

Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from October 14, 2025

Present: Debbie Marchesani, Dori Bower, Dan Giacomelli, Missy Kitzmiller, Paul Kopera, Nicole Tener, Joanne Morelli
Absent: Kris Belser, Helene Ratner, Bill Fuller
Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chair, Debbie Marchesani. There was no public comment. Missy made a motion and Dan seconded to approve the September minutes and it was approved by everyone, 4-0.

Patrick reported that the P&R Dept. just surpassed its 2025 revenue budget of \$625,000. Joanne reported on the 2026 Winter Guide, included in her report:

- Pumpkin Contest has 12 contestants.
- Fairy Tale program has strong registration.
- Exercise programs are steady to last year's activity.
- P&R Dept is using PMEMS on Business Rt 1 for two CPR classes.
- Dan mentioned the Bucks County Medical Reserve Corp; he will provide more details at a future meeting.
- P&R Staff stated that they are looking to add more daytime programming since we have capacity at our two locations.

Patrick reported that the September Pickleball Tournament went very well; and staff hopes to do more PB tournaments in 2026; Working with the major stakeholders has been successful in micromanaging the various PB groups. Patrick is exploring an indoor option for the MT PB club members – more added value to a MT membership.

About 6:25, Nicole presented a debrief on the success of Groovin' at the Gates where an estimated 2,100 people attended the five-hour event. PRB members Kitzmiller, Ratner and Belser attended the event so that added to the debrief notes. The debrief notes are:

- More and bigger golf carts.
- Shuttle discussion – traffic flow is an issue.
- More food trucks – Nicole explained that we had a food truck cancel 48 hours prior to the event.
- Discussion on having WM Penn Fire Co sell \$2 dogs and maybe beer at the 2026 event as a fund raiser; and closing one side of roads near the event. Lincoln Tech may be available for future sponsorship or off-site parking.

About 6:40, Joanne updated the PRB on the Holiday Open House event planning.

Highlights of her update were:

- Joanne acquired Fulton Bank as the lead sponsor. The PRB served-up congratulations.
- Penguin Popper is the HOH craft under the tent, led by the GS.
- Slide & Snowball throwing are the inflatables.
- Usual cast of events, singing and vendors without MCF, HRC, Simone Collins. The last three vendors were specific to 2024.

About 6:47, Patrick updated the PRB on Construction and Capital Improvement. These include:

- At Comm Park, the LED retrofit was completed on September 4. Toro Fencing will be in soon to complete the fencing that was expanded to allow for the 50,000-pound crane. MT DPW will complete some turf work this fall; Patrick is leading the new lock system project in 4Q'25.
- Lions Park Playground is installed and mulch was blown in Oct 1-2; the playground will be dedicated after MT DPW completes the surrounding asphalt work for the new parking lot.
- Comp Plan Review is under way; final draft is available on MT website and Patrick plans to present to the Board of Supervisors for adoption on Nov. 17 Meeting.

Around 6:56, Paul updated the PRB on four issues:

- 1) Forsythia – vandalized toilets at Park. Short term removed toilets and long-term looking at camera install. Power and web service may be needed.
- 2) Community Park – LAA Soccer is asking to pay to replace grill and fryer but issue with electrical. Dan offered to be an intermediary.
- 3) Hoover – HSC parents have asked about the field lighting. Paul explained to the PRB that the lights are on NSD property and were paid for, installed and maintained completely by HSC. Parents that call MT are not aware of the history.
- 4) Firefighters Park – Portable toilet was torched. A new unit will not be replaced for a while but PBers will become vocal.

The PRB then asked some Old Business questions: the status of the field use agreement is getting worked on by Patrick; new bathroom unit at Forsythia would cost about \$300,000; the PRB asked about having P&RD running a regular movie night/concert series at a Park next summer – maybe even at Forsythia since Groovin' went so well as a host Park. The concept of Farmers Market was revisited as was Deep Dale East basketball poles. Paul mentioned that his last PRB Meeting will most likely be Jan 2026 since the Feb 2026 will be the large sports club meeting.

At 7:32 pm, Dan made a motion to adjourn, and Missy seconded; approved 4-0.