

**BETHEL PARK  
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to order:** Time: 7:00pm

**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, Joelle Salerno (Secretary), Russ Spicuzza,

Absent: Jim Miller (Vice Chairperson), Joseph Nagel, Christina Murtaugh, Daryl Walezak

Staff Present: Charles Stover, Susan Dolinar, Adam Steele, James Knight, Emily Skoczlas, Lindsey Sibert,

Liaison Present: Barry Christenson (late), Joe Consolmagno, Joe Janosik

Residents: Brandi Pecovish and Evan Sivetz attended.

Mr. Stover explained the absences of Ms. Murtaugh and Mr. Walezak. Mr. Nagel informed Mr. Stover he moved out of Bethel and needs to know the procedure to leave the board. Mr. Stover explained Mr. Nagel was to email him, and the email is to be forwarded to Mr. Steele.

**3. Communications:**

- A. April 5, 2023, Board Meeting minutes
- B. Department Program Expense Reports dated April 27, 2023
- C. Recreation Department Revenue / Disbursements Reports for March 2023
- D. Personnel Payroll Report Sheets: March 31 and April 14, 2023
- E. Key Dates
- F. Banner Hanging Report

**4. Motion to approve minutes of regular meeting of April 5, 2023.**

Motion: Mr. Bonaccorsi Second: Ms. Salerno

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: Mr. Stover noted a correction to the volunteer policy under the Officer's Report. Ms. Salerno asked if there was a waiver to be signed for acknowledgement of the volunteer policy. Mr. Stover explained a form was in the works for events such as the Wine and Cheese Fest, and Mr. Steele is getting feedback from council on the form.

Vote: 7-0

**5. Resident comments and questions:**

Mr. Gastgeb asked if any residents were present. Brandi Pecovish and Evan Sivetz were present.

## 6. Director's Report:

### May 2023 Recreation Department Report

No Cook Tuesdays Farmers' Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No Cook Tuesday ended April 25, 2023. A vendor survey will be going out to assess any changes that may need to be made. In the future, we are looking to add a wider variety of trucks, potentially increase to 3 trucks every week. The addition of 1-2 market vendors has been remarkably successful and will continue to rotate in different vendors.</li> <li>➤ Farmers Market begins May 2, 2023. We have 30 full time, 16 half season, and 7 monthly vendors. We will also continue the No Cook Tuesday branding to promote the food trucks at the market for those who do not want to shop but will still visit the market for dinner. The market will also be the focus of the May LiveWell video, focusing on eating locally and sustainably sourcing food.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Stover asked if the vendors were happy. Ms. Sibert noted vendors and customers were happy and plans to make new contacts for more vendors. Ms. Salerno asked if Ms. Sibert had Boon Seek as a vendor. Ms. Sibert explained they were booked for spring but will reach out early for fall.</p>
Field Banners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Become Better Sports Performance, Bill Flinn Agency, Dunn Garage Door, Hillcrest Christian Academy, Jane York- Coldwell Banker, Jersey Mike's Subs, Joey Fabus Childhood Cancer Foundation, Lois Johnson Learning &amp; Childcare Center, Ma &amp; Pops Country Kitchen, Mon River Supply, Noble Environmental, No Limits Martial Arts, South Parks Shops, and Spartan Pharmacy,</b> have renewed for all fields for two years.</li> <li>➤ <b>Highpoint Fitness</b> renewed for all fields for one year.</li> <li>➤ <b>New Sponsors - Ginger Construction</b> is a new sponsor for all fields for one year.</li> <li>➤ <b>Bethel Park Community Foundation, Ivy Brook Day Care, Kohl Floor Sanding, and Team Nutz (comp)</b> are new sponsors at all fields for two years.</li> <li>➤ Outstand renewals are <b>Bethel Park Republican Committee, Howard Hanna – Leanne Dresmich, and The Pittsburgh Football Club</b></li> <li>➤ Total Revenue is \$11,250.00 and expenses are \$3,660.00 for a net of \$7,590.00. There are 49 banners on every field.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Stover noted the Bethel Park Republican Committee, Howard Hanna – Leanne Dresmich, and The Pittsburgh Football Club have yet to send a check. Mr. McCall clarified that the name of the Bethel Park Republican Committee contact is Rachel Armstrong. Mr. Stover noted there would be 52 banners, if all interested parties completed their applications; the goal is 50 banners every year.</p>
Comedy Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Bethel Historical Society Comedy Night is January 6. Potential dates for the Recreation fundraiser are November 18, 2023, February 24, March 2, 9, or 16, 2024</li> </ul>

