



Franklin Township
Advisory Recreation Council
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
Community / Senior Center
7:00pm
Minutes

In Attendance: Keith Stewart, Percy Sanders, Elois Taylor, Venkateshan Pundi, Varun Venkateshan, Nancy Sayre, Bill Milligan, John Moon and Bill Gallagher

Excused: Ty-Wanna Cotton and Carl Wright

Absent: Rebekah Solomon, Lewis Hurd and Darrin Russo

Staff: Alice Osipowicz, Robert Vornlocker and Dan Reeve

Call to order: Mr. Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Sayre and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2017 meeting as presented, all others in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: A motion was made by Mr. Milligan and seconded by Ms. Sayre to open the meeting to the public, all others in favor, motion carried.

Benjamin Guy, 35 Patton Dr., Somerset, NJ 08873

Mr. Guy brought forward the following comments, questions and suggestions;

- Who is US Sports Institute and are they a for-profit or non-profit organization?
- Please explain the teen basketball program that is offered at Middlebush Park.
- Are children allowed to walk/bike to and from programs?

Ms. Osipowicz explained the bidding process for program vendors as well as noted US Sports Institute is a for-profit organization.

Mr. Vornlocker provided a brief history on the Teen Recreation Program which started as the Whole Life Program back in 1984 and transitioned into Teen Rec in the 90's. The program is for youth in grades 7 – 12. During the school year, it is run at the Middle School and during the summer it takes place at Williams Park. The free basketball program that runs at Middlebush Park during the summer is FYI Open Basketball for 12-18 year olds. This program runs 2 hours every Monday and Friday from June 19 – August 4.

Ms. Osipowicz noted that children are allowed to walk/bike to and from programs with the exception of licensed summer camp where parents or guardians must sign-in and sign-out the child(ren) in their custody.

Seeing no additional speakers from the public are present, a motion was made by Mr. Gallagher and seconded by Mr. Milligan to close the meeting to the public, all others in favor, motion carried.

Township Managers Report

Mr. Vornlocker presented 2nd round design drawings of the newly proposed Catalpa Park which, if approved, will be located off South Middlebush Road. The design is intended as a destination park with family amenities such as:

- 2 synthetic cricket pitches
- Community garden (water supplied by hand pump from well)
- Pavilion
- Parking lots
- Restrooms (natural light only and waste storage tank, no electric or sewers)
- Well water

- Bocce ball court with pergola for shade
- Horseshoe pits
- Cornhole court
- Basketball court
- Tennis court
- Tot lot
- Crushed stone (ADA approved) walking path

Mr. Vornlocker stated that all current electric & phone lines on site leading to farm house the will be installed underground. The current private property driveway is being reviewed for possible reconfiguration to improve isolation of their private property. Mr. Gallagher asked if the current farm onsite will continue to be used. Mr. Vornlocker confirmed it will still be farmed. Mr. Moon asked where the well will be located within the park. Mr. Vornlocker stated that a final decision has not been determined at this time. Porous asphalt will be utilized in all parking lots and paved area as well as the basketball court.

Mr. Vornlocker stated next steps include presentation to Open Space Committee next week, presentation at Planning Board Review and presentation at a June Public Hearing. Ms. Osipowitz will send out the Planning Board Review and Public Hearing dates once they are publicized. The proposed target completion date is spring 2018.

The following suggestions were mentioned:

- Mile markers installed along the crushed stone walking path
- Outdoor exercise equipment stations along walking path
- Pickleball lines on tennis court

A motion was made by Mr. Milligan and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to accept the Catalpa Park design present with the addition of exercise stations installed along the walking path, all others in favor, motion carried.

