

**BETHEL PARK**  
**BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday February 1, 2023**

**Minutes**

1. **Call to order:** Time: 7:00 PM
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), Bob McCall, Christina Murtaugh (late), Joelle Salerno (Secretary), Russ Spicuzza, Daryl Walezak  
Absent: Kelly Kuhn, Jim Miller (Vice Chairperson), Joseph Nagel  
Staff Present: Chuck Stover, Lindsey Sibert, James Knight, Emily Skoczlas  
Liaison Present: Tim Moury, Lindsay Flinn, Justin Strock, John Lorenzi

**3. Communications:**

- A. January 4, 2023, Board Meeting minutes
- B. Recreation Department Revenue / Disbursements Reports for December 2022
- C. Personnel Payroll Report Sheets: January 6 & 20, 2022
- D. Key Dates

**4. Motion to approve minutes of regular meeting January 4, 2023.**

Motion: Ms. Salerno Second: Mr. McCall  
Discussion, Additions, Corrections: None.  
Vote: **8-0**

**5. Resident comments and questions:**

Mr. Gastgeb asked if the residents came on behalf of the same group, Mr. Strock and Mr. Lorenzi answered they had not.

Mr. Strock, the President of the Bethel Park Soccer Association, requested access to Village Green Park beyond November 1 and earlier than April 1. Mr. Strock noticed how frequently they used Village Green Park and that field time was needed before their season start, the first weekend of April. Mr. Strock mentioned accessing the Bethel Park High School turf fields in March and bringing his concern to Public Works. Mr. Strock noted needing Village Green Park on March 12, the weekends, and during November.

Mr. Gastgeb suggested for Mr. Strock to voice his concern at Field Coalition meetings and that Public Works would make the final decision. Mr. Strock explained that he had done so with the Field Coalition. Mr. Stover, and Susan Dolinar. Mr. Stover explained that Public Works completed field maintenance tasks that were weather dependent. Mr. McCall asked what the maintenance was for the Bethel Park

High School turf fields and about what Public Works had told Mr. Strock. Mr. Stover informed him was unsure of the process. Mr. Strock explained that Mr. Stover summarized what Susan Dolinar communicated and wanted flexibility in tasks for the field.

Mr. Stover and Mr. Moury explained that expert installers had instructed Susan Dolinar on the maintenance plan. Mr. McCall asked if said maintenance plan required field closure. Mr. Strock asked if it must be groomed before use and how that differs from regular field care. Mr. Moury clarified that municipal policy is to close the field and how Public Works also maintains what surrounds the field, such as bathrooms. Mr. Strock offered to provide Porta Johns to ease the tasks of Public Works.

Mr. Stover explained that Public Works has other spring tasks, and opening March 12 could risk pipe damage. Mr. Gastgeb inquired about current registrations, if field time was accessible elsewhere, and why the season was starting early. Mr. Strock explained they were expecting 15 travel teams with 95% being residents, that it was hard to get field time on other fields, and his governing body chose when the season starts. Mr. Stover asked how many teams were on the field at a time. Mr. Strock informed that 8 teams could fit.

Mr. Gastgeb asked about the 5% of non-residents. Mr. Strock explained they expected 250 travel players and 200 other players, and his request was for travel teams. Mr. Spicuzza noted how he understood the position of Mr. Strock. Mr. Gastgeb suggested to use the Cool Springs field. Mr. Strock clarified the Century Soccer league owned and had exclusive use of said field. Mr. Stover suggested to look into gym space, referencing Mr. Knight. Mr. Moury assured by the middle of the end of March a decision would be made weather permitting.

Mr. Lorenzi, the Vice President of Bethel Park Baseball, requested more turf fields where possible. Mr. Stover informed there was a committee being formed for fields and referenced him having Lions Field and Ruthfred Field available. Mr. Lorenzi explained the Ruthfred Field and Lions Field faced issues with water runoff and that his organization paid \$8,500.00 for Ruthfred Field repairs. Mr. Lorenzi asked about field ownership. Mr. Stover answered that both fields were privately owned. Mr. Moury clarified the field was bought when the Homeowners Association went defunct with the municipality buying it on sheriff sale, their arrangement with the church is \$1.00 per year.