Rec Desk	<p>➤ The new Recreation Software (Rec Desk) is ready to roll out. Program registration is available online or in person. We are waiting for the credit card reader, which is to arrive this week. However, the kiosk at the front desk can be used to register. We expect to go live on May 8.</p> <p>Mr. Stover noted we have one credit card reader. Mr. Knight clarified we have one credit card reader linking directly to the Recreation accounts. Mr. Knight announced memberships and all other services offered can be completed on the tablet kiosk. Ms. Skoczlas informed that the Center will be getting a second credit card reader. Mr. Galloni asked if credit cards can be used online to register. Mr. Knight explained credit cards can be saved for fast check out and will be encrypted to protect bank information. Mr. Galloni asked if there will be communications about online credit card payments. Mr. Knight informed us communications will be rolled out and it will be in the Chronicles. Mr. Knight announced a push for less check and cash payments.</p>
Chronicles	<p>➤ The printer will deliver the chronicles to the mailing house on May 5.</p> <p>➤ The summer chronicles are due to go out the week of May 8th.</p>
Park Avenue	<p>➤ The splash pad completion date is October 10. Pacer Track club is the only organization permitted to use Park Avenue until construction is completed. We discussed Millennium Park and the safety issues with the baseball organizations. I am waiting to hear from the school district about use of the stadium for them.</p> <p>Mr. Stover noted that Junior Football was informed they cannot use Park Avenue until after the Splash Pad's completion due to lack of parking. Junior Football will need to request the stadium until construction is completed.</p>
New Employee	<p>➤ Coach Jeff Gavin will be the Head Swim Team Coach/Aquatic Supervisor.</p> <p>Coach Jeff Gavin began swimming for neighborhood summer league teams at the age of eight, but it was not until he entered High School when he finally fell in love with the sport. He swam for Pine Richland Aquatics and Mars High School where he set numerous Varsity and Age Group records. He was a Sectional qualifier, WPIAL Runner-Up, and PIAA Bronze Medalist. He continued his swimming career at Indiana University of Pennsylvania for 2 years before an injury removed him from the water. In that time, he was a school record holder, selected to the PSAC All-Conference Team, and achieved an NCAA B-Cut. Coach Jeff stayed on the pool deck to follow his passion for the water and began coaching at Seneca Valley in 2011. He was a member of the Seneca Valley Swim Club and Varsity Staff and helped coach swimmers of all ages and abilities. He is a 6-time AMS Zone Team Assistant Coach and 3- time AMS Zone Team Head Coach. He was selected twice for the AMS Senior Select Camp and served as Head Coach once. His swimmers have had accomplishments such as Team Records, WPIAL Records, AMS Swimmer of the Year, AMS Records, and Top-50 National Times. He has had swimmers qualify for Age Group Zones, Senior Zones, Sectionals, Junior Nationals, and the US Open. While at Seneca his teams have been 3 Time AMS Open Water Champions, 2 Time AMS SCY Age Group Champs, WPIAL Champs, and PIAA Champs.</p>

