to reiterate he is not opposed to a skatepark just to the location and he gave his reasons why, proximity to the surrounding neighbor's homes, potential increase in traffic and bad element specifically at night as well as the loss of the playground. Bob McGrath stated he believes the vote to recommend Laurel Beech Park as the proposed site for the Springfield Township Skateboard Association's skate park project was a mistake. Brian Sokel and Neil DiFranco referenced a petition that has been circulating in the community that is misrepresenting the facts of the proposed project and that the playground will not be replaced. Adrienne Smythe echoed this, stating that the playground needs replacement and the plan has always been to remove it and incorporate both projects. Nick emphasized that there are many more meetings to take place before the proposed project would be green lit. Christina Kerper reiterated that the vote was in favor of Laurel Beech Park not the specific location of the playground. A conversation between Art and the committee members continued along these lines culminating in Adrienne reminding everyone the PRAC members role is to listen to everyone, recommend additional research when needed and make the best, most informed decisions for the community as whole. Rob Goldberg also suggested that anyone who wants to voice their opinion on any subject directly to the Commissioners should attend their Monday workshop meetings.

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

There was no relevant information pertaining to Parks and Recreation at the February 17th Board Meeting, the next meeting is Tuesday March 17.

The turf fields are ready and being used. The grass fields still need to dry out, depending on weather, they may not be ready for beginning of spring season.

Opening Night of the spring musical "Adams Family" is Thursday March 5th at 7:00pm

10. Commissioners' Report (*R. Goldberg*)

It was recommended to check the website for the Monday March 9th Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda.

11. Call for Adjournment (*All*)

- Next meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 6:30 pm