



DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Meeting Notes: February 14, 2023

A meeting of the Doylestown Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order at 5:34 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at the Doylestown Township Administrative Building, Caucus Room.

- In attendance: Paul DiNella, Kellie McGowan, Blythe Kelly, Brent Ruge, Joe Salvati, Don Borden, Karen Sweeney-Director of Parks and Recreation, Lisa Pearsall, Kathy Brown (by phone)
- Absent: None.
- Guests: Stephanie Mason-Township Manager
- Visitors:
 1. Steve Johnson, 231 Sandy Knoll Drive, Doylestown 18901
 2. Patricia Murphy, 107 Windsong Drive, Doylestown 18901
 3. Rob Caroselli, 10 Squirrel Road, Doylestown 18901
 4. Jeremiah Thomas, 4425 Landisville Road, Doylestown 18902
 5. Michele and Joe Borkovic (New Britain Township residents), 326 Pheasant Run Drive, Doylestown 18901

Visitors' comments:

2. Steve Johnson – BCTA tennis instructor. Provided information relating to the volume of participation in tennis activities nationally and including within the Township, including demographics. Doylestown Township has lighted tennis courts for the area. Consider whether to provide for two basketball courts, as two courts have not been present since 2017.
 1. Paul inquired where Mr. Johnson got his number data. Mr. Johnson noted it came from one of the supervisors.
3. Rob Caroselli – 4-year resident, retired school administrator. Discussion of building study prepared for the Township. Question relating to the use of the new facility by community members as opposed to individuals outside of the community. Question whether the Township was surveyed for input on the proposed rec building and acknowledgement the opportunity was there.
 1. Karen advised that multiple public meetings were held to discuss the proposed rec center. Stephanie advised of efforts to invite participation in public meetings in the process.
 2. Karen advised of resident use of the park and rec programming, together with non-residents. Penn Athletics was invited but did not attend.
4. Jeremiah Thomas - Dtwp pickleball partner has been working with P&R department. Owner of Doylestown Pickleball. No pickleball courts on this side of Edison Furlong Road; Relative to his business model, 25 tennis courts are present, but have limited in use constraints. 2500 members at his location. Started in 2017. Camp Curiosity students play pickleball as well as adults. Example of Horsham Township selling memberships to courts (started with 4 courts). Looking for spatial equality (1 tennis court is equal to 4 pickleball courts). Lighting is an issue with existing courts. Losing/not including courts in the Dtwp project eliminates the potential to gain revenue.
 1. Nancy Santacecilia asked about optimal number of pickleball courts. Response: Six is an adequate number to start the program.
5. Michelle and Joe Borkovic – non-resident; avid pickleball player. Difficulty finding opportunities to play pickleball in the area, especially on lighted courts. Joe has pro certification for pickleball. Advocate of all sports. Here to find balance between all sports.

Blythe advises that the Board is working hard to find balance.

Paul asked about noise generated by pickleball. Jeremiah advised that there are noise mitigation measures that can be taken with pickleball paddles and materials.

Don asked the length of day expected for pickleball play, with question of cost of the courts. Jeremiah advised that players would play as late as permissible.

Karen confirmed that Doylestown Township park lights shut off at 11pm, may be reduced to 10pm location of courts in the park / if noise concerns arise due to any sport.

Jeremiah advised that under a private pricing model for indoor courts, his facility generates, \$150,000 annually. Township could expect \$25,000 revenue per court.

Historically Doylestown Township has not charged for court rental.

Horsham has 4 courts and trying to add 4 more.

To host a major tournament, Township should have 10 courts. Smaller recreational tournaments could be done with 6.

Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2023

Motion to approve by Joe Salvati and second by Kellie McGowan, unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

Blythe noted that Karen provided significant information to the Board for review.

December MKSD synopsis and January MKSD synopsis reviewed.

Paul noted that the park and rec board does not have a representative at the committee meetings, with concern that the P&R Board is not as involved for the years that the board has been working on the project. Noted that BOS liaison is present, and P&R Board is getting updated as they are provided to the community and the Board of Supervisors meeting when the presentations are made. Ryan Manion noted that relevant discussions are being had at the P&R Board meetings. Ryan will discuss with the BOS board chair relating to the attendance at the committee meetings.

