

Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from April 10, 2023

Present: Debbie Marchesani, Kris Belser, Dori Bower, Helene Ratner, Missy Kitzmiller, Bill Fuller, Dan Giacomelli, Patrick Graham and Paul Kopera
Absent:
Guests: Pickleball Players – Kathleen Johnson of 33 Dawn Road and Kathleen Dienna of 24 Dawn Road

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Debbie Marchesani.

Public Comment: Kathleen Johnson and Kathleen Dienna came to the April P&R Board meeting to discuss the conditions of the pickleball courts at Firefighters' Park and uncover what benefits do they receive for paying the \$40 cost to belong to the Firefighters' Park Pickleball Club (FPPC). There are crowds at the FP park courts and not all the people that are there are from our township, nor do they pay the \$40 cost to belong to the FPPC. The courts need to be repaired. Patrick mentioned that reasonable bids came in to rebuild the courts as 8 dedicated pickleball courts. The work will tentatively occur sometime between May and September. Patrick explained that the purpose of the FPPC is to create a 12-hour time slot of organized play – several days and morning and evening. People do not have to belong to the club but then they cannot play during those designated times. The Twp. has reserved those 12 hours for FPPC members, organized by a Twp staff person.

Players who are members of the FPPC know that others will be there when they arrive, players will be differentiated by skill level by the Twp employee organizing the game, and that you are guaranteed instruction (and a paddle) if needed, during those specific 12 hours. It was noted that the courts at FP were in similar condition last year which is why the P&R Dept is rebuilding the entire court complex to rebuild the sub-floor. The \$40 membership covers the cost of the Twp employee who organizes 12-hours of pickleball weekly for 36 weeks per year. It breaks down to \$1.11 a week or 8 cents an hour. The P&R Dept offered to refund the \$40 if they wanted it.

Old Business: A motion was made by Missy Kitzmiller and seconded by Dori Bower to approve the minutes from the March 13th Board meeting with a slight amendment that we remove 'sincerely hope that this will be our last year having the 4th of July parade as it is our 10th year'. In 2026, we will celebrate the country's 250th Birthday by having a Community Day in Levittown or a similarly appropriate location; the motion was approved and passed by all 7-0.

Program Update: The Summer Guide was mailed to residents in early April. The adult fitness classes are either filled or close to capacity so all good on the program front. Adult Kickball starts this Friday 4/14 with eight teams at Firefighters'. Summer camp is at capacity at the Barn with a waitlist but there is still some space at the Senior Center. Forty staff have been hired to date, nearing the Dept goal. Summer Rec starts on 6/19; Basketball starts on 6/12.

Upcoming events: Multimodal Improvement Plan (MIP) had six people attend public meeting on 4/4; survey will be available to the public to make comments online. Forsythia Crossing - \$500M grant came through for new hockey rink, lighting and bathrooms. Big Whiskey and the Uptown String Band will be joining the 4th of July parade which starts at 9:00 am.

Bare root tree planting 4/22 and garden cleanup 4/15 is scheduled. Park cleanup scheduled for 4/22 in five parks – Community Park, Forsythia, Cobalt, Juniper, and Highland Park. Earth Day is being held at Core Creek Park on 4/29 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and volunteers are needed to help with that event as well. The Sports Block Party at Community Park is on 5/5 and also looking for volunteers to help with this event. The 40th Annual Bucks County Senior Days will have open registration starting on 4/3 and bocce will be at our Senior Center on 6/2. On 6/3, the Middletown Community Foundation will be having their Woof A Palooza run/walk at Forsythia Crossing. There will be 2500 32-gallon recycling bins that will be available for residents; postcards were sent out and residents can sign up online for these new bins, while they last.

Reminder: The May 8th meeting will be held at 3 Municipal Way on the second floor at 6:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm with a motion by Helene Ratner and seconded by Missy Kitzmiller.