

Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from February 10, 2025

Present: Debbie Marchesani, Kris Belser, Helene Ratner, Dan Giacomelli, Bill Fuller, Missy Kitzmiller, Patrick Graham, Joanne Morelli, Nicole Tener, Paul Kopera
Absent: Dori Bower
Guests: Anita Nardone from Simone Collins

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Debbie Marchesani, in the Municipal Public Hall. The February P&R Board Meeting is generally attended by the local sports clubs' administrators and having the P&R Board listen to their concerns, in person. Introductions were made by all the sports groups coming to the meeting (see list of attended below). There was no public comment on non-agenda items. The minutes from the January 13th meeting were approved with a motion from Dan Giacomelli and seconded by Helene Ratner and approved by all 6-0.

New Business: Anita Nardone, an engineer with Simone Collins (the consultant on the P&R Comprehensive Plan), gave an update to the P&R Board on the P&R Comprehensive Plan. The last plan is dated in 2005. There are six different parts to the plan and four public meetings scheduled to discuss them. Ms. Nardone will be checking what the different athletic clubs need now and, in the future, to put all the information into the report.

The P&R Director then provided a general Township Update: a) Newtown wants to build a water treatment plant near the new Wawa which is borders Middletown property. There is a citizens group that does attend the various meetings being held. The group consists of the Swan Pointe area residents and those developments surrounding. Our township engineer is working with the Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), and our township solicitor is working with environmental attorneys; b) The Eisenhower school on Woodbourne was sold to a developer and they will be building 66 townhouses on that property. Knights of Columbus property is sold to a developer and will have 33 to 36 townhouses built including six units that will be built with Habitat so that they are attainable housing; c) There has been an attempt by NSD to sell Heckman school on Cherry to a developer so that the school district will get \$3.2M for the land sale. The P&R Director is talking to the NSD to see what their plans are for the now vacant Pearl Buck school; d) The Twp received a \$1M grant to replace the metal halide field lights at Community Park and Musco/Armour are working on this project. Musco considers this a retrofit since Community Park Lights date from pre-1998. There will be some disruptions to operations, although the Twp will try to minimize where they can.

Kris Carl from the Christian Fellowship League said that they play on Tuesdays and Thursdays from May through July and currently have 9 teams with 200 participants in the league. They play at Chris Jones and Firefighters' fields. During the playoffs, they played some games at Twin Oaks Park, Field 3 with MAA's permission. He wants fields for lights for the future, if possible. When they play at Firefighters' Park, there is a problem with Pickleball players parking in the outfield. During the first week of May, signs will be put out for "NO PARKING". This is an adult league.

The P&R Staff will also communicate with the players. The planned Opening Day is early May.

Jack Zupan spoke for the Bucks County Senior Softball league that plays on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Community Park in the mornings and currently has ten teams with 14 people on each team. They start playing at the end of April, including practice games in April and they do take a break in July during the first two weeks of the month. They have few issues and receive great cooperation from LAA. They would like to have a family evening game sometime in mid-July and an All-Star game on a Friday evening, under the lights. They play until the end of September and then a double elimination tournament until end of October. Jack asked about using CP2; and Mike McGerry wants to discuss further.

Kevin McGeary, President of LAA – currently has baseball, basketball which is played inside Maple Point/Core Creek Elementary, and softball. They have 912 children registered for intramural basketball, both boys and girls. The opening day is April 5th with 450 children and 65 children for softball. In addition, they have travel baseball and softball. All basketball is done through the school district, and the district recently increased their rate. They are looking for sponsorships for fundraising as they also need to provide security at the school.

Lamar Frye from LAA soccer said that they will be playing at Community Park/Maple Point/Core Creek fields with the ages being 3 to 18 years old. In the spring, they have 300 children with 400 in the fall along with 200-300 involved with the travel teams. The new rate to pay the school district to use the indoor facilities is \$100.00 per hour and they do need indoor space. In the spring, they also use the turf field in Bristol Township, and they have also rented Pen Ryn backyard. They host a soccer tournament each fall with 500 children. The tournament is for two days, both Saturday and Sunday, during the weekend preceding Thanksgiving.

