

Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 4, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Karissa Elser, Gary Harris, James Lannon, Doreen McVaugh, Jill Schweizer, Elizabeth Wyckoff, and Borough Manager John Davis

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The **Minutes** from the March 7, 2023, meeting were approved as submitted.

DAA Softball update was provided by John Davis. Many improvements have been made at Neis Park and Burpee Park and all were well received. DAA made a case for roofs over the dugouts at Maplewood. This will be on the agenda for the Environment and Rec Committee meeting. There has been pushback from a few residents in Maplewood over the years. No one on the Park and Rec Board objects to roofs being placed over the dugouts in the park.

Since DAA Softball has been having a difficult time with enrollment to create teams, they have been sending players to Plumstead Township. The Plumstead Township Softball executive committee has asked for permission to use our fields, however, the DAA Lease does not permit the fields to be sublet to any other organization without Council approval. We are also getting inquiries from travel teams to use the fields. We are happy to rent them out, however, we would still need permission from DAA. DAA is assessing its options and John will update the Board.

Comprehensive Plan Update was provided by James Lannon. The first workshop meeting was a great success. The Bucks County Planning Commission consultants have given us a compilation of the notes and from the dotmocracy from the evening and James is happy to share those results with anyone who is interested. The next workshop is April 11 and Parks and Recreation will be discussed. James would like all the Board members to be present at this meeting. It is very important that everyone try to attend.

Bike/Hike Report Liz Wyckoff updated the Board. She will be meeting with Phil Ehlinger at the pump track to review plans for the track and the trail. They will be working on a general plan for biking in the area. We can reapply for a Bicycle Friendly Community status again.

Regarding the demonstration bike lane that was supposed to be placed on E. State St. it has been determined state highways are not eligible for this project. The consultants believe we do not need a demonstration bike lane there anyway, but rather, the Borough should send a letter to PennDOT and ask for bike lanes to be added when the road is paved again. This will be brought to the Environment and Rec Committee at their next meeting. It may be a few years from now, but it will be a permanent fixture. Staff thinks a good place to try painted lanes would be Doyle between Broad and Harvey Avenue. Once a rider has passed Harvey, they would have to return to sharing the road with motor vehicles. Liz is not a fan of this idea, and she will discuss this further with Phil.

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Recreation Director's Report was provided by Gary Harris. SandYard Volleyball will be added as a separate item on the website for the Park and Rec programs list. Scenic Stroll began in March. The number of participants has been increasing each week as the weather improves. Tennis lessons began in early April. Arts and Crafts registration is now open to Borough residents for the next two weeks and then it will open to non-Borough residents. First Saturday Chess for March had a decent turnout with 24 participants. We should be ok to continue to hold it at the Historical Society Park. The pickleball court nets are up at Burpee Park but the court still needs to have stripes painted.

Borough Manager's Report was given by John Davis. He has 8 candidates lined up for interviews for the Recreation/Special Events Director position. This position will have many different components to it and there are some very interesting people we will be talking to. John would like to have a final decision by the end of April.

At Burpee Park new play equipment was installed and the ballfield has received a lot of needed TLC. At Neis, we made drainage improvements, upgraded the dugouts, and the weed issue was addressed. We are getting a lot of positive feedback on the field conditions. A lot of work has been completed at Chapman with clearing out debris and downed trees. The youth fishing derby went well and there was a good turnout. Fanny Chapman Pool has a new manager for the upcoming season. The playground equipment for Broad Commons has been ordered with a delivery date sometime later in the summer. All the benches and fountains at Broad Commons have been sold. There are streetlights still available for sponsorship. We are still working towards another signature donor for the park.

Old/New Business There being no new or old business to discuss, James asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Erika Fellman

Park and Recreation Minutes Secretary