

# PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

## February 4, 2021

**Members present** Steve Bryer, Chairman  
Jim Hembree, Vice Chairman  
Mary Anderson, Secretary  
John Bishop  
Marty Wade

**Others present:** Nancy Opalka, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Dr. Kim Rose, Supervisor Liaison

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board took place virtually using the Zoom platform.

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Bryer announced that the public will have the opportunity to comment during Citizen's Concerns at the start and at the end of the meeting. Opportunity would also be given after each agenda item. Instructions on how to do so were given. Information regarding public participation for all virtual meetings can be found on the Township website at [Northamptontownship.com](http://Northamptontownship.com). A recording of the Parks and Recreation Board meetings will NOT be posted online.

Roll call was taken. All members were present.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2020 meeting. (Due to the Pandemic, Township Advisory Boards were not meeting) The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Reorganization

Mr. Wade conducted the reorganization and stated that he would like to see the positions remain the same as last year; a "Do Over" year. Mr. Hembree nominated Mr. Bryer for Chairman. seconded by Ms. Anderson. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bryer nominated Mr. Hembree for Vice Chairman, seconded by Ms. Anderson. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bryer nominated Ms. Anderson for Secretary, seconded by Mr. Hembree. The motion passed unanimously.

**Citizen's Concerns** - There were no Citizen's Concerns.

At this time, Dr. Rose remarked that the Parks and Recreation Department did a great job in 2020, And their work was greatly appreciated. Nancy stated that she has a great team and they are fully dedicated to doing the best job possible. Mr. Bishop said he and his wife volunteered at the Halloween Happening and it was a great pleasure to attend that event. The holiday decorations and caroling at the park was also a great idea! Thanks, and kudos to Nancy and her staff.

### **Unfinished Business**

39 Acres – The Board has been discussing many uses for the 39 Acres at Bristol and Hatboro Roads for about 20 years. Past discussions included indoor and outdoor facilities as well as the necessity for athletic field lighting. If the Board of Supervisors approves the installation of lights, the Parks and Recreation Board will meet with interested parties.

### **Playground Improvement Project**

Playground Improvement Project is slowly getting get back on track. The pandemic did have an impact on their efforts as three fundraisers were cancelled. The Golf Outing has been rescheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Northampton Valley Country Club.

Mr. Bryer questioned how the playground surface is holding up. Nancy reported that minor repairs continue to be made in house which hopefully will keep it intact until it gets replaced. In order to keep the project moving forward the League is planning to delay the installation of the sun shades unless the funds can be raised. Another savings will be scheduling a “Community Build”, where volunteers help to build the playground. Much discussion ensued regarding the sun shades. All efforts should be made to have the sun shades installed with the rest of the play equipment. Mr. Wade agreed with Mr. Bryer and said the shades should not be forgotten. The possibility of using escrow funds was discussed. A meeting with the Miracle League President and the Township Administration will be planned to discuss the project and if escrow funds could be used.

Mr. Bishop asked about the schedule. Site work is scheduled to begin in October 2021 with construction continuing during the winter months, a community build in late April/early May and completion by June. The grants are set to expire June 30, 2022.

### **New Business**

Field User Responsibilities - Mr. Bryer asked if Nancy received all the required information back from the field users. She is still waiting for information from Council Rock Basketball. They have been submitting the information requested but a few items are still outstanding. All others are good. In addition to the regular submissions all facility users are required to submit Covid Protocols. Any changes to their current protocols must also be submitted so we have the most current on file. Nancy relayed that she has received complaints from residents who have witnessed large groups with no social distancing and also the absence of masks.

Mr. Bryer reminded everyone that the background checks must be renewed and kept on file.

Field Allocations – One topic that required discussion was the use of the outdoor lighted basketball courts by CR Basketball Season for a spring season. Typically the spring season takes place in the schools. After much discussion pertaining to all requests submitted, a motion was made and seconded (Wade/Hembree) to approve the Spring/Summer Field Allocations as presented by the Parks and Recreation Director.

Fee Schedule - Mr. Bryer questioned if any changes are being recommended for the 2021 Fee Schedule. No changes have been submitted. A motion was made and seconded (Wade/Bryer) to approve the 2021 Fee Schedule as presented by the Parks and Recreation Director.

### **Report of Field Users**

Council Rock Basketball – represented by Nicole Stevenson. Nicole discussed the upcoming spring season at length earlier and thanked the Board for the allocations.

Council Rock Holland Baseball – represented by Tom Clay. They have 215 registrations and tryouts will begin late February/March. Travel teams are set and registrations are ahead of last year.

Council Rock Northampton Baseball – represented by Nick Millevoi. CRNBaseball would like to paint the dugouts and Nick was told by Mr. Bryer to submit plans to Nancy. Mr. Bryer stated that he would like to see the North/South game played, with CDC guidelines. Mr. Wade said we have to do whatever needs to be done for them to play.

Council Rock United Soccer – represented by Lew Spiewak. CRUSA is in the middle of Intramural registration and the program will start the second week in April. Mr. Spiewak stated that they had success in late Fall, following COVID guidelines.

Northampton Girls Softball –there was no representative present.

Northampton Indians Football – represented by Steve Szydlik. The Flag Football program registration is doing well, taking 100 kids per age group. Play will start the first week in April.

### **Report of Parks and Recreation Director**

Mrs. Opalka reported the following:

There is about two weeks of work left for the basin light project but completion depends on weather.

Nancy is very impressed by the sports groups and wants to commend them for their action regarding COVID and is hopeful that some of the restrictions will be lessened shortly. Nancy asked the sports groups to let her know of any field issues, such as repairs etc.

The Township will operate camps pretty much like was done last year with masks, social distancing, etc. Other upcoming offerings have been Virtual Valentine Dance Party, Easter Parade, Shoebox Floats, just to name a few.

Nancy commended her staff for the hard work, dedication and creativity they exhibited during the past 11 months. An article in the Township Newsletter regarding Parks and Recreation activities during the pandemic is highlighted.

We are now working on the Township's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and looking at a weekend celebration in September 2022.

Due to changes in the law all programs offered for preschoolers where parents are not present must be licensed by the Department of Human Services. The Parks and Recreation has begun the application process for the Recreation Center to obtain a Child Care License.

Mr. Bishop said he appreciates the information given on the activities offered and is looking forward to the Spring Brochure due out early March. He is very impressed with the work done by both the Parks and Recreation Department and the sports groups during this trying time.

#### **Report of Supervisor Liaison**

Dr. Rose stated that she has not heard anything regarding the 39 acre site but will discuss it with the the Board members. Dr. Rose commended Nancy and her staff for a great job done. In addition, she reported that all of the Township employees are working hard to keep things going safely.

**Citizens' Concerns** - There were no Citizens Concerns.

Announcements - Mr. Bryer reported that there will be no Northampton Days in 2021, but will be back in 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Anderson*

Mary Anderson  
Secretary  
Parks and Recreation Board

Next Meeting – March 4, 2021 Virtual Zoom Platform