

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – March 7, 2022

Vice Chairperson Steve Smotrich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Notice Statement – The Notice Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied by notification to the Hunterdon County Democrat and by posting with the Township Clerk and on the Delaware Township bulletin board on January 12, 2022.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Erin Buchanan, Rebecca Burns, Heather Opdyke,  
Steve Smotrich, Tim Soltis, Jes Stahl, Linda Ubry  
Absent: Joe Benincasa, Charles Herman, Tyler Kadezabek, Brian Sulewski

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of February 7, 2022 – Linda moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 7, 2022, Jes seconded the motion, and members present approved the minutes with abstentions by Tim and Rebecca.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Tim said he spoke with Summer Recreation Program Director Maegan Harrington about this year's program that will run from July 5 to July 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. He conveyed her recommendations for increases in this year's budget lines for supplies, activities and fees. Maegan said employees from 2019 are returning. They already received police background checks or are Delaware Township School faculty, so there will be no cost for this item. All other costs will increase. Members reviewed the budget for 2019 when the Program last ran.

Members discussed salaries for all positions and agreed to a twenty percent increase for all staffers over 2019 salaries. They also agreed to a twenty-five percent increase in Program fees. The weekly fee for one child will be \$45, for two children \$80, and for three + children \$115. They agreed to an increase in the budget for two lines: activities in an amount up to \$3,000 and supplies up to \$1,250. These two lines could fluctuate between them depending on costs. There may be an increase in the insurance cost.

Tim moved to approve these salaries, budget items, and Program fees, Jes seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved the motion.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Delaware Township Recreation Commission that the 2022 Summer Recreation Program budget shall include a twenty percent salary increase for all staffers over the 2019 salary guide; a twenty-five percent increase in weekly Program fees as follows: for one child - \$45, two children - \$80, and three + children - \$115; a budget for Activities in an amount up to \$3,000; and a budget for Supplies at \$1,250. These two lines could fluctuate between them depending on costs.

Estimated attendance is 120 students. If registration numbers increase, additional staffing may be required. Members agreed that participation is limited to Delaware Township residents and grandchildren of Delaware Township residents.

## REPORTS

Teens – There was no Teen report.

DTS Board of Education – Heather reported the Board discussed and approved the Summer Recreation Program. Today began a “mask optional” policy at the School and on the buses.

DTAA – Erin said the Township Committee approved DTAA’s request for a fundraiser at the Dilts Farm Park on May 21<sup>st</sup>. DTAA is applying for a State Social Affairs permit. The ticket price will include food, beer and wine. Activities will include a cornhole tournament with “A” and “B” brackets. A separate fee will be charged for cornhole play. Cornhole participants may include some non-Delaware Township residents. There have already been many donations. No children will be in attendance. She estimated this event will begin at 3:30 p.m. and end around 10 p.m.

Members agreed to ask the Township Committee to permit consumption of alcoholic beverages by adults of legal drinking age at the Dilts Park for this event and to extend the Park closing hour to 10 p.m.

Erin said that DTAA will redo the softball and baseball fields using Turf Management Company. A sand/soil mix will be added to improve playing conditions. DTAA will use the 2021 \$5,000 allocation from the Township and the 2022 \$5,000 allocation for this project.

Erin said DTAA will run a field hockey clinic at Dilts toward the end of summer to help girls prepare for the DTS team.

Jes said she is talking to Brant Switzler and Seth Buchanan about a possible recreational tennis program.

Open Space – Steve had nothing new to report.

Green Team – Jes said Earth Day will be celebrated on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 12:30 at DTS. Several exhibits are planned. All residents are welcome to participate.

## RECREATION GRANT - UPDATE

Steve said the Township requested \$110,000 from the State for reconstruction of the tennis and basketball courts at the Dilts Park. The State awarded \$40,000. It was not known whether the Township has received the formal notice of grant award from the State.

## PARK PLANNER - UPDATE

Steve said Charlie and Brian met to discuss the overall park plan. There was some misunderstanding. Per Charlie the Township Committee thought the plan would cover the Dilts Park only. Members had agreed that the plan should address all Township-owned recreational land. Steve said per Charlie the plan will now have to go back to the Township Committee for approval to include all Township owned recreational land. Steve said he will let Charlie know the plan should include these lands. Hopefully soon there will be a meeting with a planner to discuss general input.

Steve will also ask Charlie whether the court specifications obtained by Joe Benincasa can be used to put that project out to bid.

APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS – No applications were received this month.

COMMITTEES:

Sports Equipment Swap – March 26<sup>th</sup> 9 to 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park

Egg Hunt – April 9<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park Erin said the Girl Scouts will stuff the eggs at the Sandy Ridge Church and help to hide the eggs. She has Julie Luster-Roell's detailed notes on this event to help with the planning. The Bunny will be there! Age categories are 2-3 year olds, 4-5 year olds, K-1, grades 2-3, and grades 4-5. Erin will notify Chief Chris Cane, post flyers, and ask the School to publish this event in the weekly newsletter.