	<p>Coach Jeff currently lives with his girlfriend and two cats. He is enthusiastic about health and fitness as he continues to spend time in the water and has recently started running, winning Runner-Up of the Pittsburgh Marathon Clydesdale Division in 2022. Coach Jeff strives to bring energy and enthusiasm to the pool deck each day. He believes swimming is a place where kids can learn dedication, see the success of their work, and continue to grow as kids into exemplary adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Grace Myers will be the Assistant Aquatic Supervisor for Summer Programing. Grace is on summer break from college. We will be looking to make this as a permanent position. We need a person that can work all year. The reason for this is part-time employees can only work 28 hours a week.</li> </ul>
Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Summer Day Camp has sold out 7 of the 8 weeks available by Mid-April. One week is still available for Day Camp. Hired 2 new counselors, looking for one more male counselor, if we cannot get a male counselor, we will be hiring another female. Starting to order Day camp shirts.</li> <li>➤ Starting Tennis and Pickleball clinics and private sessions in June.</li> <li>➤ Creating Permit format for field permits and field usage for new Rec Desk Platform.</li> <li>➤ The final NAMS JAM event happened on 4/14 and had over 165 paying participants and about twenty additional kids with volunteers. Started booking next year's NAMS JAM which will be at the Community Center under the new name of CC Clubhouse. Dates are 10/13/23, 12/8/23, 2/9/24, &amp; 4/26/24. Mr. Stover and Mr. Knight discussed the 5 open spots in Day Camp Week 4.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Sivetz asked what grades would be invited to the Clubhouse. Mr. Knight explained it would be grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Salerno asked if there were enough volunteers. Mr. Knight explained it was pushed out using Peachjar and social media, resulting in volunteers increasing to 16. Mr. Knight informed that holding the event at the Community Center will help people realize this is a Recreation Department event and assist with obtaining clearances.</p>
Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Staff now have uniform shirts.</li> <li>➤ Minor policy changes.</li> <li>➤ CPR Classes are being scheduled.</li> <li>➤ Spring/Summer hours started May 1--Monday through Friday - 9:00am to 8:00pm, Saturdays 9:00am to 6:00pm, and Sundays 12:00pm to 6:00pm.</li> </ul>
Park & Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sunday, May 21 - Touch A Truck - the Public Works Complex- 12:00pm-3:00pm</li> <li>➤ Saturday, June 17 – Fitness and Fun for All- Village Green Park- 10:00am to 12:00pm</li> <li>➤ Friday, June 30 – Summer Spectacular- Millennium Park- 9:40pm</li> <li>➤ Saturday, July 8 – Concert- “Identity Crisis”- Millennium Park- 6:00pm to 8:00pm</li> <li>➤ Tuesday, August 1 – National Night Out- Miners Park- Time TBD</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Saturday, August 12- End of Summer Bash- Simmons Park- 11:00am to 2:00pm</li> <li>➤ Saturday, September 2 – Battle of the Bands- Millennium Park- Time TBD</li> <li>➤ Friday, September 15- Star Party- Millennium Park- 7:00pm</li> <li>➤ Saturday, October 28 – Wine Festival- Park Avenue/Community Center- 3:00pm to 7:00pm</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Skoczlas and Ms. Sibert explained the Wine and Cheese Fest will be renamed to the Boo's and Brews Festival, for a Halloween theme.</p>
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**7. Officer's Report:**      **None.**

**8. Standing Committee Reports:**

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

Community Outreach:      **None.**

Programming: **Mr. Gastgeb explained SMART Dog Parks are trending in other communities, and that SMART stands for safety, manners, awareness, and responsibility training. Ms. Salerno asked if there were fewer incidents. Mr. Gastgeb and Ms. Kuhn noted it is supposed to have less incidents.**

**Ms. Kuhn noted previous struggles in having coaches attend PCA meetings. Ms. Kuhn discussed ideas with Molly for social media, using the sports hashtag holidays for posts, and reaching out to coaches at their meetings. Ms. Pecovich was a coach in attendance, she explained the PCA training was really well done. Ms. Kuhn suggested having coach testimonials on social media. Mr. Stover asked if quotes could be obtained from coaches. Ms. Kuhn suggested expanding the Field Coalition to be one point of contact for sports organizations, like Upper St. Clair's Community Sports Board for coordination.**

Fields and Banners:      **Mr. Stover discussed Fields and Banners in the Director's Report.**

Special Events:      **None.**

**9. Revenue and Disbursements Report:**

A. Motion to approve revenues and disbursements report for March 2023.

Motion: **Ms. Kuhn**      Second **Mr. McCall**

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

Vote: **7-0**

**10. New Business:**

A. Motion to approve Bethel Park Baseball's Challenge Grant application in the amount of \$359.98 for L screens at Simmons and Millennium Parks.

Motion: **Mr. McCall**      Second **Mr. Galloni**

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: **Mr. Gastgeb explained that revisions were sent over emails but not everyone was on all emails, what the purpose of the Challenge Grant is, and how the board was concerned about safety.**

**Mr. Sivetz and Mr. Stover confirmed two L screens will be at Millennium and two L screens will be at Simmons Park. Mr. Stover explained to Ms. Dolinar, and Mr. Sivetz discussed the job box approved by Mr. McCall. Mr. McCall explained there are gas cylinders to prevent the**

lid slamming, it is much taller, and older boxes still have working closures.

