

Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from January 13, 2025

Present: Debbie Marchesani, Kris Belser, Dori Bower, Helene Ratner, Dan Giacomelli, Bill Fuller, Missy Kitzmiller, Patrick Graham, Joanne Morelli, Nicole Tener, Paul Kopera

Absent:

Guests: Lamar Frye, LAA

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Debbie Marchesani. Since this was the first meeting of the year, we had a reorganization and we voted to do one vote on all positions with Debbie Marchesani as Chair, Kristine Belser as Vice Chair and Helene Ratner as Secretary to remain in their current positions which was made as a motion by Dan Giacomelli and seconded by Bill Fuller. It was also included in this motion to keep the meetings on the second Monday of each month and for them to start at 6:00 pm in the Executive Conference Room on the second floor. There was no public comment. The minutes from November 12, 2024, were approved with a motion from Kris Belser and seconded by Dan Giacomelli and approved by all 7-0.

Old Business: The PR Board debriefed on the Holiday Open House; the evening was cold but still had good attendance at the event. This was the first year that Amazon was a sponsor, and they did a great job and had a table at the event. Everyone attending seemed to enjoy themselves despite the weather. The Neshaminy choir under the new leadership was a huge hit at the event as was the inflatables we had this year.

The Twp's EAC planted twelve (12) trees in Langhorne at Ford and Ford Avenue; three (3) in Tareyton with a BC Troop; one (1) in Forsythia by a memorial bench.

The Deck at the Barn was a ten- week job and it was completed on December 6th. Meanwhile by Halloween time, Cameras were installed at the Barn (out front, upper entrances, front entrance) along with auto lock system. Hockey rink in Forsythia Gate – MAA will present a more complete proposal to our PR Board; Bill Thomas does have a list of the questions to answer from the PR Board before proceeding with anything. The Skatepark group is still raising money for the open area. The cost of their addition is \$90,000. It is improbable that they will raise that much.

New Business: There will be a public meeting on January 23rd in the Public Hall regarding the Comprehensive DCNR Plan Update; this is the first update since the one we did in 2005 (34 in person/29 zoom – respectable attendance). Will send out links as you can either view via zoom or be there in person. Looking for a Summer Rec Basketball Coordinator – Kyle Ratner wants to return to this position as he enjoyed it last year. For the 2025 business environment, we are budgeted to bring in \$625,000 of revenue which would be a 7% YOY increase over the last ten years.

Program Report: Winter guides were mailed out; the 10% discount for Summer Rec ends on

January 31st. Looking to raise rental fees and field permits this year. Classes start the week of January 13th. Events during the first quarter of 2025 include the 20th anniversary of the Teen Talent Competition on January 25th at Oxford Valley Mall with Missy and Helene helping out and Dan will be the fantastic emcee once again this year! We will have twelve (12) acts this year which includes three (3) bands that have signed up so far; auditions are this coming weekend.

Earth Day, sponsored by Robin Kemmerer, tree-give-away sponsored by MRC, is scheduled for April 26th at Core Creek Park and so far, we have 15 vendors. Park Cleanup at Snowball, Forsythia, and Juniper Hill is scheduled for April 5th from 9 am to 11 am. Additional tree planting (20) will take place sometime in mid-April. Garden Prep at the Senior Center is scheduled for March 28 9:30-11:30 am.

Rates for 2025 pickleball membership have increased slightly for R (\$58) and significantly for NR (\$120 to match LMT fee). Golf lessons will return and take place at Middletown Country Club on Fridays. Ballet for tots is sold out in Session 1. There is a free indoors learn to skate clinic scheduled for January 25th that has been filling up. Our exercise classes continue to do well – Zumba, tai chi, chair yoga along with a new yoga dance class in February. Several free seminars are also scheduled soon at the Municipal Building including Medicare options, selling your home and financial seminars.

No firm dates for the Senior Games yet.

Reminder: Next meeting will be held on Monday, February 10th at 6:00 pm in the Public Hall with our sports clubs. Anita Nardone from Simone Collins will join us as well.

Helene Ratner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dori Bower seconded; the motion was approved by all, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.