

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

MARCH 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

Mr. Bryer called the virtual meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The minutes from the April 4, 2021 meeting were approved with the correction of "March 5, 2020".

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

Unfinished Business

Playground Improvement Program - Nancy reported that the Township received an additional grant of \$55,000 for the playground improvement. The Miracle League is continuing to fundraise. One of the fundraisers is a Golf Outing on June 4th. Mr. Wade asked who is overseeing the project and was told it was Alan Corless of Miracle League who is a project manager for a construction company, YSM Architects and Landscape Structures.

John Bishop asked when construction would begin. Nancy reported late Fall 2021 and should finish April/May 2022. Much discussion took place regarding the sun shades as it did in the prior meeting. Steve Bryer said he is not comfortable adding the sunshade at a later date and wanted to know what if the Miracle League cannot raise the money for it. Nancy reported that the Miracle League cannot tell her how long it will take to raise the money especially in this pandemic. Steve Bryer questioned whether the escrow which the Miracle League contributes to each year can be used. Nancy replied that Township would need to approve it since the escrow was clearly set aside for the field maintenance not a playground.

Lighting Project – Civic Center- Nancy reported that the basin light project is nearing completion. Another electrical box will be installed and will split the feed from the main.

Steve asked about seeding of the back fields and was told the ground is still too wet. Gilmore will assess the field conditions. Lew Spiewak, CRUSA and Steve Szydlik, Football, commented that they have to get the kids outside as soon as possible.

39 acres – Steve Bryer then stated that the goal of the Parks and Recreation Board is to use this area for more fields and an indoor facility. Over the next few weeks, Nancy will put together an overview of this project and will contact people interested in such a facility. Steve said we need to develop a facility

large enough to accommodate large groups. Hopefully a lit field and indoor facility can be developed on the 39 acres. Dr. Kim Rose, Supervisor Liaison, said the Board of Supervisors is willing to look at whatever is presented to them.

New Business – None

Report of Field Users

Council Rock Basketball – no representative present.

Council Rock Northampton Baseball – Nick Millevoi said everything is going good with over 300 kids registered. Background checks are being processed. They are waiting for the fields to dry out enough for preparation and use.

Council Rock Holland Baseball - Tom Kley reported that registration is ongoing and they are putting teams together. Clean Up day is scheduled for March 27th at Hampton Estates, weather permitting.

Council Rock United Soccer – Lew Spiewak reported they are still registering for Spring Intramural and the number have exceeded their expectations. Lew feels there are more families with kids moving into the Township. Teams are practicing wherever they can find space. The travel ban has been lifted and teams are now permitted to travel out of state.

Northampton Girls Softball – Heidi Van Steinburgh reported that registration is underway and they hope to register 200 girls. They will walk the fields on Saturday and are planning to start games the first week in April. Heidi asked what is the policy on wearing masks. Nancy stated that Dr. Damsker of Bucks County Health Department recently released the County's clarification which states that masks are not necessary while playing games. However when not participating masks and social distancing is required.

Northampton Indians Football- Steve Szydlik said Flag Football registration is full with 385 kids registered. They are hoping to begin on March 25th.

Report of Director of Parks and Recreation

Nancy reported she will forward any announcements regarding Covid19 regulations to everyone. Parks and Recreation gets direction from our Emergency Management team. It appears that information often gets on social media before the Township receives an official report.

Dr. Rose said the Township has a medical professional on retainer and perhaps Nancy could contact him. As of now, the Township policy is that all participants in our programs all wear masks. It is up to the sports groups to make their own decisions regarding their policy. However, their protocols must be in line with at least the County's protocols and forwarded to Nancy.

User Groups have submitted the required information, but most still need letters stating that groups are members in good standing with a parent organization if there is an affiliation.

Nancy reported the following about the Department:

- There's been an abnormal amount of facility use requests this year. An inclusive rugby program will be playing on the CC 2 field #1 on Monday evenings. Also, Athletes Helping Athletes (AHA) is hosting an Easter Drive By event on March 27th at the Civic Center and a Prom at the Municipal Park amphitheater on May 16th. Other requests include sports camps, one day events for school team and the typical picnic pavilion rentals.
- Camps are closed with waiting lists as enrollment is contingent on available space. School use is limited as desks and other equipment is being stored throughout the gym and cafeterias.
- Concerts are planned for this summer beginning on June 24th.
- The spring brochure is expected to be delivered the week of March 8th.

Report of Supervisor Liaison

Dr. Rose said she had nothing to report.

Citizens' Concerns – Lew Spiewak commented that teams who are looking for places to practice have to be respectful of other organizations and abide by schedules and not just go anywhere to practice. Steve reiterated that it is important that the sports groups continue to communicate with each other especially when there are no PR Board meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anderson
Secretary

**There will be no Parks and Recreation Board Meeting held in April 2021.