

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – February 7, 2022
Chairperson Brian Sulewski 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, Tyler Kadezabek, Heather Opdyke, Steve Smotrich, Jes Stahl, Brian Sulewski, Linda Ubry

Absent: Joe Benincasa, Erin Buchanan, Rebecca Burns, Charles Herman, Tim Soltis

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of January 10, 2022 – Linda moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 10, 2022, Jes seconded the motion, and members present approved the minutes.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Summer Recreation Program Director Maegan Harrington said that she met with DTS Principal Scott Lipson to discuss this summer's program running July 5th through July 22nd. The Summer Academy will run from 8 to 10 a.m. The Recreation Program will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most of the teachers who previously worked in the Program are returning. She asked whether the Township has to advertise for any new or unfilled positions. Maegan said she would like to see salaries increased from the 2019 levels. She asked CFO Diane McDaniel and Deputy Clerk Tiffany Crivelli for a copy of the salary and wage ordinance. It will need revision. She also would prefer not to use her credit card for supplies and request reimbursement. Brian said Ms. McDaniel prefers use of Amazon. Maegan said she spoke with Police Chief Chris Cane about updating police background checks for returning counselors and obtaining checks for new counselors. Maegan discussed staffing.

Maegan said there will be a rock climbing wall for the first day. Other activities will probably include an ice cream outing, a fire truck spray down, a helicopter landing, a gun safety and K-9 demonstration from the Prosecutor's office, a bounce house obstacle course, a Monarch butterfly talk, and maybe the County Library Bookmobile. There will be no travel – all events will take place at DTS. There will be an honor system for Covid. Language will be needed for the registration form re: Covid, and legal advice should be obtained for this language. Temperature checks may be taken. A teacher will assist children with special needs.

Heather said the new roof on the school will not be installed this summer.

Fees in 2018 were \$35 (one child), \$65 (two children), and \$90 (three + children). Fees may need to be increased. Children will bring their own snacks.

Maegan said she is CPR and health certified, as are the Physical Education teachers. The Township's insurance carrier must be contacted to see whether a nurse must be on-site. Students will bring their own epi pens, if applicable. Parent volunteers are encouraged.

Notice of the Program will be posted on the Township website and advertised in the DTS Wildcat Newsletter and social media. Maegan will work up a budget for review at the next meeting.

REPORTS

Teens – Tyler said he would like to plan a teen bowling trip to West Hunterdon Lanes in March. Members agreed that Recreation will cover the lane fees for two hours. Bowlers will pay for their shoe rentals. Tyler will finalize the date. He would like to plan another hike in the spring.

DTS Board of Education – Heather reported the Board revised the Use of Facilities Request Form. Recreation adult and teen activities at the school must wait for a reduction in the Covid health level from red to orange. The Board will discuss the statewide mask mandate change.

DTAA – Spring sports registration is open. Erin asked the Township Committee for permission for the Spring Fundraiser on May 21st at the Dilts Farm Park its last meeting.

Open Space – Steve said Tiffany Crivelli is the new Open Space Coordinator. There are no pending applications. The Township's Master Plan update is due by September. The Recreation Commission completed its review and recommendation already.

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

INSTRUCTIONAL TENNIS

Brant Switzler was present and said he is interested in running an instructional tennis program at the Dilts Park. Members discussed at length how to resolve the issues that arose when this program was discussed last fall including court fees, instructor advertising, salaries, and insurance. Jes suggested asking DTAA to run this program. It would be another sport offered by DTAA. Members agreed this could be a great opportunity.

RECREATION GRANT

The State approved a \$40,000 recreation grant for the Township. The Township Committee will review the terms of the award.

PARK PLANNER

Brian said there were supposed to be two in-person meetings with the park planner from Colliers Engineering, but due to inclement weather, they did not take place. He said a draft proposal will be presented to the Township Committee for review. Then representatives of the Township's stakeholders will be brought in for review.

2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Members reviewed a draft budget request. Recreation requested \$23,000 in 2021 and received \$15,000. There was a question among members whether the funds allocated to DTAA are separate or funneled through the Recreation budget. Members agreed to request \$24,000 for 2022 to include \$1,000 for new activities.

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

COMMITTEES:

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

Egg Hunt – April 9th 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park

Yard Sale – May 21st 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Plant Swap – May 22nd 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park.

Campout and Bonfire – To be discussed

Fishing Derby – To be discussed

Great Crate Race – July 4th Steve will plan this event with Kathleen Herman. There will probably be a crate swap and mini trial race.

Scavenger Hunt – To be discussed

Fall Fun Fireworks – September 10th at Dilts Park

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

Halloween Activity – To be discussed.

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

Chili Cook-Off – To be discussed

Kite Festival – August 20th at 11 a.m. following the Equipment Swap – To be discussed.

Bowling Event – To be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS –

Adults Recreation at DTS – on hold until health level drops to orange.

Teen Recreation at DTS – This activity is well attended, but no parents have stepped up to chaperone these Friday events. This activity is suspended until the health level has dropped to orange and parents have volunteered to oversee it. Without adult supervision, this activity can not continue.

Ice Rink – Steve said he and his team will try to get the skating rink built soon.

DILTS PARK UPDATE

The Township DPW removed the ash trees by the playground. The stumps remain. Boy Scout Eagle candidate Aaron Importico is replacing the bridge on the walking trail near Buchanan Road.

NEW BUSINESS

Property Naming Contest – To be discussed

Yankees Baseball Trip

Steve said he will get bus prices.

Joint Activity with East Amwell Township

Jes suggested the Commission explore a joint activity with East Amwell Township – perhaps a picnic with food trucks and a band. She will reach out to East Amwell.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Steve Wilbur asked about the status of the walking trail on the Reimer tract. An alternate trail was proposed that would not follow his rear property line. Brian said the Commission is waiting to hear from the park planner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.