

Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from September 8, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Debbie Marchesani. There was no public comment. Missy made a motion and Debbie seconded to approve the June minutes and it was approved by everyone, 7-0.

Construction and Capital Improvement – Status and 2026 Budget Requests: LED Lighting Project at Community Park is completed; the quad was just completed on Thursday, Sept 4, the lights are still being tested. The highest PECO bills for P&R are the Oct/Nov cycle so a comparison could be made by year's end.

Paul reported that the 90-foot field will be used for soccer and for baseball on Tuesdays/Thursdays.

Construction of the new playground at Lions Park got started on 9/9 and should be completed by mid-November.

Township Budget meetings are being held on October 6, 13 and 20. They are all open to the public.

Groovin' at the Gates is being held on 9/27 from noon until 5 pm at Forsythia Crossing Park. This year we have 27 vendors including Waste Management, Team Toyota, Goodnoe's Ice Cream, several beer vendors, water ice along with The Seven Band.

Basketball league went well but registrants might be a concern: 225 was the lowest registration in 2009 after the real estate crisis. We had 225 participants in 2025: we will monitor this program.

There is a pickleball tournament scheduled for 9/20 at Firefighters' Park.

Parklandfest at Firefighters' Park is on October 4th from noon until 4 pm.

The Holiday Open House is Thursday, December 11th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm with food trucks and this year there is a snowball throwing activity along with the slide.

Joanne gave an update on Summer Rec and Programs: notable is Program Revenue is at 95% of budget. Summer Rec program went well. Staff instituted weekly feedback sheets from the counselors in 2025; this was very helpful as a management tool to get the current pulse of activities. Some new programs this fall include mahjongg and canasta 101, chair yoga classes return, and adult fitness classes generally do well. P&R hosted a successful Movie Night at Community Park on August 7th with 275 people in attendance.

Old Business/New Business – Deb and Dori are up for board renewals at the end of the year. Both members said they intend to renew for a new three-year term 2026-2028. Board is requesting that staff do some drive byes periodically to Forsythia Park to check on things there. Vandalism is a regular item.

Reminder: Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14th at 6:00 pm in the Executive conference room upstairs.

Dan Giacomelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Helene Ratner seconded; the motion was approved 7-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.