

## **Parks and Recreation Board Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**May 13<sup>th</sup> 2025**

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Kendra at 7:07

Board attendance: Steve Kendra, Kaitlyn Metzinger, Mike Stuhtrager, Byran Coleman

Guests: Doreen Cooper, Jim Walters, and Caleb Torrice

Minutes from the meeting held on 4/8/25 were reviewed and approved unanimously with a motion from Mike Stuhtrager, seconded by Bryan Coleman.

#### **Parks updates:**

- Forrest Road Park is closed permanently due to a widening crack and a developing sinkhole
- Fairhill Road walking path construction has begun and is going smoothly
- Waterline will be installed at Civic Park as we requested.

#### **Trunk or Treat Discussion:**

- Kaitlyn mentioned the need for tables and chairs for the kids to eat items bought in the food trucks last year. We discussed possible options to obtain them if help is needed. Doylestown Electric, Local Fire Companies were mentioned.
- A request was made to get an approximate attendance from last year from the Township Manager
- Pumpkin Painting and or Scarecrow building – we discussed that this is something P&R could coordinate (with the help of some student volunteers). Chairman Torrice mentioned that the price of Pumpkins in early October is higher, but probably in the range of \$1.50 each from a Lancaster supplier.
- Animals – Bryan has connections with 4H and will contact them to see if bringing some animals is a possibility. It was also suggested that Red Wing Stables might provide a pony or horse if approached. Steve can bring a large African Desert Tortoise. Note: As there will be food present, this will require either a hand-washing or sanitation station.

#### **Deep Run Discussion**

Mike went over the suggested improvements from Jeff at Deep Run. Jeff had a prior commitment and could not attend the meeting. They are as follows:

1. **Batting Practice Cage** - For teams coming to play, it would be great to have an area where players are able to taking warmup swings. A cage/netting of some sorts to do batting practice would great. When practices occur, it could be useful if the demand is high that a team could do cage work while another team is on the field.

2. **Warmup Pitching Areas** - This would be helpful to have warmup pitching areas for both the home and visiting teams. I would also suggest to be somewhat enclosed as the velocity of pitchers at the bigger field are harder and would be good from a safety perspective.

3. **Netting** - It would be beneficial to have netting up that would go behind the home plate and along the baselines. This would be beneficial from safety perspective for players on the basketball court and also on the walking track. It would also help teams save some expense dollars on lost baseballs going into the woods.

4. **Dugouts** - Add shade covers to help protect players from the sun depending on how much room is there.

5. **Scoreboard Controller Longer Chain or Bluetooth** - Not sure if possible but a scoreboard controller that allows for Bluetooth. The scoreboard does not get use often since the controller is in the shed for security reasons. Or a long chair that can reach the 3rd base dugout.

6. **Lights** - This would be awesome to have games at the park under the lights. Players of all ages love to play nighttime games and give them the field of dreams feelings when stepping out onto the diamond. I would prioritize this at the end.

Kaitlyn expressed that we should probably prioritize the netting for safety reasons.

Mike suggested we consult with Jeff (Deep Run) as to the current construction of these types of things (cages, dugouts, netting, etc) at their fields and ask if they have a supplier or contractor that could provide us with some estimates.

Bryan mentioned that for additional improvements at The Civic Park we should consider expanding offerings at Fairhill Park. Things like pickleball, tennis, etc, so as not to get too congested at The Civic Park. This is also where we hope to add parking.

**Mike made a motion that the township proceed with gathering proposals for lights, scoreboard, and netting for the baseball field. Kaitlyn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

## **Benches**

Kaitlyn discussed possibly adding “sponsored” benches in our parks and public areas, especially along the walking paths. Steve said he’d check with Perkasio, Quakertown, and Souderton to see how they handle their sponsored benches

**Survey:**

We have 37 responses so far. **Kaitlyn asked if the Township could put the link out on their Facebook page.** Deanna has put it out on the Township webpage, and Steve has posted it on the Friends of Hilltown Facebook page.

**Maps:**

There was discussion that our board needs an updated (current) map of Hilltown-owned properties where public spaces could be created. We examined and discussed the big map on the wall, but felt a current map for our discussions would be better.

Doreen Cooper mentioned a need to plant more trees for shade, especially along the walking path at Civic, but also anywhere where there might be the aforementioned benches installed.

Along those lines, Kaitlyn talked about the Travis Manion tree planting happening at Fairhill Park this Sunday morning (May 18<sup>th</sup>) at 9:00 am. This is headed up by Bud Hutchinson and was a very enjoyable event last year.

Kaitlyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20, Bryan seconded, and it passed unanimously.