

Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board  
Minutes from (Tue) February 15, 2022

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

Absent:

Guests: Andrew Hart, Chris Karl, Jack Zupan, John Buckland, Kevin McGerry, Bill Thomas, Dave Schaller, Jim O'Brien

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Debbie Marchesani. Paul Kopera introduced the Parks and Rec board to all the sports clubs, discussed the board functions and when we have our meeting, that are open to the public.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Diegel/Quincy Hollow asked about moving the footbridge between Cobalt & Quincy to be closer to Woodbourne Rd. Paul Kopera responded that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2/17 with the Twp. engineers, public works and Paul regarding moving it closer to the playground. The existing location is near Candytuft Road and is scheduled for replacement in 2022, so moving it is not out of the question. The desire for the move is prompted by the new Cobalt Ridge playground going in this summer.

The minutes from the January 2022 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Missy Kitzmiller and seconded by Kris Belser to approve the minutes; all approved 7-0.

February of each year, the P&R Board meets with all the sports clubs to meet in person and hear about each club's challenges. This keeps the P&R Board current on all sport-related issues in the Township.

Jim O'Brien and Jack Zupan from the **Bucks Senior Softball and Forever Young Senior Softball** - they play on the Comm Park fields from 9 to 10:30 am and then 10:30 until noon on Mondays and Fridays and also Tuesdays and Thursdays on fields 3 and 4. Currently have 97 registered but capacity is 112. Concerns are water on the field/drainage by CP4 and also having a water fountain down near the fields. Opening day is planned for May 2<sup>nd</sup>. John Buckland, President of **Hulmeville Soccer** would like to secure additional fields as they already have 900 registered for spring. They play at Hoover and some time on Jones Park. Kevin McGerry is the baseball President of **LAA**; as of right now, they have 250 signed up for baseball/softball. They have 7 travel baseball teams and 6 travel softball teams. Opening day is 4/2 and he also talked about the draining situations of the Comm Park fields. Bill Thomas, VP and Softball Director and Dave Schaller who is involved with the soccer program of **MAA** talked about how they have picked up hockey in the fall season, they had 325 in the soccer program. Soccer in the spring is for all ages; would also like basketball as it had been held at Brookwood Elementary school and Sandberg. Opening day is 4/2. Andrew Hart of **Neshaminy Wildcats** - for baseball and softball is having their opening day on 4/2. Uniforms are concerns with their organization. Chris Karl from **Christian Fellowship League** plays at Chris Jones and Firefighters' Parks. Chris appreciates the improvements to FFP that were made in 2019. They have about 200 players involved right now. Biggest challenge is the amount of time cleaning the fields from other games and that there is more mud than dirt. Paul mentioned that Field permit fees starting in 2022 will increase from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per hour. Fee schedule is on Twp website.

The new LED lights at Middletown AA have a ball tracker which helps the players track fly balls. Spring 2022 is the first time MAA can play night baseball on the 90' field. LAA is looking into security cameras to help with their situation at Comm Park. Also, there is an increased interest in volleyball however, where would they play at. Pickleball popularity has picked up and we have two courts being built by the Twp. at the senior center on Trenton Road.

P&R is looking for umpires for adult kickball from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on Fridays at Firefighters', if anyone is interested.

Sports Block Party will be held on Friday, 5/13 and Neshaminy High School JV and varsity softball, baseball, and lacrosse will participate. Shuttle from Maple Point will be available because parking is limited at Community Park. Comm Park is closed to all clubs on 5/13. Volunteers are needed to help at this event.

General Twp issues were then discussed. Construction at Maple Point, traffic at Woodbourne and Langhorne Yardley Road and the dredging at Lake Luxembourg were brought up. Neshaminy School District is building new Pearl Buck ES on the same campus at Maple Point MS, the different traffic options including the circles that will all be taking place in 2023/24. Neshaminy High School will be building 3 turf fields - football and soccer. (At this time, all of the sports coordinators left and the P&R Board and P&R Dept. remained to finish agenda.)

#### **Old/New Business:**

Teen Talent Competition was held at Oxford Valley Mall from 4 to 6 pm on 2/12; there were 7 acts that participated this year and it was a great event at the mall. Shredding event is going to be held on 4/9 from 9 am until noon. Earth Day will take place again this year at Core Creek Park on 4/23 from 11 am to 2 pm and looking now at vendors, giveaways and live entertainment. So far, 15 vendors lined up for the event. Will be doing park cleanups again this year - will pick 4 of the parks within the township. Last year had 120 volunteers and this would be done on 4/16, 9:30 am start.

Discussion on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade as still have a problem with the staging area; will need to raise about \$10,000 from corporate sponsors.

2023: Apartments at the mall, Langhorne Yardley Road and Bridgetown Pike intersections; cleanup at the Forsythia hockey rink.

Valleyview signs are in the second round of signs being done/Spring 2022.

**Reminder: our next meeting is Monday, 3/14 and will be in person in the public hall at 6:00 PM.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm with a motion by Dan Giacomelli and seconded by Bill Fuller.