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

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

Adrienne Smythe	Chair
Brian Sokel	Vice Chair
Lee Abberley	Member
Christina Kerper	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Neil DiFranco	School District School Board Representative
Grace D'Amico	Student Representative
Rob Goldberg	Commissioner Liaison

2. **Approval of September Meeting Minutes** *(All)*

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

3. **Administrative Report** *(J. Murphy)*

   It was announced that the Board of Commissioners' Budget Workshop meeting took place on 10/21 and the Budget Presentation will be held at the Board of Commissioners' 11/11 Workshop meeting.

4. **Recreation Report** *(J. Murphy)*

   Throughout the month of October, Springfield Township offered new weekly programs as well as ongoing weekly programs. The new programs included beginner and intermediate adult pickleball clinics, NASA: Academy of Future Space Explorers, adult and youth tennis clinics, a Halloween themed ceramics class and Treats on the Trail: Halloween Costume Hike.

   The ongoing programs included yoga, martial arts, adult & senior stretching, basketball clinics, track & field, chess, LEGO engineering, Soccer Shots, gymnastics and Rec soccer.

   A total of 582 people participated in recreation programs during the month.

5. **Park Report** *(J. Murphy)*
   - **Bysher Park**: No Update
   - **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** Two meetings were held with Springfield Township Skateboard Association and their designer to discuss design considerations.
   - **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park**: No Update
   - **James A. Cisco Park**: No Update
   - **James R. Fulginiti Park**: No Update
   - **Laurel Beech Park:** No Update
   - **Marlow Field:** No Update
   - **Mermaid Park:** The Community Canopy Project's final planting day was Sunday 11/1 from 9:30am-12:00pm. A total of 91 native trees and 39 native shrubs were planted during the project.
   - **Sandy Run Park**: The porta-potty and wooden enclosure that surrounds it caught fire, the fire was extinguished, however, neither were salvageable.
   - **Veterans Park:** No Update
   - **Wyndhill Park**: No Update
   - **Springfield Township Recreation Center A**: No Update
   - **Springfield Township Recreation Center B**: No Update
   - **Walnut Avenue Master Site Plan Committee:** Township Engineer Tim Woodrow will be putting together an initial site plan for the project.
   - **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** No Update

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

Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Lawn to Meadow Project Proposal at Mermaid Park

First a recap of the questions asked by the PRAC at the October meeting were reviewed. These included the yearly cost to maintain the meadow after the grant, education to enhance the ability for either the Township staff or outside contractor to perform the necessary maintenance, comparison of the total acreage of the park to the new CCP plantings and the potential meadow project to assess the amount of space available for passive recreation, and engagement of the community (via a letter to nearby residents and signage posted at the park) for further feedback/notification of the discussion about the project at the November PRAC. A letter was sent to the nearby neighbors, and signage was posted at the park approximately two weeks before the November meeting. It was also noted that the Township has the equipment and ability to mow to the necessary 8" height twice per year.

As there were more residents attending than the previous meeting, the reps from Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) gave a recap of their presentation from the October meeting. Paul Racette presented PEC's background and mission as well as the purpose of the two grants they were awarded, one for lawn to meadow educational training from the PA Fish & Game Commission and one through the DCNR's C2P2 grant program for the actual installation of lawn to meadow conversion.

Becca Jarvis then reviewed PEC's proposal for a meadow project on 0.3 acres of land at Mermaid Park as well as the ecological benefits of meadow systems. Three design options were presented. One with paths through the meadow, one with paths that led to seating areas within the meadow and one with a seating area near the walking path along the outside of the meadow. She noted the C2P2 grant would total over $11,000 for the project. She also presented the maintenance cost associated with invasive plant identification and removal. Native Creations, the contractor selected to install the meadow project, gave a quote of $1,750 per year for 2 annual inspections that come with a full report of the invasive plants in the meadow as well as recommendations for removal. They also gave a quote of $1,258.75 per herbicide spot treatment application to remove the invasive plants and an estimated need for 1-3 applications per year. The Township's Turf Management contractor, Pennsylvania Turf, was also consulted for a quote on herbicide spot treatment. The quote given was $200/hr. The Township contractor does not specialize in this type of application so they would need an inspection report performed by a contractor that does to be able to identify and remove invasive plants.