Mr. McCall asked if they had done a challenge grant recently for Ruthfred Field. Mr. Moury and Mr. Stover answered they had three to four years ago. Mr. Lorenzi announced he had applied for the Challenge Grant for sheds to replace the metal boxes for equipment storage. Mr. Stover informed how funds had to already be spent for field maintenance and for field replacement. Mr. Lorenzi inquired what would be done if the field became a constant expense. Mr. Moury and Mr. Stover emphasized communicating with Ruthfred Church for maintenance and that Mr. Lorenzi would get the contact of Cory White, the representative for the baseball association, for future field concerns. Mr. Moury and Mr. Stover to give Mr. Lorenzi contact information of Cory White at the Field Coalition meeting.

John Lorenzi and Justin Strock offered their organizations to help with field maintenance fundraising. Mr. Gastgeb hopes to see more groups come together for fundraising after the Field Coalition. Mr. Bonaccorsi asked if the bathrooms were the only obstacle to opening the fields sooner. Mr. Moury and Mr. Stover clarified they were not. Mr. Galloni mentioned a resident concern about observing the field on nights when teams should be playing and finding the field empty.

## 6. Director's Report:

<p>No Cook Tuesdays Farmers' Market</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will restart on Tuesday, March 7 and end on Tuesday, April 25</li> <li>• No Cook Tuesday Lineup is set for Spring – 3/7 Revival Chili and Hibachi Lou; 3/14 Pgh Pierogi and 2.5 Greeks; 3/21 Rowdy BBQ and Yovi's; 3/28 Cilantro &amp; Ajo and R&amp;G SmokeShack.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Stover inquired if R&amp;G Smokeshack offered Ribs. Ms. Sibert clarified they have varieties of barbeque, including Italian sausage and brisket.</b></li> <li>• Working on adding a vendor for No Cook Tuesdays – Monarch Meadows sells bulbs and starter plants for spring, just confirming availability and details. <b>Ms. Sibert announced Monarch Meadows to start March 7, depending on plants, and they also offer eggs.</b></li> <li>• The Farmers' Market will start on May 2 it is from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.</li> <li>• The county has agreed to let us extend the hours until 7:30pm. Vendors choose to leave at 7:00pm or stay until 7:30pm. <b>Ms. Sibert noted most food vendors staying til 7:30. Mr. Stover noticed most farming stands are leaving earlier.</b></li> <li>• End of Market survey showed lots of customers want additional produce and healthier options, working on adding another 1-2 produce farmers, local orchard, pickles/sauces, etc.</li> <li>• Farmers' Market was approved for a grant from the BP Community Foundation for the purchase of additional tables and chairs for seating during the market. The grant is \$810.00. Farmers' Market applications are still coming in from returning vendors <b>until 2/13</b>, will start processing new vendors after 2/14. <b>Ms. Sibert and Mr. Stover explained there are 2 more tables, with 4 chairs per table for customers. Ms. Salerno asked to clarify the location of the chairs and tables, Ms. Sibert answered they are to be at the Farmers' Market.</b></li> <li>• Confirmed returning vendors are the following:</li> <li>• Full-time vendors: <b>Hello Hummus, hGrace Confections, Jodikinos Farm, La Vigneta Winery, Logan Family Farms, Swope's Berries and Bees, Simmons Farm, the Pie Place, Pitaland, Rockin' Cat Coffee and Tea, Up in Suds, and Wu's Shaved Ice</b></li> <li>• Confirmed Half season vendors: <b>Country Hammers Moonshine, and Lemmon Brothers Farm</b></li> <li>• Confirmed once month vendors: <b>Auntie Anne's Pretzel Truck and Whimsical Wardrobe Boutique</b></li> </ul>
<p>Comedy Night</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 280 tickets were sold for comedy night.</li> <li>• Total Revenue = \$11,880.00</li> <li>• Total Expenses = \$ 6,977.96</li> <li>• Total Net = \$4,902.04, which is \$2,451.02 for each organization.</li> </ul>
<p>Speakers Series</p>	<p><b>Upcoming programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 8 – Help for Seasonal Affective Disorder – <b>Mr. Stover and Ms. Skoczlas announced it will be taped February 6.</b></li> <li>• March 15- Supporting Mental Health in Youth Athletes – Becky Luzier and Taylor Connors – <b>Becky Luzier to be in contact about Mental Health taping.</b></li> <li>• April 12- Pet Care, Health &amp; Training Tips - <b>The vet presenting will either be a group or one individual.</b></li> </ul>
<p>Field Banners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewal letters were sent to the sponsors that need to renew their sponsorship. Highpoint Fitness, Ma &amp; Pop's Country Kitchen, Become Better Sport Performance and Physical Therapy, Bethel Park Republican Committee, Spartan Pharmacy, Noble Environmental, Bill Flinn Agency, Dunn Garage Doors, Hillcrest Christian Academy, Beedle's Ice Cream, Leanna Dresmich- Howard Hanna, Jane York- Coldwell Banker,</li> </ul>

