

**Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from March 10, 2025**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Debbie Marchesani. The minutes of the February 10th meeting were approved with a motion from Dan Giacomelli and seconded by Deb Marchesani and approved by all 7-0.

Public Comment:

Mike Keppner from MAA said they have 425 signed up for baseball, 200 for softball and 950+ across for all sports. Water is still a problem with the softball field. There is disrespect of fields – they are putting tarp/turf down and Kevin McGeary is talking about doing the same thing with LAA as there are holes in the fields. The trash situation is still continuing with people and the dumpsters. Overall, ready to start using the fields. There is a trash meeting on Wednesday to discuss at the Director's meeting. People feel that they can do whatever they want with the fields; they need to rake back to what they were before they started using the fields. Paul Kopera informed Mike Kepner that McHale's quoted \$21,000 to run a new water line to Field #3 (Babe Ruth). At that range, we need to get two more price quotes as the damage was done when the lights were put in. Meanwhile, DPW is looking to see if they can look at it since they put in the line 10-15 years ago. The WM dumpster issue is leave as is, lock it which means people dump on the side and DPW must pick up. Simmons Park has same issue – the locking dumpster was broken.

Pickleball Update:

According to the survey, no hosts are always there; need to start subcommittees to be hosts, check people in, sit at the courts to let people in, have 12 to 15 people on the committee; have different tournaments; 20% of the 2024 membership has been renewed to date.

Township Update on P&R Comprehensive Plan being held on 3/27 at 7 pm – first meeting was held at end of January; still interviewing key people for feedback and expect to be done by July. For the March meeting, there will be a zoom option.

Summer Rec is 80% full of the Barn almost full. At 75% goal for revenue. Program update: exercise classes including yoga, ballet, drawing classes, pottery, archery, lego classes. New CPR class. Paint and sip at Styers along with a wood creations class also at Styers

Baseball/Softball opening day is April 5th for LAA and MAA with parades. Adult kickball starts April 11th and currently has three teams. No township sponsored shredding event as the elected officials are having one on 5/17 from 10-12 at Maple Avenue. BC Hazardous Waste pickup is 4/5 from 8:30 to 2:00 at the BCCC. The Goodwill Store accepts TV's which is located at 2365 Lincoln Highway near the car wash on Bus Rt 1. Park cleanup will be held on 4/5, bare root tree planting on 4/16 – 18, garden cleanup on 3/29, Earth Day at Core Creek Park on 4/26 from 11 to 2 with so far 35 vendors along with Hutch doing horse carriage rides and tree giveaways. Senior Games will once again be at the Senior Center with bocce on 6/6 and pickleball at Firefighters Park on 6/5.

Middletown Community Foundation will have their golf outing at Spring Mill Country Club on 6/23. A brief conversation ensued about the status of the Golf Course management. Paul Kopera said four years on the existing lease. Our Park and Rec staff will be attending the PRPS conference on 3/16 – 19 and will be receiving an award. There will be an outdoor walk on 3/22. Benefits of Meadows seminar on 3/18 at 6:30 pm

New playground at Lions Park – will have vibrant colors, to be done by Spring of 2026. Goes to Board on April 7. PRPS Gametime Grant for \$35,000 was secured, \$120,000 for playground equipment installed. Park will also have 4 parking spaces. Long overdue for upgrade (1997 – 28 yrs).

New business – vandalism of Firefighters Park signs, Cobalt and Forsythia signs. LED lighting at Community Park \$1M.

Reminder: Next meeting will be held on Monday, April 14th at 6:00 pm in the Executive Conference Room (ECR) upstairs.

Dan Giacomelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Helene Ratner seconded; the motion was approved by all, and meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.