

Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from **January 11, 2021** (Virtual)

Present: Debbie Marchesani, Kristine Belser, Helene Ratner, Doris Bower, William Fuller, Dan Giacomelli, Missy Kitzmiller, Patrick Graham, Joanne Morelli, and Paul Kopera
Absent: None.
Guests: Jonathan Lippy from LAA

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Debbie Marchesani. Went around zoom and the P&R Board introduced themselves to the Guest. This meeting was our reorganization and Helene Ratner made a motion to keep all the same officers and Missy Kitzmiller seconded it; the motion was approved by all so for 2021 **Debbie Marchesani is Chairperson, Kris Belser is Vice Chairperson and Helene Ratner is the Secretary**. The 2021 calendar was discussed and Kris Belser made a motion to approve it, Bill Fuller seconded the motion and it was approved by all. All meetings will be held virtually and the Board will revisit in-person meetings when the September, 2021 meeting is scheduled. A motion was made by Debbie Marchesani to approve the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes and was seconded by Missy Kitzmiller; the motion was approved by all.

Old Business: Tree Planting in Upper Orchard neighborhood: 18 trees were planted in Nov'20 near the new playground in UO; the April'20 planting was skipped due to Covid. Tree Plantings will continue to be done as long as the virus is not spreading but with a smaller group of volunteers. Paul mentioned that the new UO playground was installed in in November as well.

On Wednesday, November 11th, the Veterans Day ceremony was held at Veterans Memorial Park where a local veteran organization (led by Ed Preston and Fran Drummond) is raising money for a black granite statue; there was good press coverage for the event, a lot of hype for it. Still proceeding with the fundraising - they need about \$80k to reach the \$250k goal.) The MT Twp BOS approved a location within VMP for the statue in May, 2019.

The holiday open house was cancelled in 2020, but P&R still decorated with garland, ribbons, and lights to decorate the entrance way and the Shopping Center facing side of the township building. Some Twp. departments did decorate trees in the Municipal Center to make the building look festive. In addition, P&R did purchase 12 new artificial trees to replace the beat up fifteen-year-old trees that were being used.

COVID update: P&R plans to have the month of January, 2021 transpire and evaluate where we (the community) stand with the virus. As far as Parks and Rec summer rec camp program, P&R is planning and has budgeted for 250 campers this summer. With the sports clubs., they will be starting mid to late March and will be keeping everyone outside. All the clubs & organizations can apply for Spring, 2021 permits. In 2019, we had 280 for basketball, last year we had to cancel it. Everything right now is in a holding pattern as the covid pattern determines P&R plans: plans are reactionary to the virus. LAA had a short season; LAA Basketball wants to see about using the basketballs courts at Simmons/Poplar as Neshaminy SD won't allow them to use the indoor gyms within the schools. P&R is open to the idea of using township courts in the spring.

Capital Projects for 2021: New roof at the Barn; lighting at the 90-foot field at MAA, lighting and resurfacing at Forsythia Park which will be a problem with the lighting since there is no local power source in the park.

Sports organizations will be at our 2/8 meeting. Requests for field usage to be in by 2/1 and will be covid dependent.

Teen Talent competition: Submit videos and the finalists will be on our facebook page - 12 acts will be in the show, 3-5 minutes and broadcast on 2/16 at 7 pm. The BOS will present the trophy to the winner at their 3/1 meeting.

Program Report: Moving to a new registration system. Offering virtual exercise classes which have been a success - Zumba, tai chi, yoga - each session lasts for seven weeks. Last year, P&R offered the remote classes for free; as 2021 goes on, we continue to add more classes - dog training classes, archery, skate boarding all went well. There is a definite desire in the community to have their children doing covid-safe activities outdoors and in -person.

Summer Rec Program 2021 is modified as we went from 520 in 2019 to 250 planned in 2021 (50 in 2020). SR is being planned from 6/21 to 8/13 (eight weeks total) and as of right now, no trips are being planned and the Rectivity bags will be back again as everyone enjoyed them. We will revisit the art show - possibly look at doing something virtually; schedule a meeting with the group. Santa letters this year were sent out to 37 children. Some asked for COVID to go away. No program guides planned for this year: P&R Dept. will use emails, website and facebook postings.

First 4th of July meeting tentatively scheduled for 1/25 at 6:30 pm - the 4th falls on Sunday this year so the parade will take place on Saturday 7/3; need to find another staging area since the Amazon trucks have taken over the VSEC area.

Other upcoming events: 4/17 is the shredding event; NFL draft event; canine training session which is lasting the entire month of January.

Public Comment: Jonathan Lippy from LAA spoke about the baseball and soccer program and that there are drainage issues with the fields; LAA is willing to put up the funds towards helping repair the field. There is a meeting being tonight by LAA to discuss some of this; if Middletown is willing to make improvements, LAA is willing to put money towards this and partner with the township. Would like to get the work done sooner than later as it effects the quality of the fields, especially the larger 90' baseball field at Community Park. CP2 has a big drainage problem and need to get a list of things after the meeting and have LAA email to Paul.

No In-person Earth Day this year, just virtual; No Sports Block Party.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm with a motion by Dan Giacomelli and seconded by Missy Kitzmiller. Next meeting is **Monday, February 8th** at 6:00 pm via zoom.