

Lehigh Township Recreation Commission

March 17, 2025

7:00 PM

Call to Order.

Sandy Hopkins called to order the regular meeting of the Lehigh Township Recreation Commission.

Roll Call

The following persons were present: David Hess, Jerry Pritchard, Tammy Hess, and Sandy Hopkins. **Patrick VanderPloeg was present towards the end of the meeting.**

Public Comment

Noon Year's Event. Due to a conflict, this will be discussed at the April 21st meeting.

Approval February 3, 2025, Minutes

David Hess made motion to approve the minutes. Jerry Pritchard seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Old Business

Ag Days. Patrick VanderPloeg commented it would be best to either wait until fall or next spring/summer.

Danielsville Tennis Courts. Jerry Pritchard spoke with the Township Engineer regarding his availability to look at the drainage at the courts. They will attempt to meet on Friday, March 21st so this can go on the Supervisors agenda. He will also contact Bill Jones for his availability. He also thinks it would be a good idea to invite Frank Zamadics to the meeting as well.

Jerry Pritchard also spoke with a contractor who does tennis courts and is working on coordinating a site visit with him after we figure out what is going on with the water. The contractor told him that they are very busy right now, mostly with pickle ball courts. Jerry Pritchard will also reach out to other contractors and go from there. He also spoke Devin Scott from DNS Fencing and will look at the fencing that is around the tennis courts and provide a cost to replace it. The fencing doesn't have to be vinyl; it can be galvanized which tends to be a little heavier. It is a personal preference. The fencing is

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about 16' along the road and lower on the interior. Jerry Pritchard commented he was thinking we could go with the same height that is currently there since it has been working all this time. David Hess commented it should be checked to see what the current regulations are. Sandy Hopkins raised a concern about getting too far ahead with discussing the fencing since we still haven't received a report from the Township Engineer. We don't know what we need to do there yet. Jerry Pritchard will confirm the time and let the Rec Board know.

Berlinsville Field. Devin Scott from DNS Fencing is expecting the material to arrive on the middle to end of next week, and then he will start immediately after that. Jerry Pritchard commented with the season starting on Friday, there will need to be some type of precautionary fencing installed to make sure no one runs into the wall. Vinnie Eiden noted there is some temporary fencing that he used at the All-star Game that could be used. Devin Scott will work the installation of the fencing around the games that are scheduled.

The permanent fence will be installed around 16" from the wall and there will be a secondary fencing installed to cover the gap between the fence and the wall.

The maintenance crew was out and got the field ready. Vinnie Eiden will be cutting the base lines in. There is enough material on hand to start the season. Jerry Pritchard questioned when the batting cage was going to be installed. Alice Rehrig commented it usually is installed around April 1st. Vinnie Eiden noted a new net is needed for the cage. Alice Rehrig commented a new one was ordered last year. Alice Rehrig will check with the road department to see about getting the net installed before the 1st.

Sandy Hopkins raised a concern about the temporary fencing and what was going up. Vinnie Eiden commented the orange fencing he used for the Home Run Derby is still out at the park. That fencing can be stretched along the area of the wall so that if someone is backing up, they won't back into the wall. They would get into the warning track first, then the temporary fencing. Sandy Hopkins questioned if anything will be going on top of the wall so no one falls off the wall. Jerry Pritchard commented additional orange fencing can be placed along the top of the wall as well.

Sandy Hopkins asked Jerry Pritchard to explain how the whole project was going to be paid for and why padding is no longer being used. Jerry Pritchard commented the cost

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of the padding that was previously discussed became too expensive and there was a concern with it needing to be replaced every five years. The fencing was a more economical option. The final fencing costs will be \$13,144.04 and the blocks for the wall cost \$15,235. The total cost of the project will \$28,379 plus costs associated for adding logos to the fencing. The Lions Club agreed to pay up to \$14,000 for the fencing. There was \$16,000 budgeted for the wall. Cindy Miller noted the road crew's time for installing the temporary fencing should be included in the final costs.

David Hess wanted to thank Bills Jones and Wayne Kleintop for the time and equipment they volunteered to install the wall. Sandy Hopkins requested Alice Rehrig send something to thank them.

A resident questioned if pickleball lines could be added to the Berlinsville Tennis Court. He knows they were added to Danielsville last year. Jerry Pritchard commented he realizes that pickle ball is the biggest thing going right now. David Hess commented he would be in favor of bringing this up at the next Supervisors meeting. Jerry Pritchard commented the Rec Board needs to agree on this before it goes to the Supervisors. Sandy Hopkins commented she has no objection to painting the lines. No one had requested it before. Tammy Hess had no objection as long as pickle ball and tennis players are sharing the time on the court. Janet Sheats questioned if one park could be designated for pickleball and another park for tennis. Sandy Hopkins commented she thinks it may come to that, especially if the courts in Danielsville need to be reconstructed. Jerry Pritchard commented he believes the need for tennis courts will be diminishing over time. With Berlinsville being in the middle of the Township, he can see the need for it there. The Rec Board agreed that this will be brought up to the Supervisors. Sandy Hopkins commented for the time being, she agrees with adding the lines.

Jerry Pritchard would like to see an LED sign added to the Berlinsville Park. Sandy Hopkins commented this is her project and she will be working on this.

Sandy Hopkins questioned when the memorial bench will be installed in Berlinsville. David Hess commented Wayne Kleintop is working on getting the concrete set.

