

**Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from September 11, 2023**

Present: Debbie Marchesani, Kris Belser, Dori Bower, Helene Ratner, Missy Kitzmiller, Bill Fuller, Joanne Morelli, Patrick Graham, Dan Giacomelli, and Paul Kopera

Absent:

Guests: Christine Hartman, Jim Hartman (267-278-3786; hartmancarpentry@gmail.com), Rob Federer, Sarah Zapiec, Jacque Williams, Katie Morges, Brooke Buttari, Oliva Donovan (age 9), Candice Phillips (Deep Dale East residents)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Debbie Marchesani.

Public Comment: We had the above-listed people from Deep Dale East at our meeting to discuss the pavilion area on the grass fields in Deep Dale East with ways to improve that area to enhance the neighborhood's vitality. They as a community do many projects together such as arts and crafts, movie nights, an Easter egg hunt, and crock pot cookout. They would like the old poles removed and they would like to blacktop the pavilion area and add four tables and perhaps do some tree planting in some areas. The old basketball nets on the grass field is not good in the community. There is a Deep Dale East facebook page as many of the neighbors are very interested in doing a local level project within their development and people there enjoy all that is being done. Jim Hartman offered to do the carpentry work and help with other projects to make this all possible. The entire P&R Board was very much in favor of the project, Missy was the first to respond to the group favorably. The residents need to talk to Sue about removing the basketball courts; plus, they need to talk to the residents directly adjoining the property to get their buy in about the change. With the comprehensive plan for Parks and Rec, there is an opportunity to have one DDE resident on the Steering Committee given their level of interest in the community. The P&R Board mentioned the five newly planted trees by the gas station where a DDE resident watered the trees to help them survive and eventually flourish. The P&R Board tasked the P&R Staff to explore this area further.



Accept Minutes: A motion was made by Missy Kitzmiller and seconded by Helene Ratner to accept the minutes from our June 5th meeting; the motion was approved 7-0.

Old Business: Staff informed the P&R Board that there is running water at the Senior Center Garden so that 70-year-olds don't have to carry buckets of water across the lot anymore to water their plants.

Program Update: To date, about \$490,000 in revenue has been collected in program revenue. This surpasses the \$438,000 budgeted amount. Summer Rec was solid again and Basketball had 260 players this year and the new coordinator did a great job. The program received good feedback with the survey.

Pickleball courts at Firefighters' Park are not completed yet; everyone is going to the Senior Community Center. Patrick is meeting with Lower Makefield tomorrow regarding their pickleball program and scheduling. Problems at the Senior Center courts with the amount of time they are playing – Missy will go over to take a look at what is happening there. Adult Kickball starts on 9/22 and there are 9 teams currently with a tenth possible. P&R added another yoga class on Thu; exercise classes are going well as all of these classes have hit budget goals and they have been solid this year.

MIP had their last meeting on 5/30 and 13 people attended. This is all about more walkable, bikeable trails within the township – the existing trails and sidewalks need to be more accessible that go to the train station.

The final distribution date for bins was 6/10 so between 5/12, 5/19 and this date there was a total of 2500 bins given out with another 1300 ordered and given out after Labor Day on 9/5, 6 & 13; only complaints have been about the wheel caps coming off when Waste Management throws the bins after dumping the trash.

Capital Projects include the DCNR grant completion at Community Park – redid the landscaping, power washed, removed the weeds and just need seating. Benches will be added to front of the skatepark area. Firefighters' pickleball courts – top coat is done looking to resurface 9/25 and 9/26 and hopefully can do the dedication at Parklandfest. WIFI at the Barn/Community Park – Verizon provided the high speed lines. It will be in the Barn to start and hopefully in the park as a whole. Hookup with cameras and autolocks on facilities and hooked cameras into boxes. Budget meetings open to the public will be held on 10/9 and 10/23. For 2024, Forsythia Crossing Park is a \$500,000 project grant which included Musco lighting, new rink, surfacing and security lighting around the path.

Debriefing of past events/Upcoming events: National Night Out is always a great event and was held this year on 8/1. Movie Night that was held on 8/3 (gorgeous weather night) was well attended and many of our members helped with the event- thanks to Bill Fuller and Dan Giacomelli for making popcorn again. Flyers Caravan was held at Forsythia Crossing on 8/8 and we had about 400 people attend. Parklandfest is scheduled for 9/30 from Noon to 4 at Firefighters' Park and the pickleball courts dedication may take place during that event. Groovin' at the Gates is scheduled for October 14th from Noon to 5:00 pm at Forsythia Park which will be the Levittown Event. The Holiday Open House is scheduled for 12/7 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm and is all outdoors.

Reminder: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11th at 3 Municipal Way on the second floor at 6:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm with a motion by Missy Kitzmiller and seconded by Dori Bower.