

Minutes: October 9th meeting

In attendance

Chuck Lang
Richard McNutt
Nick Lykon
Caitlin
Carolyn McCreary
Lois Fedele
Tim Counihan
Ryan Adamson
Donna DeStefano

Meeting commenced with a one hour work session with community members, sports organization and our Supervisors. The work session discussed various topics on field schedules, expenses incurred by the Township and Fees given to the organizations itself. The purpose of the work session was to allow our Park and Recreation committee listen to the concerns and ideas to help create an opportunity of advisement to our Supervisors. This session ended at 8:45 PM

8:45 PM The Park and Recreation committee came together and discussed:

The Plumstead Tree Lighting will be held on December 10th at Veterans park starting at 4:00 PM. We will host the luminary bag project, and Donna DeStefano is working on speaking with Groveland Elementary Schools and Gayman Elementary school to learn their involvement. Donna is still working on this program, and will speak with Caitlyn at the township to determine a date for a Friday night luminary bag night in November. Tohickon Middle School has agreed to be the singers with 3 choirs and Plumstead Volunteer Fire Department and Point Pleasant Fire Department will both join with their fire trucks. We hope Michael Snyder from P&R will play Santa, and Donna will reach out to Hope to learn if she'll be available to be Mrs. Clause

Camp Plumstead was discussed, and Caitlin will reach out to Dan Foster to learn if he'd like to run it next summer. The Township will set some parameters and a budget for the event, and we all agreed to keep it as a ½ day camp for one week in July.

Kickball had a low showing, with only five teams playing. As it has been determined it is a young man's sport we will try to host the league in the Summer time in hopes to garner College Age Kids to play. Registration will start around Easter Break for a June season to begin.

The remainder of our meeting focused on Fields, Fees and Lights

The newest park is Gardenvenville Fields, with 2 soccer fields, 2 baseball fields and one all purpose field. The parking area, only hosts 80 parking spots, for this reason the Township will need to be mindful on scheduling of the fields to insure there is not a bottle neck of pick up and drop off within the neighborhood.

We learned that not all sports organizations were aware that these fields exist,

We recommend:

1. Be certain an inventory of all available fields are posted on our website for all sports organizations to view.
2. Soccer Fields may have Soccer Goals on the fields
3. Lacrosse may keep Lacrosse nets on their fields
4. Storage Bins may be presented to the Township for review to remain on the field during the season.
5. Sports facilities should share an equipment list needed to remain on the field, for approval should it be more than Goals.
6. When reviewing the field location, meet with the head of the sports organizations to insure when we cut a baseball field it is positioned to be usable due to sunlight and should balls be thrown by players the position of the field accommodates the sport and the safety of the residents.
7. When scheduling the fields, the first year will only allow 2 fields to be used at one time with the suggestion to stagger start times to avoid a parking hazard. After the first season, the Township will do a review of the parking and if it was light, they will revisit to learn if a 3rd field use could come into play. The idea is it is easier to add field usage than take it away. This rule is due to the 80 parking spots provided.
8. The soccer fields would be 9 v 9 or 7 v 7. The back field could accommodate an 11 v 11

Hanusey Park is the only lit fields for use by our sports organization. The Public Works department takes excellent care of our fields with mowing, turf maintenance and upkeep.

It is our recommendation:

1. The Township should continue to learn from MUSKO the cost to change the bulbs to LED lights, as this overtime could bring down the cost to the Township. This is a recommendation to look into 2019 budget year.
2. Continue to have the user notify Plumstead township of use and need for the lights each week and have the organizations reach out to Duane to turn off the lights when leaving the park.
3. Have the organization using the lights to pay 100% of the usage fees that will be billed at the end of the season. The lighting fee will be an hourly rate, based on the organization sharing the times they need the lights. Should a team not use the lights and they are scheduled to have them on, it is up to the organization to reach out to Duane to share they do not have a need.
 - a. The Township will share the previous years usage fees to provide the organization an estimate of what the user fees may be.

- b. As the fee is hourly, all organizations can calculate their estimate for the season. The bill will be shared at the end of the season, for actual hours used. This allows the organization to know their up front costs, and as they probably won't use all the hours, the overall bill should be less than what was budgeted.
4. Upon reviewing the cost of the surrounding municipalities, and hearing the Fields at Plumstead are well maintained, the P&R committee would like to raise the field rental for each field to \$985 a field for a 7 day a week usage for a Season. (13 weeks)
5. We recommend the supervisors also post rental fees by day or one to 3 days on the website for other organizations not wanting to use the fields for an entire season.

The Township does not want to raise taxes for park use, nor raise fees unless necessary to maintain the facility. To help defray the costs Park and Recreation would like to pursue and learn if we can raise money through advertising on our fields without making it look unprofessional or untidy. Some suggestions would be to get signs put up on the baseball fields, and be certain they are uniform and the same size. Aesthetics would be important to insure the park continues to look clean and well maintained.

The goal of Park and Recreation would be to raise \$30,000 in revenue from advertising within a calendar year. Should we be able to seek approval, we will be happy to figure out the best way to approach this in a further discussion.

Some other discussion shared, but will be discussed at our next meeting will be:

1. We want to learn more about how the sports organizations post their games and practices on line to allow the Township to see who was on a field when.
2. Review how we currently cancel fields when weather is a factor, and see if there are any improvements we can make
3. Continue to learn if there is an easier way to turn on and off the lights.

The meeting ended at 10:30 PM.