A comparison of the total acreage of the park to the new CCP plantings and the potential meadow project was then reviewed. Mermaid Park is 7 acres in total with much of it covered by trees and the pond. The large open area in the front of the park is approximately 1.26 acres with 0.4 of those acres having new tree/shrub plantings from the Community Canopy Project, leaving 0.86 acres of open space. The open area where the proposed meadow project would be installed is 0.3 acres. Pictures of the open space as well as a video taken by PRAC member, Christina Kerper, were reviewed to help visualize the space. Becca noted that she made a short visit to the area of Cisco Park that was suggested by Commissioner Rob Goldberg and believes it could be a potential replacement for the proposal at Mermaid Park. A full meadow assessment as well as a conversation with DCNR about transferring the grant funds to a different park location would need to occur before the location could be considered.

At this point, the meeting was opened to public comment to get feedback from the residents. Four different residents spoke. Mary commented on the success of the path and how the park feels safer and that there is a higher sense of community since its installation. She also stated she does not believe the spot chosen is ideal for a meadow, benefits of a meadow should be weighed against usability of the space, that the approach to projects at the park should be taken more holistically and that there are other higher priority needs such as stabilization of the streambank. Candace agreed with Mary's comments and added the need for additional trash cans if picnic tables were installed, the need to consider the wetness of the proposed area after rain and the condition of the pond water getting worse. Beth also agreed with the previous residents' comments and added the need to prioritize time and energy maintaining what already exists at the park such as the pollinator garden. She also asked if there could be an easier way to notify the Township when maintenance needs are required at the parks. Jerrie commented on the potential location at Cisco Park that was discussed. She believes it is not an ideal spot, and priority should given to maintaining the rest of the park.

The conversation then pivoted to a discussion about recreation and senior program offerings. See "General Public Comment"

The PRAC members considered the project proposal to be a net benefit to the Township park system, however, given the feedback from the residents decided not to vote for a specific park.

Adrienne Smythe made a motion to recommend PEC's proposal for a lawn to meadow conversion at one of Springfield Township's parks. PRAC members voted unanimously in favor.

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

No new business was discussed

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

Resident Beverly commented that in the past there was a lack of recreation programming targeted at the senior population of the Township and given this demographic makes up almost half of the population of the Township, there is a need for more. It was noted that there are currently 12 programs that seniors can register for and that the Program Coordinator, Brendan Lash, has done an excellent job expanding recreation program offerings to all age groups, including seniors. It was also noted that when the construction of the new recreation facility is complete it is the goal of the Parks and Recreation department to further expand the program offerings to all ages. However, during the construction phase it will be difficult to offer the same number of indoor recreation programs as space in the Township is limited. The Parks and Recreation department is also open to any ideas and is willing to implement programs that are a need or want of the Township residents

Beverly suggested she does not want to lose the momentum of the expanding recreation program offerings during the construction phase and offered to share ideas for programs as well as potential places for indoor programming space during the daytime hours. The Parks and Recreation staff agree with this, and she agreed she would bring these ideas to them at a later date.

Jerrie agreed with Beverly's comments and also stated the need for expanded recreation program offerings for people with special needs. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation staff agree and are open and willing to offer any programs the Township's residents need and want.

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

An update was given on upcoming meetings.

School Board Meeting- 11/17
Property Committee Meeting- 11/19, discussion of potential improvements to the pool

The Fall play is titled "Sweet Surrender". Performances will be 11/12-1/14

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

It was noted that the stormwater pipe extension at Veterans Park associated with the Penn's Walk development being constructed at 1005 E. Willow Grove Ave., is slated to begin within a few weeks. The pipe will run in between the backstops and backyards of the houses on Wyndmoor Drive. The expectation is the improved stormwater drainage will alleviate issues related to poor field conditions after storms.

11. **Call for Adjournment** *(All)*
- Next meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 6:30 pm