

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – April 4, 2022

Chairperson Brian Sulewski called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 March 24, 2022.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of March 7, 2022 – After two corrections, Linda moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 7, 2022, Tim seconded the motion, and members present approved the minutes with abstentions by Brian and Charlie.

REPORTS

Teen Report

Tyler said a teen bowling event cannot be planned at this time due to the pending sale of the Frenchtown Lanes. He will plan a hiking event on May 14 or May 15 at the White Oak Trail. Members agreed the Commission will reimburse him for bagels and drinks.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM July 5 to July 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Brian and Jes said this year's Summer Recreation Program is set. Director Maegan Harrington and CFO Diane McDaniels are working on a salary resolution for consideration by the Township Committee. Heather said Delaware Township School has approved this event.

DTS Board of Education

Heather said assemblies at the School have recommenced. The Board is working on sustainability in its Strategic Plan. Work on the Plan continues. The School may apply for Blue Ribbon certification.

DTAA

Erin said the DTAA annual fundraiser will be held in September. Work on field preparation at the Dilts Park went well. Spring sports have started. DTAA will host a field hockey clinic this summer on the Makara Field that will first need some grading work. DTAA will buy lacrosse goals. Herbicides were applied to the Dilts Park fields through the Township. She said DTAA hopes to sponsor a tennis program using one court at the Park on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to Noon. Members agreed that a tennis court reservation option should be added to the Township's Use of Facilities application with a fee of \$10 per hour per court. Charlie will so notify the Township Committee. A sign should be added to the court fence with court reservations posted.

Brian said there has been some organized play on the little soccer field lately. Overuse will damage that field. Members agreed that Erin will arrange for signs to post on that field that it is closed Monday-Friday to rest it.

DTAA Opening Day is April 23rd. Closing Day will be in June.

Tim said East Amwell Township no longer runs a youth baseball program. Delaware Township may be able to obtain the bleachers and batting cages currently located at the field in Ringoes. Jes will reach out to a contact with that request.

Green Team

Jes said Earth Day will be celebrated April 14th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at DTS. There will be lots of exhibits and activities. DTS is on track for Bronze Certification through NJ Sustainability. Future projects may include additional landscaping at the School, a wildflower garden, and outdoor classroom(s).

Open Space

Steve said there is nothing new to report.

RECREATION GRANT UPDATE

Charlie said the Township has not yet received any paperwork from the State regarding the recently awarded \$40,000 recreation grant.

PARK PLANNER - UPDATE

Charlie said at its last meeting the Township Committee agreed that all questions regarding the Park Planner will go to the Township Committee. He hoped the Committee will complete contract negotiations with the planner soon. There have been some good discussion sessions already with the planner. The Committee hopes to go to bid soon on the tennis court repairs. The Township Engineer will prepare the specifications. Charlie said repairs to the tennis courts are the first priority. When the basketball court is redone, it may be striped to include a pickle ball court as well.

Brian thought there should be a paved area for skateboarding. Judy thought the paved area by the bocce courts was intended for that purpose. Charlie said changes to existing facilities will need public input

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 Jes said there is a lot of leftover sports equipment. She requested and received permission to purchase storage tubs to store the equipment in the attic at the Snack Shack. She will change the date of the August sports equipment swap to September 10th.

Egg Hunt – April 9th 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park Erin said Girl Scouts and Julie Luster-Roell's soccer team members stuffed 4,000 eggs. Eggs will be hidden at 9 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be suitably transported to the Park for the festivities. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place finishers in each age group.

Yard Sale – May 21st 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Judy said the Yard Sale is on track.

Plant Swap – May 22nd 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park. Jes said she would like to buy a reusable banner noticing this event. Members agreed.

Fishing Derby – June 25th (Rain Date June 26th) at the Copelands' Pond. Registration at 8 a.m. Poles in at 9 a.m. Tim said planning for the Fishing Derby is progressing.

Great Crate Race – July 4th - Steve said this event will include face painting, balloon animals, and stilt walking. The Commission budgeted \$2,500 for this event. Registration fees and tee shirt sales will help to offset the expenses. The members of the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company will sell food. Judy submitted a request to reserve the DTS parking lot for a test run day in June and for Race Day. There will be a temporary road centerline stripe. The starting line may need to be adjusted after testing crate speeds on Lower Ferry Road.

OLD BUSINESS –

Somerset Patriots Game - Steve said Joe Benincasa has finalized an event at the Somerset Patriots stadium in Bridgewater for June 11th. The game starts at 7 p.m. followed by fireworks. Special activities may include a performance by the DTS chorus, pictures with Sparky, the mascot, recognition on the jumbotron, etc. Members agreed attendees will pay for their entrance, food, and beverages. Members agreed to pay for the chorus members' and chorus teachers' entrance and will offer some discount on ice cream purchases.

Adults Recreation at DTS – Adult basketball, soccer and volleyball continue. Adult activities begin at 7:30 p.m.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Kite Day – August 20th – Noon to 4 p.m. Jes said this event will be held at the Dilts Park. Participants will bring their own kites or there may be a kite building clinic using kits. Prizes will be awarded. There may be a food truck and Kona Ice.

Meteor Shower Watch Party - Jes said she would like to see a Leonid Meteor Shower watch party at the Dilts Park on November 18th. She said the Commission will have to ask that the Park closing time be extended to 10 p.m. She said there are a lot of amateur astronomers who could assist. The Commission could provide cocoa and s'mores. There could be a bonfire for which a fire pit permit will be needed. Members thought this sounded like a great activity.

Rebecca said she would like to see an adult event hosted by the Commission, perhaps, a Bingo night. There will be more discussion about this.

BUDGET UPDATE

Charlie said the 2022 Township budget will be introduced on May 11th. The working number for the Recreation Commission is \$18,000.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments or questions from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING 2022 ACTIVITIES

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