

Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 2, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The **Minutes** from the April 4, 2023, meeting were approved as submitted.

DAA Softball update was provided by John Davis. The dugout (roofs and floors) request for Maplewood did go through with no objections. DAA is working to rebuild their softball program. Their 12U group, the older rec kids, wasn't large enough to form a team. Plumstead took those players into their program. DAA has been working with Plumstead, however, Plumstead needs field space. We have lent fields to Plumstead at the request of DAA. They will be using Neis Park for a few of their teams. DAA is requesting we waive the permit fee. John recommends we honor this request. The Park and Recreation Board unanimously agreed to this request, and it will be passed along to Council.

Comprehensive Plan Update was given by James Lannon. James provided an overview of where we are in the timeline. The second stage of workshops will begin on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 9:00 to 11:00 am. We will begin to dig into the challenges presented to us and focus on how we want the vision to begin to form. We will have focus groups of approximately 12 community members working with subject matter experts to determine what is attainable. James asked for one member of the Board to commit to being a part of the group, for the duration of the Comprehensive Plan.

Bike/Hike Report John gave a brief update of the demonstration bike lane to be placed on Doyle Street. TMA will provide us with a plan and the engineers to do the drawings. TMA is also putting together, in conjunction with Bike Works and Liz's folks, a bike safety and informational event to be held in Broad Commons. We are targeting the first two weeks of June, since the theoretical movement of children to and from Doyle Elementary School is a part of this. If we can't have it in place that soon, we will wait until the first two weeks of September when the students have returned to school. This is a positive way to draw attention to cycling and bike lanes in general.

Council has approved the letter to the State for a bike lane to be added to E. State Street when the paving happens.

Recreation Director's Report provided by Gary Harris. SandYard volleyball is up on the website. Arts and Crafts open enrollment is under way, and as of April 27, the first session has 62 children, and the second session has 52 children enrolled. Our capacity is 75 children per session. 1st Saturday Chess is on break for the month of May, and we will move back outside in June. It will still be held at the Historical Society Park through the summer months. Summer

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shows will begin in June at Burpee Park. Gary noted the July meeting falls on July 4. It was agreed that the Park and Recreation Board will not be meeting in July.

James asked if there was any feedback regarding the Outdoor Games program not returning for the summer of 2023. Gary hasn't heard anything. John mentioned he was pulled aside by one parent at the Linden Elementary meeting. John explained that due to the transitions happening within the Park and Recreation department along with waning enrollment, Outdoor Games is on hiatus this summer.

Gary asked for an update on the Pickle Ball courts at Burpee Park. The nets are up but the courts aren't painted yet. John wants to wait to see what happens once the lines are painted before advertising the Pickle Ball courts.

Borough Manager's Report John mentioned the Pickle Ball court and the update at Maplewood Park as the two big parts of his report. The seniors fishing derby was rained out and so was the rain date. There is not much else to report, other than the equipment for the Broad Commons playground has been ordered. We are anticipating the playground equipment will arrive in the later part of the summer and then construction can begin. We are still looking for donations to help with funding costs. We've sold a few more benches in the park as well. We should see the intersection work at the corner of Atkinson and Broad St beginning soon. The concerts will begin in Broad Commons a little later in the summer.

John spoke about the candidates for the Park and Recreation/Special Events position. John hopes to have a candidate named by the next meeting. John is anticipating this person will be able to hit the ground running when they begin. The Main Street manager portion of the job will be more of a learning experience for the candidate. Gary will remain in the position for the remainder of the year to help with the transition and share his institutional knowledge.

There being no **Old or New Business** to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Erika Fellman

Park and Recreation Minutes Secretary