Mr. Stover wrote the motion up to \$7,000.00 and revised the motion according to what Bethel Park Baseball needs. Mr. Gastgeb asked if Mr. Christenson approved of a shed at Bethel Park High School and if Mr. Sivetz initially requested a shed. Mr. Christenson confirmed a shed was approved of at Bethel Park High School. Mr. Sivetz and Ms. Pecovich both requested a shed. Mr. Stover reiterated it was a municipal decision for there to be no more sheds on fields. Mr. Bonaccorsi asked why job boxes would not fill both their needs. Mr. Sivetz explained that people are throwing in bags coating the containers with chalk, and overall things are not taken care of as they should be.

Ms. Salerno asked the members of council about the current shed policy. Mr. Janosik noted district experienced sheds becoming a collection place for things that should not be there and are difficult to maintain. Mr. Consolmagno cited the shed at Miner's field and the intent to standardize across fields. Mr. Gastgeb and Mr. Christenson explained the shed at Bethel Park High School was donated by Kim from Girl's Softball. Mr. Stover explained sheds became a security issue with break ins. Ms. Salerno explained the board was in favor of sheds, and the policy is no sheds. Ms. Pecovich and Mr. Sivetz discussed job box placement, consolidating job boxes for space, and current sheds. Mr. Sivetz and Ms. Pecovich agreed to have six boxes altogether. Mr. Stover to modify the agenda to match the current motions. The board agreed to vote on the updated motions.

Vote: **7-0**

- B. Motion to approve Bethel Park Baseball's Challenge Grant application in the amount of \$3,367.50 for job boxes at Simmons and Oak Tree Parks.

Motion: Mr. Galloni Second Ms. Salerno

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

Vote: **7-0**

- C. Motion to approve the job boxes to Bethel Park Girls Softball Association Challenge Grant application in the amount of \$4,490.00 for job boxes at Simmons and Miners Parks.

Motion: Mr. Bonaccorsi Second Ms. Kuhn

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

Vote: **7-0**

- D. Motion to approve the recommendation that the Municipality places the job boxes in a secure area when possible.

Motion: Mr. Bonaccorsi Second Mr. Spicuzza

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

Vote: **7-0**

Mr. Sivetz asked if Bethel Park Baseball would receive a check as they had paid for the L screens. Mr. Stover informed them they would receive a check for reimbursement after the invoice was sent. Mr. Sivetz noted he had sent the receipt.

#### **11. Unfinished Business, other comments or concerns of Board members or staff:**

- A. What is the goal regarding putting special event surplus into the restricted funds.

Mr. Stover noted adding the Turkey Trot and other special- events into the restricted fund was voted on last month. Mr. Stover asked if more events than the Comedy Night and the Turkey

Trot were to be added to the restricted fund. Ms. Salerno noted she thought the goal was to combine them for simplicity. Ms. Salerno and Mr. Gastgeb agreed they did not see a reason not to add them together.

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

- A. Motion to approve Program Expense Reports dated April 27, 2023.

Motion Mr. McCall Second Mr. Galloni

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

Vote: **7-0**

- B. Motion to approve personnel costs of March 31 and April 14, 2023.

Motion Mr. Bonaccorsi Second: Ms. Salerno

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

Vote: **7-0**

**13. Motion to adjourn:**

Motion: Ms. Salerno Second Mr. Gastgeb

Vote: **7-0**

Time adjourned: **7:45pm**

**BETHEL PARK  
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

May 3, 2023, Workshop Minutes

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Items of interests to Board Members**

1. Items of interests to Board Members
2. Rifle Course Discontinuation

Mr. Stover received an email from a Bethel Park High School Resource Officer advising him that the Rifle course has been discontinued with a list of reasons explaining the decision.

Mr. Christenson stated that he had discussed the discontinuation with Dr. Walsh. He explained to the Board that there were insurance concerns, and also security concerns centered on who enters the building at different times of day.

Mr. Christenson informed us that the rifles are inspected by Bethel Park High School Resource Officers regularly, and that there were loose ends the School District Administration wanted worked out.

Mr. Janosik inquired if anything had previously happened or is currently happening concerning the school. Mr. Stover explained that with the current social climate and various news reports of violence within schools that the rifle program, having a 40-year history, was being discontinued.

Mr. Stover is to discuss with rifle instructor putting together a perspective on the course for the district and to speak with Dr. Walsh. Mr. Christenson noted the cancellation may be due to new Board members, and Dr. Walsh had wanted all the security, insurance, and liability issues worked out.