Lower Bucks Lacrosse was not in attendance, but Patrick Graham did tell the P&R Board that LBL shares the field with LAA Soccer in the spring at Community Park and that LBL pays the Twp. between \$10,000 and \$12,000 on the field rentals, annually. It was mentioned that Neshaminy SD will be hosting a 5k run event on Friday, May 16 which will impact LAA, in the quad.

Mike Keppner gave an update for MAA. Currently doing baseball/softball registration along with spring soccer. With new little league rules, things are blowing up since there are no boundaries. MAA and Neshaminy Penndel Wildcats have merged. Mike listed these items:

- There is a trash problem at Twin Oaks Park – people are dumping at the dumpster. Director Paul Kopera explained to the P&R Board that this will be an issue: the new WM contract only allows bulk pickup once a month and people don't wait. When we locked the dumpsters at Simmons Park – people either left their trash next to the dumpster which forces DPW to handle trash or people eventually broke the lock and resumed dumping. There is no perfect solution.
- Mike asked about water on Babe Ruth Field 3 to wet the skin infield; dugouts need repair – that project falls to the club, MAA; safety netting behind home plate of Field 3 Babe Ruth used to have netting on the back stop side but no longer does since <?>. MAA would like that safety netting restored, to protect Field 2 activity. Netting on the Trenton Road-

side by softball fields 6&7 also needs to be replaced soon. The Bucks County P&R Fields at Chickenfoot are used by MAA Monday through Friday and both fields are used. They have 150 children signed up for deck hockey at Forsythia Park and MAA plans to attend the Comp Plan meeting on March 27 starting at 7:00 PM.

At this point, the Sports Club focus has been completed, and administrators were welcome to remain for the remainder of normal business or they could depart. The meeting took a five-minute pause.

After the break, Patrick Graham updated the P&R Board that there will be a Community Cleanup day on 4/5 from 9 to 11 am which will include Forsythia, Juniper and Snowball Gate greenbelt. Kickball returns on 4/11 with the opening day at Firefighters' Park and having a six-week session. Tree planting will take place on 4/16-19 and sites are still being determined. Earth Day will be on 4/26 from 11 am until 2 pm at Core Creek Park again being sponsored by Robin Kemmerer Real Estate. So far, 25 vendors have signed up for this event. Pickleball issues include registration and events at Firefighters' Park and need to form a committee to monitor this. The Garden Cleanup is scheduled for 3/29 from 9:30 am until 11:30 am at the Senior Center.

Teen Talent Competition was on January 25th at Oxford Valley Mall with Missy and Helene helping out and Dan was the fantastic emcee once again this year! We had twelve (12) acts this year which included three (3) bands that performed. It was a great event, a lot of people were watching and outstanding performances, and over 300 people attended the event at the Oxford Valley Mall. Both Joanne and Nicole did a great job for the 20th anniversary of this event! Joanne Morelli is possibly planning a Battle of the Bands for the second week of May. Also, Parks and Rec received a PRPS award for the talent show that will be awarded at the PRPS Conference in March at Hershey.

The Spring/Summer guide will be mailed out 4/1; 80% of summer camp is full, and people are already signing up for the basketball program. Styers has a pavilion that we will be looking at for children and adult activities. Touch a Truck will be at Core Creek, Pavilion 11 on Sunday, May 4th. Upcoming events include Groovin' on 9/27, Parklandfest on 10/4 and Holiday Open House on 12/11.

Sports Club in Attendance on February 10

Kris Carl	Christian Fellowship League
Jack Zupan	65+ Bucks Senior Softball League
Kevin McGerry	LAA, President
Lamar Fyre	LAA, Soccer (LNUSA-Langhorne Neshaminy United Soccer)
Mike Kepner	MAA

Reminder: Next meeting will be held on Monday, March 10th at 6:00 pm in the Executive Conference Room upstairs.

Missy Kitzmiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Helene Ratner seconded; the motion was approved by all, and meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

