

**BETHEL PARK
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JUNE 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Call to order:** Time: 7:02pm

2. **Roll Call:** Bill Bonaccorsi, Vince Galloni, James Gastgeb (Chairperson), Kelly Kuhn, Bob McCall, Jim Miller (Vice Chairperson), Christina Murtaugh, Joseph Nagel, Joelle Salerno (Secretary), Russ Spicuzza, Daryl Walezak

Present: Bill Bonaccorsi, Vince Galloni, James Gastgeb (Chairperson), Kelly Kuhn, Bob McCall, Christina Murtaugh, Joseph Nagel, Joelle Salerno (Secretary), Daryl Walezak

Absent: Jim Miller (Vice Chairperson), Russ Spicuzza

Staff Present: Chuck Stover

Liaison Present: Tim Moury

3. **Communications:**

- A. Board Meeting minutes May 4, 2022
- B. Department Program Expense Reports dated May 31, 2022
- C. Recreation Department Revenue / Disbursements Reports for April 2022
- D. Personnel Payroll Report Sheets: April 29 & May 13, 2022
- E. Key Dates

4. **Motion to approve minutes of regular meeting of May 4, 2022**

Motion Mr. Nagel Second Mr. Bonaccorsi

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: **None**

Vote: **8-0**

5. **Resident comments and questions: None**

6. Director's Report:

June 2022 Director's Report

Speakers Series	The communication teams will be meeting to discuss the survey results; unfortunately, there were only 12 responses. The first occurrence will be October 19, 2022.
Farmers' Market	The Farmers' Market is going well, it is busy. There is a new newsletter through Constant Contacts. There are approximately 900 subscribers. Mr. Stover said the weekly newsletter in constant contact is going great. The June 7 newsletter 899 sends and 595 were opened, which is 66%. The June 7 Vendors updates there were 895 sends and 502 were opened which is 56%. As of June 8, the newsletter is up to 914 scribes. Mr. Gastgeb asked if we could have garbage cans placed in the ice-skating rink parking lot. Mr. Stover said he would ask the county. Additionally, Mr. Gastgeb asked if the market could stay open to 7:30pm, since people are going back into the office. Mr. Stover said he would check into it.
Millennium Park Concession Stand	Allegheny County Health Department has the paperwork and payment. I am waiting for approval. Mr. Stover said the paperwork and the payment are at Allegheny County Health Department. The health department is backed up, so we do not know when it will be approved. Mr. Moury made some phone calls to see if the process can be expedited.
Personnel/Hiring	<p>The Department is looking to hire for the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Aquatic Supervisor* ✓ Head Swim Team Coach* ✓ Program Coordinator – one candidate had a final interview, and the second candidate has a final interview on June 8, 2022. <p>Mr. Stover updated everyone that we still need an Aquatic Supervisor and Head Swim Team Coach. The swim team staff is very short staff right now. The Program Coordinator: an offer was made this afternoon and James Knight tentatively accepted the position. The formal offer letter needs to go out and signed. Mr. Stover reviewed his experience.</p> <p>Assistant Recreation Director – Emily Skoczlas has accepted the position. She has a bachelor's degree in Professional Studies with an emphasis in Sport Management from Slippery Rock University. Additionally, she has a master's degree in Sport Management from California University of Pennsylvania. Her work experience includes Facilities and Reservations Coordinator at Duke University. She was promoted to Assistant Director of Recreation Facilities and Reservations in 2018. Mr. Stover reviewed her experience.</p> <p>*I am asking the swim team coaches to help cover lessons. However, we only have three coaches working right now.</p>
Summer Programs	<p>Day camp - Weeks 3, 5, and 7 are full. Weeks 1, 2, 4, and 8 have a few spots open. We can accommodate 55 campers a week. Mr. Stover updated this all weeks are filled except weeks 4 and 8. Week 4 is the Fourth of July week, and it never fills as a lot of people take vacation.</p> <p>t- bird - t- ball is full; there 40 participants. Since the first class filled so quickly, a second t-ball class was added. Rookie League is full; there are 20 participants. Ms. Salerno asked if any communication has gone out regarding rookie ball. Mr. Stover said not yet, but Jumpstart Sports will be communicating with people soon.</p> <p>Private Swim lessons are full for the summer session; 60 total swimmers. Mr. McCall asked if there was a ratio for swim lessons. Mr. Stover stated there is a ratio for lifeguards and it is 1 lifeguard for every 35 swimmers.</p> <p>The first session of pickleball is full for a total of 46 participants.</p>