	<p>Jersey Mike's Subs, Lois Johnson Learning &amp; Child Care Center, Joey Fabus Childhood Cancer Foundation, Mon River Supply, No Limits Martial Arts, Olive Oil's Pizzeria &amp; More, South Park Shops, and Pittsburgh Football club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewals so far are Spartan Pharmacy, Noble Environmental, and Bill Flinn Agency, Four banners for two years.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Galloni suggested adding indoor field banners to the Community Center walking track. Mr. Stover and Mr. Moury agreed that the request would be looked into, they are unsure how it would be accomplished. Mr. Stover and Mr. Moury to discuss with municipal group.</p>
Restricted Fund Balances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is \$53,428. 00 in the Banner and \$67,964.00 in the Rev 'Em up For Kids funds for a total of \$121,392.00 in the restricted funds accounts.</li> </ul>
Chronicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The spring chronicles are due to go out the week of February 20<sup>th</sup> tentatively.</li> </ul>
Cornhole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 1 is blocked off to do a corn-hole tournament. Mr. Stover to discuss fundraising with leagues at Field Coalition meeting, would prefer to limit advertising for 64 teams.</li> </ul>
Recreation Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council had some questions regarding the software capabilities. We are working on the solutions. Mr. Stover in communication with Adam Steele and others about better promoting and notifying residents of current and upcoming programs. Ms. Salerno asked if it would be a text system. Mr. Stover and Mr. Moury explained that yes, they are also looking into an app or phased approach to better communicate. Mr. Stover explained they are trying to find a balanced solution.</li> </ul>

Mr. Moury discussed how Splash Pad costs increased with additions, and that the contract would be awarded on February 13. Mr. Moury announced that the Splash Pad could be added onto regular memberships, costs to vary on residency status, staffing was being looked into, and the Vortech equipment has been ordered for \$452,000 to be sent by June. Mr. Moury clarified the goal is to have this completed for Summer or Spring.

Ms. Skoczlas asked why she had not been included in the Splash Pad planning. Mr. Stover clarified Leanne, Adam Steele, and Ms. Skoczlas were to oversee it, and the Splash Pad will be added to the department manual with information given by Cathy Muscato. Mr. Spicuzza inquired as to annual operating costs. Mr. Moury and Mr. Stover referenced Pine Township for costs with repairs and replacement parts. Mr. Stover suggested for Mr. Steele to research McKeesport Splash Pad.

Ms. Salerno asked if there would be a trail by the Pickleball courts. Mr. Moury clarified there would be a trail near the road at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million. Mr. Gastgeb asked if the Pickleball courts to be fenced. Mr. Moury answered it had been considered.

Mr. Stover and Mr. Knight explained Pickleball courts were to be reserved by residents and non-residents at different rates and permits could be digital. Mr. Knight and Ms. Skoczlas gave an example of an online receipt as proof of court reservations. Mr. Bonnacorsi asked about the public using the courts. Mr. Stover clarified that it would have to be reserved for any use and signs would be placed to clarify the process.

## 7. Officer's Report:

Ms. Salerno asked if there was a report of how the restricted funds were to be spent. Mr. Stover to create a report for the council soon.

## 8. Standing Committee Reports:

Parks, Buildings, & Grounds: **None.**

**Community Outreach:** Ms. Salerno and Mr. Knight clarified the plan for Positive Coaching Alliance to be advertised, the first date being March 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Mr. Knight and Mr. Stover explained incentives to be determined, but attendance is highly suggested. Mr. Knight added additional dates, one possibility being March 26.

