

Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from May 13, 2024

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

1. Debbie called the meeting to order at 6:04.
2. Minutes for April: Kristine made a motion to approve. Bill second. All in favor 5-0.
3. Paul asked for a motion to approve the Hockey Rink signage (language) as submitted (see back of 5/13 Agenda). Also emailed to all P&R members. Kristine motioned. Deb second. All in favor 5-0.
4. Summer Program Update: Nicole & Patrick reported.
 - o Doing pretty good with the summer program registrations. We just started our third session of exercise classes April 29-May 2). Session 2 finished - registration is very consistent so far with all programs. Spring Adult Kickball had a little bit of a downturn with only four teams; Fall is a busier season.
 - o Basketball numbers are low, we have 190, we usually have 250 each summer. Still some time to improve on that program. There's a late fee period starting May 16. Bball coordinator is Kyle Ratner; Shawn Murray moved on.
 - o Middletown Pickleball Club has 270 registrants. Debbie wanted to note for the record that there should be a notification about teaching lessons prohibited. Nicole confirmed it is on the signage that private or group lessons prohibited without a permit. Patrick did talk to the "culprits."
 - o Overall P&R program revenue is 91% of the revenue budget as of today. Our goal for the year is about \$50,000 to meet 2024 budget revenue.
5. Summer Rec Update: Nicole
 - o Reading from Joanne's notes: Barn Community Center and tweens are officially sold out. We are still taking registrations for Core Creek they currently have 62 half day campers.
 - o Community Center half day is also 16. Half day numbers are all low this year. There might be a larger trend to full day and tween needs. P&R Dept will do a data dive this fall.
 - o T-shirts for the campers to wear on their trips are officially ordered – samples were shown to P&R board.
 - o Trips and visits are planned for 2024.

- Elementary school is getting a visit from the animal control officer and her dog.
 - Police canine demo to come.
 - Fire department spray days every other Wednesday.
 - LMT Pool - 6 Fridays
 - Roller skating
 - Man with Bugs/demo.
 - Charity car wash
 - Franklin Institute
 - Elmer Park Zoo
 - Art/canvas painting like we do every year.
 - Peach picking at Styers
 - Water slide on site
 - Magic
 - Laser tag truck is visiting each site (tweens)
 - Philadelphia Museum of illusion
 - Citizens Bank Park tour. This year NO camp day game. None of their games are scheduled during the week during camp hours. They don't have their businessperson specials (all scheduled outside of camp days – ex: May 23rd).
 - Bridge St. golf, for pitch and put and driving range (tweens)
 - FunZilla
 - Bowling at Morrisville
 - Kahunas indoor water park
 - Movie of choice (oxford valley theater)
 - Point pleasant beach.
 - Aquarium
 - Great adventure
 - For all trips, P&R went out to bid for buses for the first time because costs have gone up and the cost was approaching the State bid limit of \$23,200. It's a typical schedule but since COVID and lack of drivers, gas prices, the costs have gone up. Durham School Services LP was only one bid and performed the transportation for P&R in 2023. P&R was pleased with the results of the bid process. Durham School Services LP also does Northampton, Newtown, and all camps locally. We're familiar with them.
6. Fall Guide: Still early. But of note: Bocce Ball League discussions began with interested gentleman who works with special Olympics. More to come on this topic.
7. Public Comment
- Craig Hitchen representing LAA baseball association.