Park & Play Events	<p>Park and Play events – No Bad Juju will be performing on June 26 at Millennium Park from 5:00pm to 7:30pm- parking will be at Millennium Park and Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Confirmed Food Trucks are Wu’s Shaved Ice, Wild River Kettle Korn, and Wood Stoked BBQ.</p> <p>Police National Night Out is on Tuesday August 2 at Miners Park 7:00pm</p> <p>End of Summer Bash is August 13 at Simmons Park from 11:00am to 2:00pm</p> <p>Star Party is September 16 at Millennium Park starting at 7:00pm Mr. Stover explained that park & play events are going well. There is a lot of positive feedback from the community</p>
Fireworks	<p>The “Summer Spectacular” fireworks are July 2 at 9:40pm. The Fireworks will be shot from Millennium Park. Spectator parking is available at Lowes, St. Germaine Church, Hamilton Presbyterian Church, and Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Confirmed vendors are Wu’s Shaved Ice, Wild River Kettle Korn, Beedles Ice Cream. Mr. Stover explained that Shop & Save, Giant Eagle, and Hillcrest parking lots were scratched as viewing was difficult from those lots.</p>
Field Banners	<p>Total revenue for the year is \$14,950.00 and expenses were \$3,568.00 with net revenue of \$11,382.00.</p> <p>New sponsors this month- Michael Brothers Hauling, Noble Environmental, and USC- Bethel Park Rotary Breakfast Club.</p> <p>There are a total of 193 banners at all four fields. Park Avenue, Village Green, and Simmons Park have 48 banners a piece. Millennium has 49 banners. This is the highest number of banners hung for a year. Mr. Stover reviewed the banner program. Ms. Murtaugh asked what the revenue was last year. Mr. Stover said he did not know but will send the information out later this week.</p>
Turkey Trot	<p>George Washington School is approved for the Turkey Trot. Set-up is 4:00pm to 7:00pm and Race Day is approved for 6:00am to 10:30am. Mr. Stover explained.</p>
Policy & Procedures	<p>Mr. Stover explained he is working on a youth protection policy. He will review with the Municipal Manager, then it will go to the solicitor, then to the rec board and council.</p> <p>Mr. Stover is also defining our relationship with the youth sports associations and teams. Mr. Stover reached out to other recreation departments. The other local recreation departments are working on the same issue. Plus, background policy and procedures for employees and volunteers. The department has always done them, bit putting it in writing.</p>

7. Officer's Report: **None**

8. Standing Committee Reports:

Parks, Buildings, & Grounds: Mr. Bonaccorsi went to Miners Park; he stated that people loved the playground and are taking ownership of the park.

Community Outreach: **None** – Mr. Gastgeb would like this committee to spearhead the fundraiser with the alumni book. Ms. Murtaugh said she would convert it to excel, even though she is not on the committee. Ms. Salerno. Asked how do we want to reach out to them contestant contact? She suggested asking on Facebook too.

