

**Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from October 14, 2024**

Present: Debbie Marchesani, Dori Bower, Helene Ratner, Missy Kitzmiller, Dan Giacomelli, Bill Fuller, Patrick Graham
Absent: Kris Belser, Nicole Tener, Joanne Morelli, Paul Kopera (until 7pm)
Guests: Bill Thomas - MAA, Lamar Frye – LAA Soccer

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chairperson Debbie Marchesani. (The P&R Board Meeting was held in the Mgr's Conference Room since there were four meetings in the Twp Building on 10/14, including the Budget Workshop open to the public.)

Public Comment:

A) Bill Thomas from MAA started a discussion regarding a storage unit at the Forsythia Gate Park hockey rink as to whether to get a 10x10 or 10x12 unit as things are currently stored in the penalty box. The Parks and Rec board asked for more specifics on the units and that there be solar lights on the storage unit. There will be a formal agreement in place for the storage unit and that MAA and Parks and Rec will work out this agreement and the board will consider approving once we receive all the details. Missy Kitzmiller made a motion to conditionally approve the unit upon further details, Dan seconded the motion, and a vote was taken 3-3 (a tie, no definitive action). The P&R Board reminded MAA to bring the shed plans to the Parks and Rec board. B) Next, a scoreboard was discussed to put along the new rink along with sponsorships on it as right now, there is a portable scoreboard and easy access to the scoreboard. C) MAA also talked about the water on the softball field; getting water for the fields as there is only one line on the Babe Ruth field which has problems with the pressure, and this has been going on since the lights were installed. MAA was told that there is no capital funding for 2025, and we can look at other alternatives. D) Talked about the PVC removal from Field 7 which was stakes that were hammered down for now. They present a danger to impale players and people, so the P&R Dept has insisted that MAA remove the stakes before Spring 2025. The stakes will heave upwards as the ground freezes and create a dangerous environment. Bill Thomas said the sleeves in Field 7 (softball) will be taken out in the spring.

Lamar Frye, attending his first meeting on behalf of LNUSC (aka LAA Soccer) is having a tournament and requested lights for 11/23 and 11/24 and this was approved by the entire board. Public Comment ended.

A motion was made by Missy Kitzmiller and seconded by Bill Fuller to approve the minutes from our September meeting; the motion was approved by all.

Construction and Capital Improvement Status: Deck at the Barn was awarded by the MT BOS on 9/9/24. The Pre-Construction meeting was held on 9/9/24. The project was awarded at about \$95,000 and will be a two to three-week project once started. The deck will be started late September once lumber is ordered.

Comprehensive Plan – DCNR – went out for bids; interviewed by the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (which includes Missy Kitzmiller of the P&R Board) on 7/28 as the project is \$110,000. Grant covers half of the cost and the consultant, Simone Collins, was approved by MT BOS during August 12 Meeting. The final Comprehensive Plan should be completed by the end of 2025 based on the project plan. The next meeting for the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for 10/24 when Simone Collins and the P&R Staff view all 19 parks, 4 preserved properties, and two wetland properties.

In other capital project news, the MT BOS approved \$27,000 for cameras and locks for the Barn. This work should be completed by November 1. Paul has to spend about \$15,000 on new fire code systems at the concession stands at MCP and TOP; and the Senior Center kitchen.

Patrick talked about the increase in the pickleball fee as we will set the non-resident fee the same as Lower Makefield's resident fee which will be a increase in the non-resident fee to \$120 from \$63. The resident fee is rising to \$58 (?) from \$42.

The Board pivoted to a discussion and debrief on the Township's newest community event: **Groovin' at the Gates** on 9/28. The event hosted 1,200 people over the five hours; overall, a great event with a good variety of vendors. Despite the weather, those who attended thoroughly enjoyed everything. Only real problem was the busing of people back and forth from the Senior Center and Schweitzer as there was too much gaps in time and people were waiting long so Helene drove some of them in the golf cart to both locations. Need to have them be continually picking up and dropping off residents, especially seniors and handicapped. Parklandfest at Firefighters' Park was held on 10/5 from noon until 4 pm. The Holiday Open House is scheduled for 12/12 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the township building. We did have a discussion about Halloween and how some of us loved the event during covid and perhaps next year teaming up with a group at Maple Point.

The Winter 2025 Guide Program is currently being written, designed, and programs confirmed. It will mail late December, early January to all residents of Middletown.

Board members whose terms expire at the end of 2024 all requested to be renewed: all three said yes (Fuller, Giacomelli, Kitzmiller). Kopera forwarded all three names to the Township Manager for renewal by the MT BOS.

Reminder: The next meeting will be held on TUESDAY, November 12 at the Middletown Twp. Municipal Bldg. 3 Municipal Way Langhorne PA 19047 at 6:00 pm in the Executive Conference Room.

Dan Giacomelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill Fuller seconded; the motion was approved by all, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.