Ms. Murtaugh asked how summer sports have their class scheduled. Mr. Knight clarified it was based on season and if the 2 weeks before season start worked for coaches. Mr. Bonnacorsi asked if the course would give coaches any certification. Mr. Knight and Mr. Stover explained that events are in person and online for maximum engagement. Mr. Knight suggested a program to track coaching certifications, with notifications to coaches when they need updated. Ms. Murtaugh asked about the cost, which Mr. Knight clarified as free, and Mr. Spicuzza suggested adding first aid training.

Mr. Gastgeb invited the Recreation Board to the Field Coalition meeting, which is mandatory for local sports group scheduling. Mr. Stover to send information to Recreation Board. Ms. Murtaugh asked exactly how field dates are chosen. Mr. Gastgeb and Mr. Stover to request rosters and more justification for field time this year. Mr. Gastgeb and Mr. Stover informed about monitoring field use by adding cameras to parks and asking the board to inform if any field is unused.

**Programming:** Mr. Galloni asked if Mr. Knight had moved forward with the free fitness park. Mr. Knight clarified there were other options being researched by Diana Alberta, but Mr. Galloni's suggestion had not been forgotten. Ms. Salerno asked for clarity on the park, Mr. Galloni explained it was a fitness park he'd been looking into.

Ms. Salerno inquired about first aid and CPR classes. Ms. Skoczlas confirmed another class would be held; she's had four; her contact has not yet confirmed which date in March. Ms. Skoczlas to communicate with Adam Steele about free CPR and first aid classes for the board, Mr. Stover asked about the cost. Ms. Skoczlas was unsure due to there being an account set for training, and she had not been able to view the cost. Mr. Stover suggested using department training account fund, Mr. Moury saying it was about \$40 to \$45 per person.

**Fields and Banners:** None.

**Special Events:** Mr. Gastgeb mentioned upcoming concert series to be discussed.

## **9. Revenue and Disbursements Report:**

- A. Motion to approve revenues and disbursements report for December 2022

Motion: Mr. Galloni Second: Mr. Bonnacorsi

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: None.

Vote: **8-0**

## **10. New Business:**

- A. Motion to approve to transfer of \$75,000.00 from the restricted funds to Municipal budget to use the money for the splash pad project.

Motion: Mr. McCall Second: Mr. Galloni

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: Mr. Stover reiterated totals of funds from Director's Report. Mr. Gastgeb emphasized the goal was to put money into improvements. Mr. Moury clarified the cost of \$3,700,000.00 spent and the estimated additional cost for equipment of \$150,000 to be split with the municipality for at most \$75,00. Mr. Moury informed fundraisers were used to help ease being out of budget and about planning to put a cap on the facility improvement costs. Mr. Gastgeb explained he approved of the cost.

Mr. Gastgeb to meet with Mr. Stover, Ms. Skoczlas, and Mr. Knight regarding the groves used in treasure hunt hosted by Kirsten Primm and tap into contacts. Ms. Sibert referenced the list of contacts for Comedy Night being the contacts Kirsten Primm had given her. Mr. McCall asked which funds exactly the money was coming from and if Rev 'Em Up had different upfront costs.

Mr. Moury suggested merging the restricted fund accounts into one, and it is accounted for separately currently. Mr. Stover informed of adding any extra earnings from the Turkey Trot to the restricted funds. Ms. Salerno asked if Rev 'Em Up would go into a separate fund. Mr. Stover explained they would be consolidated to help raise funds.