Yard Sale – May 21<sup>st</sup> 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Plant Swap – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park. Jes said East Amwell's plant swap is May 21<sup>st</sup> at Clawson Park.

Campout and Bonfire – To be discussed

Fishing Derby – Tim said the Fishing Derby will be June 25<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date June 26<sup>th</sup>) at the Copelands' Pond. Members agreed the Commission will buy bait from Skip's Outdoors.

Great Crate Race – July 4<sup>th</sup> - Steve said the tee shirts are in the works. They will be given to participants and volunteers and sold to others. The cost for shirts is about \$2,000. Kathleen Herman and he recommend that the event not solicit sponsors this year to give local businesses a break, although donations will be accepted. The Commission budgeted \$3,000 for this event. Members agreed to ask the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Department to sell food. Cooper Farms will supply the hay bales. There will be a car show in the Township's lot on Lower Ferry Road and a little parade. Attractions will include a face painter, balloon animals and someone on stilts. The event will end by 11:15 or so. There will be a test run day on the first or second Saturday in June. Judy will ask the School for permission to park and stage activities in the parking lot for the test run day and the Race Day.

Kite Festival – August 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. following the Equipment Swap – Participants will bring kites, and the Commission will provide snacks.

Scavenger Hunt – Not scheduled for this year.

Fall Fun Fireworks – September 10<sup>th</sup> at Dilts Park

Community Day/Block Party – October 1<sup>st</sup> at Sergeantsville Green

Halloween Activity – To be discussed.

Holiday Decorating Contest/Holiday Lighting and Parade – Tree lighting and parade December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Rain/snow date December 4<sup>th</sup>) Holiday lighting judging December 12 6 to 9 p.m.

Chili Cook-Off – To be discussed

Bowling Event – To be discussed.

#### OLD BUSINESS –

Adults Recreation at DTS – Adult basketball, soccer and volleyball have resumed. It is a lot of work for the DTS custodial staff to break down cafeteria tables and reset them the next day. Adult activities will begin at 7:30 p.m., not 7 p.m.

Teen Recreation at DTS – This activity remains suspended until parents volunteer to oversee it.

Ice Rink – The season for ice skating may have passed.

#### DILTS PARK UPDATE

A Boy Scout Eagle candidate completed the bridge on the walking trail near Buchanan Road. His project included a nearby bench dedicated to the memory of Ray VandenBerghe who was so very active in scouting throughout his life.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Property Naming Contest – To be discussed in connection with Township park planning.

#### Baseball Trip

After discussion, members agreed that an event will be held at the Somerset Patriots field. Fun activities may include an 8<sup>th</sup> grade sendoff, a performance by the DTS chorus, Township recognition on the jumbotron, and other possible opportunities.

#### Joint Activity with East Amwell Township

A possible joint activity with East Amwell Township will be discussed in the future.

#### MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Diana Garibaldi asked about trees at the Dilts Park.

#### CHANGE IN MEETING TIME

Erin suggested that the Commission's meeting time be changed to 7 p.m., and members unanimously approved the following Resolution effecting that change.

#### DELAWARE TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL NOTICE RESOLUTION #2022-02

WHEREAS, the Delaware Township Recreation Commission approved Resolution #2022-01 on January 10, 2022 providing for the giving of annual notice by public bodies of the time and location of the regular meetings of such public body to be held during the succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Township Recreation Commission now desires to change the meeting start time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. effective on April 4, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Recreation Commission of the Township of Delaware, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Regular meetings of this Commission shall be held during the 2022 calendar year at 7:00 p.m. at the Delaware Township Municipal Building, 570 Rosemont Ringoes Rd., (Cty. Rt. 604), Sergeantsville, New Jersey 08557 or via ZOOM with meeting link information provided on the Township bulletin board and website prior to meeting beginning with the April 4, 2022 meeting.
2. All other provisions of Resolution #2022-01 shall remain in place.
3. Notice of this change shall be provided as set forth in Resolution #2022-01.
3. Copies of the Resolution, any revisions or modifications thereof, certified to be true copies by the Secretary of this Board, shall be disseminated and distributed as required by the Act, as follows:
  - a. Posted and maintained throughout the 2022 calendar year on the bulletin board at the Delaware Township Municipal Building;
  - b. Sent via Fax Transmission to the newspapers listed in Resolution #2022-01;
  - c. Filed with the Clerk of this municipality; and
  - d. Mailed to such other person as may be entitled thereto under the terms of the Act and this Resolution.
4. All other provisions of Resolution #2022-01 shall remain in effect.

ATTEST:

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Steve Smotrich, Vice Chairperson  
March 7, 2022

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Judith A. Allen,  
Recreation Commission Secretary  
March 7, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.