

**Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from February 12, 2024**

Present: Kris Belser, Helene Ratner, Missy Kitzmiller, Dan Giacomelli, Patrick Graham, Paul Kopera
Absent: Debbie Marchesani, Dori Bower, Bill Fuller, Joanne Morelli, Nicole Tener
Guests: John Buckland, Hulmeville Soccer, Jack Zupan, Bucks Senior Softball, Christopher Kall, Christian Fellowship Softball, Dave Schaller, MAA, Jeanette McVeigh, MAA, Cesar Ballester, Middletown Mammoths Men's Baseball, Brian Ricci, Middletown Mammoths Men's Baseball, Kevin McGerry, LAA, Mike Ivins, 215 Lacrosse, David Spellman, LNUSC

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Vice Chair, Kris Belser. This meeting was attended by all the above sports organizations, and we went around the room for them to talk about each one.

Cesar Ballester said that the Middletown Mammoths Men's Baseball League has existed for 50 years, and they have been using the MAA fields for over 8 years. This league is for men over the age of 25 years and play every Sunday starting April 1 through August. The water pressure at the MAA fields is not good. Spring soccer is held at Walter Miller. MAA has softball/T-ball, baseball, and hockey in the spring. Problem with water being on the infield. Opening day is on 4/6 with the rain date scheduled for 4/13. Bill Thomas in charge of baseball; Mike Kepner in charge of softball; softball numbers are up. Maintenance day is scheduled for March including at Miller.

David Spellman of Langhorne/Neshaminy soccer club – he is new to this; is happy to listen and observe.

Mike Ivins Lacrosse – started in 2020. Play at Chris Jones Park in summer and also play at Neshaminy High School. March 1st season starts – 7th and 8th grade girls only.

Christopher Kall, Christian Fellowship Softball- started in 1981; has 7 teams which represent 10 churches. They divide the costs between the churches and play at Firefighters and Chris Jones parks. They would like dirt to throw in the puddles that are on the fields because of the water. Play on Tuesdays and Thursdays from May through July. Also, would like lights at Firefighters.

Paul Kopera talked about the Forsythia Crossing hockey rink and the \$500,000 grant with the work being done from St. Patrick's day through Memorial Day. This year we have less money to work with than in previous years so project has to come in on budget.

Also talked about the road project on Langhorne Yardley Road and Woodbourne Road that according to PennDOT will start around April and that the Core Creek Elementary school is due to open the fall of 2024.

Work on the 2024 Parks & Rec Comprehensive Plan is starting; updating the 2005 plan. The

2024 Steering Cmte includes nine engaged residents and includes LAA and MAA, residents in Langhorne and Levittown, business people, member of P&R Board and EAC.

John Buckland said Hulmeville SC has 900 kids which includes 75 teams and 3- to 19-year-old playing; they play at Hoover. Problems with the grass cutting after the end of the school year as it cost them \$3,000 to cut the grass. Hoover back field was quaded this winter.

Jack Zupan with the Senior Softball group plays Tuesdays and Thursdays mornings at the Community Park and so far, 132 are registered to play for 9 teams. They play 32 to 36 games starting mid-April with taking a two week break starting the week of July 4th. The Forever Young group was unable to field enough players in 2024. Their All-Star game is in the evening and they are putting a request in soon for a Monday. They are also renewing their 2018 request for a water fountain at Community Park.

LAA has over 500 kids for baseball and softball and also 7 travel teams. They also have a Junior American Legion which is part of the Connie Mack league and 11 travel softball teams. Opening day is 4/6. Fields will be worked on in March. Basketball went well – went from 600 to 920 participants.

Paul mentioned general information: there is no Sports Block party this year; there will be a Stand Up Neshaminy Event on Friday, May 10th which Jan King will be involved at Maple Point. This will impact LAA. Water and portable toilets will be back at the Community Park around St. Patrick's Day.

<At this point, most sport league coordinators left the meeting. MAA remained for remainder.>

A motion was made by Missy Kitzmiller and seconded by Helene Ratner to approve the January 8, 2024, minutes; the motion was approved by all, 5-0.

Program Update from Patrick: Winter guides have been mailed out; 10% discount for summer rec is good until the end of January 2024. Earth Day is 4/27 and Robin Kemmerer will be a sponsor again. Pita Chip food truck setup is confirmed. Patrick is working on field permits, lighting, traffic, and templates. Fee schedule discussed regarding field usage and lights. Non-resident rate – 20% surcharge. Park Cleanup scheduled for 4/6 in Juniper, Snowball, Forsythia from 9 to 11 am; Garden cleanup on 4/20 at the Senior Center; Tree planting by Twin Oaks Park for 4/18-20 tbd. Kickball opens at Firefighters' Park on April 12th (in the fall it is held at Community Park). Groovin' in the Gates is scheduled for 9/28, Parklandfest is 10/5 and Holiday Open House 12/12. The Talent show at mall was great – all female performers and Dan did a fabulous job as emcee. Joanne did a wonderful job preparing for the event and as always, a great job that day – kudos to the entire staff! Looking forward to the 20th anniversary!!!!

Reminder: The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 11th at the Middletown Twp. Municipal Bldg. 3 Municipal Way Langhorne PA 19047 at 6:00 pm

Missy Kitzmiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Helene Ratner seconded; the motion was approved by all, and meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.