New Business

Field Use Requests. Field use requests have been submitted by LTAA for Berlinsville for soccer and baseball, Delps for field hockey, and Pennsville as a backup field for the younger kids. For adult teams, use requests were submitted by the Kids, Cyclones, and Kings. The Kids meet the 25% resident requirement to be considered a home team. Vinnie Eiden commented he will be working with Chris Bodnar so that there are no schedule conflicts. Jerry Pritchard questioned if the Braves will be playing on the field. Alice Rehrig commented she has not heard from them.

Jerry Pritchard questioned if the All-Star game was scheduled. Vinnie Eiden commented the All-Star Games will be held at a different field to avoid scheduling conflicts because of the amount of teams using the field and the amount of games that will be scheduled for the All-Star Games.

2025 Tree Lighting. The date for the Tree Lighting will be Saturday, December 6. If there are any changes being proposed, now would be the time to think about it. David Hess commented Blue Mountain Fish & Game would be willing to serve chili again.

There was discussion regarding doing sponsored trees, but there is a limited amount of electricity available for the trees. They would need to be placed along the back end of the track, near the shed. The individuals or companies would purchase the tree and decorate it to a theme they choose.

It was also suggested about planting a tree for future tree lighting. Alice Rehrig will check with Frank Zamadics to see what size tree could be planted. Until the new tree reaches an appropriate height, a cut tree will be needed for the tree lighting. David Hess commented he knows someone who may be willing to provide a tree for planting.

Delps Park Dog Park. David Hess noted it was brought up at the last Township meeting regarding adding shade shelters to Delps Park. David Hess commented he could contact Allen Township regarding the type of shelters they have at their park. Sandy Hopkins commented only one shade may be needed if it is placed between the two parks. The small dog side doesn't get used that heavily as compared to the large dog side. David Hess will look into pricing.

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Sandy Hopkins also noted the dog bags need to be replaced.

A resident questioned if it would be possible to purchase a memorial bench for Delps Park in memory of his mother. She used to go to the park every day to walk the track. If possible he would like to see it placed towards the far side of the mile long walking track. Sandy Hopkins will provide him with the information on the benches.

Sandy Hopkins questioned if we were in a position to install the Hock memorial bench in Berlinsville as it has been sitting in storage for almost a year. David Hess commented Wayne Kleintop still needs to pour the base for the bench. He and Wayne will be coordinating the pouring of the concrete since he has a job coming up in the area. They are hoping it will be up within the next month.

Public Comment

A resident questioned if there is a schedule for when the fields are used at the park. Alice Rehrig commented the only team using the field right now is LTAA football and their schedule isn't out yet. All the schedules for the fields are posted on the Township website. The resident questioned if there are any parking restrictions for the park and if it is a problem if someone parks there and then rides their bike. The Rec Board noted as a public park, there would not be any restrictions on that.

Vinnie Eiden questioned if the snack stand will be open for the Northern Lehigh Games. Jerry Pritchard commented it is difficult to open the stand for a game that starts at 4:00 PM. Jerry Pritchard commented with the games being held right after school, getting the stand setup could be difficult with people working. Vinnie Eiden commented it would be a good idea to allow the Booster Club to operate the food stand if the parents are willing to do it. Alice Rehrig noted the water systems are not flushed and tested until late April. Janet Sheats suggested starting a Lehigh Township Booster Club to help run the stand for games. Vinnie Eiden commented he knows someone who ran the snack stand in Northampton and is now back at Lehigh Township and they charged \$100 for the stand rental.

Vinnie Eiden also questioned if a food truck could be used at games when the stand is not open. The Rec Board raised a concern regarding liability. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

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Cindy Miller commented it seems like the Rec Board could use a committee to help with the stand so it is not just up to the five members. There was an individual who interviewed for Rec Board who was interested in helping. It may be beneficial to reach out to her. Jerry Pritchard commented it seems that after they apply and don't get put on the Board, they no longer want to help. David Hess commented she is Barry Haydt's neighbor. He has reached out through Barry so she is aware of when they meet. Janet Sheats suggested putting something out on social media regarding the need for volunteers to work the stand.

Vinnie Eiden commented he thinks the teams using the field need to be involved to get the stand running. It could be rented out like it was in the past. A rental fee of \$100 or \$150 could be paid and then the person who is renting the stand would be responsible for purchasing all their products and what they make, they make. Alice Rehrig commented when she was in the stand for LTAA, there really wasn't enough sales from the single game to support the rental of the stand. During a busy night, there may have been \$100 that crossed over the counter. By the time you would deduct the expenses and pay a rental fee, there would be anything left. No one wanted to drag the products back and forth so when there were multiple groups using the stand, there were issues over who provided what supplies and who used them. Jerry Pritchard commented there also is an issue of who gets preference to run the stand when an outside team is using the field. Sandy Hopkins commented she had the stand open for the entire day during the All-star Game and they only made a minimal amount of money, around \$150. Sandy Hopkins commented someone will also need to make sure the stand is clean before and after use. She has done that and all the shopping for the stand. In order to open the stand, it needs to be cleaned because the stand is not weather proof. It becomes dirty and filthy every time it rains. David Hess made a motion to table this until next meeting. Patrick VanderPloeg seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn. David Hess made a motion to adjourn. Patrick VanderPloeg seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.