Parks Capital projects.

Discussion of how long the PIP on the sensory trail has been in place; any warranty. Brent also noted work needed on the sensory trail equipment.

Discussion of the ADA work to be completed at the dog park to be completed per code. Parking lot and driveway will also be re-paved at Turk Park.

Performing Arts Schedule.

Schedule has been finalized. Sign up genius to be set up for participation of the P&R board to volunteer at the events.

Program Manager Report.

Summer program planning. Discussion of mad science camps, science explorers and wild world programs. Family karate will start on Saturday mornings. Jewelry design camp in the mornings will be starting. Pre-school sports camps and create play learn camp (with good sign-up thus far). Summer week-long camp for pre-school age will also be considered. Kawaii drawing to be started for youth. Many opportunities to programming in the new rec building.

Community yard sale on 4/29. Breakfast food truck will be there.

Touch a Truck scheduled on 5/13. Also, food trucks present. Volunteers needed from the park and rec board members.

Beer and Food Trucks at the summer concert series events. Salty vets will be present at concerts. Change it up weekly.

Sign up genius to be used for all volunteer events moving forward.

Partnership with Township police department to do a mock traffic stop for teen driver seminar. Looking into certifications for Township staff to conduct the seminars.

Partnership with A Woman's Place to conduct free seminars. Include teen dating violence seminar. Also have donation locations available for A Woman's Place and have participation for the organization at P&R events.

Joe requested we have pamphlets available at the events for community information.

Director's Report:

1. PRCC Update: Building anticipated at 100% construction documents by the end of the month. Trailers will be eliminated by June due to end of the lease period. P&R Department is in discussions with alternative locations for program planning during construction. Final court plans slightly behind. Advertise for bid in June. BOS consideration in July and anticipate construction by September.
2. Courts tennis/pickleball update: Revised and updated proposal for courts with recommendation for consideration of a fourth tennis court into the area. The totals will be 6 pickleball courts, two basketball courts, two bocce ball courts, and the four tennis courts. Discussion of the revised concept. Positive response to the reconfiguration and usage of the space. Discussion of funding opportunities for tennis court construction. Township professionals are confirming cost estimates for this proposed configuration.

Motion to recommend this plan to the Board of Supervisors. Unanimous.

3. Capital campaign: New staff member with campaign experience will be working on the campaign for the Township. Letters for appeal will be prepared. Will be looking for donations. Discussion of a P&R Board liaison to the committee.
4. Performing Arts: covered in prior discussion.

5. Doylestown Township Park and Rec Board Resolution: Township staff will be reviewing of existing Park and Recreation Board Resolution (52 years old) and update to be more contemporary in current time.
6. Program /Event status: covered in prior discussion.

PRB Report:

Decemberfest

New location for Decemberfest will be needed due to anticipated construction. \$237 in small fundraising in 2023. Consider subcommittee to organize the event. Decemberfest will be put on the agenda for further discussion. Don discussed potential for dog park event in December.

Goals

Blythe discussed reasonable goals for the Board for 2023. Two 5-year plan items were (i) the relocation of the path around kids castle, and (ii) central park bathrooms. Karen noted that we have contacted a vendor to identify a "standard" pavilion (similar to the benches) to secure realistic pricing for varied sizes (i.e., 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 tables) which should help with future planning.

P&R Board has \$5,000 budget for 2023.

Kathy suggestion for 2023 to sponsor/support the community center through a 5K race in December as part of Decemberfest.

Joe suggested signage initiative to continue the discussions the P&R Board has already had with respect to wayfinding. Discussion of providing wayfinding signs that direct individuals to other parks in the Township. Also consider a fundraising component. Paul suggested using Triangle park as a central location for wayfinding signage. To be placed on agenda for March.

Paul suggested the involvement in the park and rec center. Paul also recommended better efficiency in meetings.

Include "unfinished business" next month.

Brent discussed educational pieces to the signage initiative and support of the wayfinding program.

Other Business:

***Adjournment:** Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm on a motion by Paul Dinella and a second by Joe Savati with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kellie McGowan
Doylestown Park and Recreation Board

Approved: _____