Superintendents Report

Mr. Reeve provided a written program report.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- Bunny Jamboree was held on April 8 with an approximate attendance of 230 children. The Franklin Township Youth Council, National Honor Society, Red Cross Club and Junior Classical League volunteered to run the numerous children activities. The Franklin Township Public Library also attended and provided a spring craft. For the first time ever we had 2 food trucks in attendance; House of Cupcakes and CJ Party Rentals.
- Spring Programs began the week of April 4. New programs include:
 - Zumba Core (16+)
 - Art of Improv and Acting (5-8 grade)
 - Bound for Broadway (4-10 grade)
 - Eating for Bone Health (Seniors)
 - Printing Workshop (Therapeutic)
 - Field Hockey (10-14)
 - Lacrosse (4-14)
 - Spring Break Sports Camp (6-10)
- Summer Camp / Playground registration has begun:
 - Play & Learn Workshop – 1/12
 - Safety Town – 4/60
 - Inman Park – 2/75
 - Williams Park – 5/75
 - FPS Day – 14/75
 - FPS AM ½ Day – 3/20
 - FPS PM ½ Day – 2/20
 - Conerly Road School Full Day – 11/75
 - Conerly Road School AM ½ Day – 6/20
 - Conerly Road School PM ½ Day – 0/20
- Destination Discovery and Sports Camps registration:
 - STEM Inventions with Little Bits – 2/20
 - Chemical Wizardry – 2/20
 - Arcade Electronics Galore – 2/20
 - Hover Craft/Egg Drop – 1/20
 - Traveling Artist – 1/20
 - Creative Engineering – 3/20
 - Battle Bots Robotic Fun – 2/20
 - Super Slimy Smokey Science – 0/20

- Dutch Total Soccer – 1/36
- Basketball Camp – 1/50
- Cricket Camp – 1/24
- Golf Camp – 2/16
- Lacrosse Camp – 0/24
- Multi Sports Camp (week 1) – 3/36
- Multi Sports Camp (week 2) – 2/36

Senior Programs:

- BOE Sr. Gold Card Open Sign – up. The Senior Gold card is a discount card for Franklin resident adults 60 years of age and older to use for special BOE plays and special events. Discount rates or free admission to these events are awarded to card holders.
- Forever 55 Movie “Wild Oats” 85 attended. CareOne of Somerset Valley sponsored the movie with a concession stand. High school student volunteers assisted by handing out concession stand snacks to our moviegoers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Summer Program registration opens on Wednesday, 4/19
- 50+ Co-Ed Softball League Opening Day – 4/23
- Parties, Proms and Pitfalls –5/10 at 6:30pm FHS
- Planting Workshop – 5/10 at 10am

Directors Report

Park Improvements

- Middlebush Park
 - Concession stand has been installed
 - Pavilion is being installed
 - Geese problem is present. Geese Police quote being obtained
- Williams Park
 - Splash pad bids are being accepted at this time
 - Cricket matches are being played
- Weston Road Park
 - Cricket matches are being played
- Inman Park
 - Old playground equipment has been removed
 - New equipment to be installed in May
- Township Resource Guide
 - An electronic and paper guide are being developed
 - Only township based organizations will be listed at this time, may expand in the future
 - A draft list of township orgs was reviewed, Ms. Osipowicz requested any additional orgs to be added can be emailed to either herself or Mr. Reeve
 - Mr. Moon suggested a clause be inserted on all forms that states, “Organizations listed are not vetted for safety, accuracy or credentials.
- Brainstorming Review
 - Historical Awareness and Historical Re-Enactments should be added
 - A weakness identified was lack of summer programs & lack of formal sports leagues.
 - A gap identified was an Artist Co-Op (such as Somerville Art For All)
 - Ms. Osipowicz will email out a revised list and ask each member to list top 3 priorities in trends, weaknesses and challenges

Old Business

Ms. Osipowitz stated that basketball court resurfacing will take place in either fall of 2017 or spring 2018.

New Business

Ms. Osipowitz stated the Recreation Department has been tasked with taking an inventory of programs and services offered in Franklin Township for youth and teens. The goal of this project is to create an online resource guide that will be accessible to all residents. Ms. Osipowitz is working with the IT Department in creating an inline fillable form as an electronic method for submissions. A paper form will also be available at the Community / Senior Center for submissions in person or via phone.

Once the form is finalized, Ms. Osipowitz will send it out via email to the Advisory Recreation Council.

Ms. Sayre gave praise and accolades to the Franklin Township Girls Basketball team for winning the State Championships.

Ms. Osipowitz congratulated Mr. Stewart for being recognized as the 2016/2017 Teacher of the Year at the Sampson G. Smith School.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Ms. Sayre and seconded by Mr. Milligan to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm , all others in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Reeve
Superintendent of Recreation