Vote: **8-0**

**11. Unfinished Business: None.**

**12. Consideration of bills and payroll that have already been paid / payments pending:**

A. Motion to approve personnel costs January 6 & 20, 2023

Motion: Mr. Bonnacorsi Second: Ms. Salerno

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: **None.**

Vote: **8-0**

**13. Other comments or concerns of Board members or staff: None.**

**14. Motion to adjourn:**

Motion: Mr. McCall Second: Mr. Spicuzza

Vote: **8-0**

Adjourned: 8:21 PM

**BETHEL PARK  
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

February 1, 2023, Workshop Minutes

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Items of interests to Board Members**

- 1.) Items of interests to Board Members
- 2.) Comedy Night
- 3.) Summer Concert Series
- 4.) Wine & Food Festival

Mr. Bonaccorsi explained that a resident at Comedy Night voiced concerns about not hearing the show when the crowd laughed and advised them to note wanting a table near the stage next year. Mr. Stover informed speakers were placed at the back and that a list of everyone at the table would be required next year. Ms. Sibert clarified the seating chart needs updated and those who requested a table at the front were placed there. Mr. Stover announced to the board that tickets would be raised to \$50.00, the spaces would be limited to 220, and some expenses would be cut. Ms. Sibert suggested for the menu to be elevated with the higher price. Mr. Bonaccorsi noted some may be dissatisfied with less spaces.

Mr. Stover noted if there was enough interest, perhaps a second Comedy Night would happen. Mr. Gastgeb explained Pasta Too gave a discount by charging for 2 servers instead of 4, giving free delivery, a free setup, and the rate per plate was charged at \$11.00 or \$12.00 instead of \$18.00. Mr. Stover would like to alternate the menu yearly with the higher rate. Mr. Gastgeb noted not wanting to spend more than was earned. Ms. Murtaugh would like more sponsors next year. Mr. Stover informed there was about \$2,000.00 earned in about sponsors. Mr. Spicuzza noted there could be less earned from ticket sales with less attendees. Mr. Stover answered \$12,000.00 would be earned from tickets with \$50.00 and was \$8,000.00 was brought in this year. Mr. Bonaccorsi asked how many residents were turned away. Ms. Sibert and Mr. Stover explained there were many, enough to fill a second Comedy Night.

Mr. Gastgeb informed the Allegheny County Showmobile and the City of Pittsburgh Showmobile stages were to be rented. Mr. Gastgeb to approach the Community Foundation for \$4,000 grant for four concert dates. Ms. Sibert to send in paperwork after applying for the dates of July 8<sup>th</sup>, August 19<sup>th</sup>, and September 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Allegheny County Showmobile. Mr. Gastgeb and Ms. Sibert announced the 501c3 of the groups could be used to lessen the cost by half. Mr. Moury suggested to have the Community Foundation apply. Mr. Gastgeb explained the concerts would be held where No Bad Juju was in Millennium Park, \$2,000.00 was budgeted on four stage rentals, \$6,000.00 was budgeted for four bands, and the main sponsor would be heavily advertised. Mr. Gastgeb informed there would be banners or yard signs for sponsors, communicated \$10,000 was already budgeted for Park & Play with Mr. Stover, and food trucks could earn revenue. Ms. Sibert explained vendors wanted to be closer to the concert stage, and an idea for a battle of the bands style concert. Mr. Gastgeb and Mr. Stover informed vendors would be placed closer, and an additional concert could

possibly be in October or May. Mr. Galloni offered the contact of the drummer of Casanova in case a group needed one. Mr. Stover suggested for the board to research local bands. Mr. Moury would like this to be branded under Park & Play.

Ms. Sibert suggested an October Wine & Food Festival that vendors would pay a premium for. Ms. Sibert informed she would like a facility where alcohol vendors could be inside and food trucks outside. Mr. Stover asked what capacity Ms. Sibert had in mind, and Ms. Murtaugh asked what facility she was considering. Ms. Sibert answered the facility would be weather permitting with space for at least 300 people. Mr. Stover and Mr. Gastgeb suggested a South Park location, for Ms. Sibert to email the South Park Office about the Home Economics building, and for her to research the Fair Grounds online. Ms. Murtaugh and Mr. Gastgeb recommended for Ms. Sibert to consider September or spring for better weather. Ms. Sibert and Mr. Stover noted three September events were scheduled, listing the Star party and Community Day. Ms. Sibert and Ms. Murtaugh agreed on adding craft vendors.

Mr. Galloni informed Mr. Moury of a resident being surprised a new elementary school was being built. Mr. Moury explained it had been discussed for two years, was projected to be completed in fall of 2025, and the school board hoped the new school could better the area. Mr. Spicuzza announced how when the high school was being built, some residents were also confused.