Programing: Ms. Kuhn, she is a physical therapist, health coach and a performance coach. She has worked with Athletes for over 20 years. She has seen changes in sports and how it has affected kids’ health. She wants to bring programs back to the community center, back to the community. 70 % of kids are dropping out of sports by the age of 9 years old. Ms. Kuhn has information to help withy coaching, skills & drills, how to talk to kids. The Aspen institute is tackling the problem of kids dropping out of sports. The institute has a playbook for the community center, the school district, and younger kids. They have a playbook for girls’ sports. Kelly started skills and drills for girls this summer through Travel Basketball Association. 40 girls came out for this summer program. Mr. Stover said that Ms. Kuhn, Ms. Skoczlas and Mr. Knight can sit down to discuss, after both start their positions. One idea is to switch the recreation season, so it does not run concurrently with the travel basketball season. Ms. Kuhn’s background is in skill development, and she is happy to help anyway she can. She wants to do training for coaches and mothers. Ms. Kuhn stated across

the country in all sports the idea is travel is good and recreation basketball is bad. We need to change the recreation program to make it competitive. Work with travel basketball to stagger the seasons. You do not want kids overusing the body by playing travel and recreation basketball plus tournament. there are a lot of injuries developing because of playing one sport to much. It is going to take time, but we need to change the mindset. If you talk to a lot of parents, they are tired of running, keeping up with the Jones. travel sports we must give them another solution to travel basketball. Studies are showing that kids are growing to become physical illiterate. This is causing them to have health problems as they do not know how to or have the confidence to exercise. We have to offer programs for competitive kids and non- competitive kids. Ms. Murtaugh suggested an open house for the community center to show the non- competitive kids, here a bit of basketball, a bit of soccer, show a little bit of everything. This could allow more kids involved in programs. Ms. Kuhn stated that we need to start them younger in programs that fit them. Additionally, we need to look at nontraditional sports offerings. The Aspen institute surveyed high school kids; the kids stated the get involved in program if the were offered a specific program. The number one response to the survey was archery. Ms. Kuhn said we need to teach coaches skill development and how to talk to kids. Mr. Moury suggested have this as a speaker series event. Mr. Gastgeb a special needs child in a wheelchair playing baseball. Mr. Gastgeb ask if there is a way to promote it and then offer alternative baseball programs. Special Olympics offers a program with teams that have special needs kids and typical kids.

Mr. Galloni had three ideas for programing. Before Covid we did free try it weeks. Mr. Stover suggested a free down in week between Christmas and New Year's. we are going to offer free try it weeks a few times a year. Could advertise programs on BPTV? Maybe offer programs between shows or segments? Mr. Galloni asked if we could advertise class earlier. Mr. Stover said the recreation department to communicate with the communications team to get the word out earlier. Mr. Galloni asked about putting a walking track at Simmons Park through the bottom part of the woods and around the ball fields. Mr. Moury asked Mr. Galloni for a drawing of his idea.

Fields and Banners: None

Special Events: Mr. Gastgeb said he talked with Lindsey Sibert (Farmers' Market Coordinator). First of all, she is outstanding. She wants to get more involved. She wants to do a beer, wine, and food festival and maybe a vendor fair. Mr. Gastgeb said they talked about doing a community gathering in the Silent Brook building in South Park. Mr. Nagel suggested something like the covered bridge festival that Washington County hosts.

9. Revenue and Disbursements Report:

A. Motion to approve revenues and disbursements report for April 2022

Motion Mr. Galloni Second Mr. McCall

Discussion, Additions, Corrections:

Vote: 8-0

10. **New Business: Summer break – the board will vote on which month to take off, July or August**
- A. Motion to approve taking the July meeting off for vacations
- Motion Ms. Salerno Second Mr. Nagel
- Discussion, Additions, Corrections: **None**
- Vote: **8-0**
11. **Unfinished Business: Ms. Salerno suggested getting more signage for the concession stands.**
12. **Consideration of bills and payroll that have already been paid / payments pending:**
- A. Motion to approve Program Expense Reports dated May 31, 2022
- Motion Ms. Murtaugh Second Ms. Salerno
- Discussion, Additions, Corrections: **None**
- Vote: **8-0**
- B. Motion to approve personnel costs of April 29 & May 13, 2022
- Motion Mr. Walezak Second Mr. Galloni
- Discussion, Additions, Corrections:
- Vote: **8-0**
13. **Other comments or concerns of Board members or staff:**
14. **Motion to adjourn:**
- Motion Kelly Kuhn Second Mr. McCall
- Vote: **8-0**
- Adjourned: 7:35pm