- Put together a small presentation for dedication for 90-foot Community Park field for a longtime coach. Joe Judge who was Langhorne resident for 70 years and have a baseball coach there for almost 30 years also was an anchor in the legion program there at that 90-foot field – Passed away last year. LAA would like to honor his commitment to the Club.
 - Opportunity to rally around community and efforts to improve that field. There were donations in Joe's name to LAA – approx. \$2,800 to go towards this memorial but also towards improving in the field. They want to do an annual event there in Joe's name to help do some needed work: could use batting cages, etc. (Dan mentioned Scouting projects) but it needs bases, needs some other things.
 - There's a large memorial in the front of Community Park – looking to do significantly smaller but that same vain in one or two locations depending upon where: if you're going down the walking path past the snack stand, it winds down and that along the 90-foot field and cuts back on itself go towards the soccer /lacrosse field. Where those two intersect, there's a level (ish) area and it's slightly elevated.
 - Older style with plate that would be bronze, embedded into the boulder, mounted, and then set in that corner.
 - Kristine asked what's the level of maintenance involved? LAA would maintain. Because it's a boulder memorial all its need is maybe weedwack around, power wash every couple of years. Sometimes you see them, and they're left alone, and they get unsightly – the idea would be to approved with the caveat that LAA would be maintaining. Bill asked about dedication and if it would be names the Joe Judge field. Kristine asked if there were any requirements around naming fields in Middletown. Paul said this would be an unofficial name in their club (a dedication) but the park is still a Community Park. You never know if other residents take issue (may not like the guy or why can't I get memorial).
 - The stone will take about 8 weeks. Craig will let us know when the dedication is (probably next year).
 - Bill Fuller made a motion to approve. Seconded by Dan. All in Favor.
8. Patrick and Deb had a side conversation about completing the memorial for Doris Bower in the new pavilion at Styers.
9. Patrick update (PLEASE NOTE THAT THE RECORDING of the meeting UNFORTUNAELY ONLY PICKED certain items)
- Tree planting was attended by six (Patrick and Paul; 2 EAC members; 2 from DPW in the old rink area by Twin Oaks Park).
 - Earth day 46 tables, 1,300 attendees - first one since COVID that was well attended. Gave away 400 trees quickly. New Band played – very good.

- Senor Games: Senior Center Bocce Courts were improved with a turf surface a few years ago with crushed oyster shells underneath for exceptional drainage. The MT Senior Center is proud to be hosting both Bocce and Pickleball Senior Games this year. Bucks County Area on Aging does all the registration. Leaving operations of games to P&R. Plenty of tents this year.
- MCF Golf Outing at Spring Mill. Also discussing a potential Fundraising event for P&R at Middletown Golf Course in 2025.
- Nicole updated the Board on Groovin' at the Gates: Sat 28th noon to 5 at Forsythia Crossing Park. Five Food Trucks. Dessert Trucks. Inflatables. Alia's Wow Balloons. The Seven Band. Neshaminy Sports teams will be playing on the new rink during the event. Dan G mentioned that he could get a roller game too.
- Holiday Open House: Dec 12th, 2024
- 10. Construction/Capital Improvement (Paul gave update)
 - Update on Forsythia Crossing Park – asphalt poured 4/15 and needs to be cured for 30 days prior to coating. PECO power will be the last thing to be added. Rink will arrive and installed (Mon May 20-24); Musco poles about same time. PECO power by July.
 - Lights at Firefighters Park. Electrician hooked up mechanical timer (7p to 10p). Can only turn it off manually during those hours.
 - Barn Deck and Stairs: Bids opened May 1. Three bids submitted. Capital budget was \$125K. Bids came in between \$84k to 98k. Reviewing Responsible Contractor Ordinance. The agenda memo hopefully will be done for the June 11 BOS Meeting.
 - Security at Community Park, taking a while but will be sped up cause of recent vandalism today. Two kids went into Barn, stole money from instructor purse. The P&R Dept is looking to expediate camera purchase and locking system for Barn. (It is budgeted for 2024).
 - Comprehensive Plan for P&R – going out to bid for a consultant.
 - Vandalism to Forsythia Crossing Park signage (picture sent to some members). Young folks took a bat to sign busted it up. Led to another inquiry about Valleyview signage.
 - Old Business /New Business: Valleyview Sign, put the sign in a further corner at other entrance. Location of Bench
- 11. PLEASE NOTE Next meeting is June 3 (1st Monday instead of 2nd).
- 12. 6:45p Dan motion to adjourn. Dori second.