

Lehigh Township Recreation Commission

August 18, 2025

7:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Tammy Hess, Patrick VanderPloeg, David Hess, and Sandy Hopkins were present for the meeting.

Approval of July 21, 2025, Minutes

Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to approve the minutes. David Hess seconded the motion. Tammy Hess questioned if the fence statement regarding the purpose of the fencing was accurate. Alice Rehrig commented the statement probably should be clarified went with Jeff Erschen's concern regarding the purpose of the fencing in general is to keep the balls in the park, not the purpose of the gates. Sandy Hopkins commented it should also be noted in the minutes that the purpose of the gates was for easier access for Frank Zamadics to get equipment in the field, but it was also noted that there is a hill in the area that they would have to climb over. Sandy Hopkins commented under the Berlinsville Snack stand, it is incorrect that Walnutport Door was not interested, Walnutport door is coming to help her out. All voted aye to approve the minutes with these corrections. Motion carried.

Old Business

2025 Tree Lighting. The Lions Club will do what they did in the past. Patrick VanderPloeg commented he spoke with the magician, and he has committed to do a roaming show for the entire length of the Tree Lighting for \$300. He has not heard back from the balloon artist. If he doesn't hear back, he will reach out to someone else. Sandy Hopkins also spoke with the Elementary Choir director, and they are planning on attending. Santa is also scheduled. Patrick VanderPloeg commented that he will reach out to the Police Department regarding a movie. If needed, he can assist with obtaining the equipment. Patrick VanderPloeg will reach out to the Fire Police for parking assistance and will also reach out to Jendy Sell to see if she would like to bring the goats again. Tammy Hess commented it would be nice if the Fire Company would be able to stay and participate in the Tree Lighting. Patrick VanderPloeg commented it is tough because they do Santa deliveries that day as well, but he will check. Sandy Hopkins will be reaching out to the Lioness for doing a candy can scramble again. Patrick VanderPloeg noted the tennis courts worked out really well as a location for the scramble. If someone would be willing to donate firewood, it would be nice to provide a campfire. The S'mores are difficult

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because of having enough people to watch the kids so they are not running with the sticks. Sandy Hopkins asked Alice Rehrig to order the port-o-let. David Hess commented the Fish and Game will serve Chili again. Thought needs to be given as to what will go into the gifts for Santa. Last year, there was about 150 bags put together for Santa. The Board will get together on December 1 to put the bags together and make sure everything is set for the tree lighting.

Dog Park Shades. The Rec Board discussed whether one or two structures would be needed. There was a concern about the aesthetics of placing one large structure that would straddle the fence of both parks. The Board will need to determine the location. There was discussion about placing them over the benches that are located in the center of the fencing or possibly placing them more towards the middle of the park. They were leaning toward placing them in the middle to help break up the routine areas that the dogs run. David Hess made a motion to move forward with two 12 X 12 structure at a total cost of \$8,850. Patrick VanderPloeg seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Park Gates. David Hess commented the Board needs to decide whether they want the additional gates, but also he would like additional information from Frank Zamadics regarding why he chose the locations and the benefits of it. He would also like to have a first responder look at the area as well. Jeff Erschen commented the issue that was mentioned at the last meeting was that the area that was marked, was part of the 8 feet section of fence and if a gate is added, it probably would only be 4 feet. Sandy Hopkins commented she agrees with the concern about adding gates along first base line because of the steep embankment. Patrick VanderPloeg commented he doesn't really see the need for the additional gate. Sandy Hopkins commented she doesn't see how equipment could get into the first base line. Additional information will be needed before a decision can be made.

Danielsville gates. It was questioned how many gates were actually needed for the fields. The large field already has a large gate in it. It wasn't sure how two additional gates would benefit, especially with the hill by the bleachers.

Window at Berlinsville Snack Stand. Sandy Hopkins commented there was a family emergency so Walnutport Door was not able to meet her last week as planned. She has not heard back from them yet, but will contact them again.

Mats for Dog Park. David Hess commented the pavers will be expensive to install. His concern is whether or not the problem will just keep moving further out the field. The pricing that was received was for turf at a cost of \$2,432 with the maintenance crew doing the work. Monica Brown estimated the cost of interlocking plastic material to be \$3,000. David Hess questioned how long the products will last. Linda Roman commented she has the material at her house and has a lot of traffic on it and has no problems with it. It is specifically made for pets. The

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turf can be sprayed with white vinegar to clean it. The turf also doesn't need to be mowed. David Hess commented he is not sure that he agrees with turf being installed at the dog park. There is no water at the site to wash it down. Linda Roman commented if you put concrete down, it can be a liability if someone falls on it. David Hess commented concrete is expensive and he doesn't agree with adding more concrete to the dog park. It was questioned if the field needs to be regraded. Alice Rehrig commented the grading is not the issue. When the large dogs run back and forth, they tear up the grass, especially in the spring when the freeze and thaw occurs, it then becomes muddy. Sandy Hopkins commented the shelters will be concreted in. The area under the shades will then become muddy. A gentleman from the audience commented Slatedale has a similar sized dog park with shelters and nothing under them. Jeff Erschen commented the shades are a good idea, but the best treatment for the mud is continued overseeding of the grass.

Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to table the mats until the Board sees the effect of the structures. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pennsville Pavilions. There has been an ongoing issue of birds nesting under the pavilions and creating a mess on the tables. Everyone agreed that something needs to be done to keep the birds out of the pavilions, but were concerned with the cost. Patrick VanderPloeg suggested using a metal wire instead of the aluminum. David Hess commented if we are looking to improve the parks, it would make sense to do something solid. David Hess made a motion to move forward with having the metal installed under the roof. Tammy Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried. Linda Roman commented there is a hole in the 3rd pavilion facing the creek that should be taken care of before the pavilions are enclosed.

New Business

2026 Capital Improvements & Budget. The Rec Board was provided with the proposed Capital Improvements and budget. They will review it and provide feedback to Alice Rehrig

Public Comment. Jeff Erschen commented the parks were sprayed, but the weeds are now brown. Were they posted that they were sprayed to make people aware? He also saw that Delps was sprayed. David Hess will check with Frank Zamadics regarding the spraying.

Patrick VanderPloeg wanted to apology for his choice of wording and knows it was wrong, and unprofessional. It was not intended to be directed at anyone; he said it out of frustration from the day and should not have been said.

Patrick VanderPloeg noted he would not be in attendance at the next meeting because of an important Fire Company Training.

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