

BETHEL PARK
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Wednesday August 2, 2023

Minutes

1. **Call to order:** Time: 6:58pm

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

Present: Bill Bonaccorsi, Vince Galloni, James Gastgeb (Chairperson), Kelly Kuhn, Bob McCall, Jim Miller (Vice Chairperson), Christina Murtaugh, Russ Spicuzza, Daryl Walezak

Absent: Joelle Salerno (Secretary)

Staff Present: Charles Stover, Emily Skoczlas, Lindsey Sibert

Liaison Present: None.

Mr. Stover noted that Ms. Salerno was on vacation.

3. **Communications:**

- A. June 7, 2023, Board Meeting minutes
- B. Department Program Expenses Report dated June 30 & July 27, 2023
- C. Recreation Department Revenue / Disbursements Reports for May & June 2023
- D. Personnel Payroll Report Sheets: June 9, 23, July 7 & 21, 2023
- E. Key Dates

4. **Motion to approve minutes of regular meeting of June 7, 2023.**

Motion Mr. Galloni Second: Mr. Walezak

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: Mr. Miller noted a correction in the second paragraph of Special Events under the Standing Committee Reports. Mr. Miller stated that the minutes read "Mr. Miller explained that there was an accident with a golf cart last year, and the sponsor had not reimbursed the volunteer involved." Mr. Miller and Mr. Gastgeb revised the sentence to read "Mr. Miller explained there was an accident with a golf cart last year, and the Municipality Council voted to not reimburse the volunteer involved." Mr. Gastgeb explained that the volunteer was not reimbursed and it was a Council decision.

Vote: 9-0

5. **Resident comments and questions:** Mr. Gastgeb asked if any residents had comments or questions. Mr. Gastgeb noted that no residents were in attendance.

6. **Director's Report:**

August 2023 Recreation Department Report

Program	Adult Programs
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Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pickleball- 100 ➤ Ladies Volleyball- 16 ➤ Pickleball Clinic- 1 ➤ Private Tennis Lessons- 11 ➤ Zumba- 168 ➤ Qigong- 9 ➤ Tai-Chi- 11 ➤ Photo Preservation- 2 Aquatic Programs ➤ Artistic Swim – 20 ➤ Youth Swim Lessons- 128 ➤ Community Swim- ➤ Aquacise- ➤ Lap swim- Youth Programs ➤ Day Camp – 444 ➤ Jump Bunch- 50 ➤ Mad Science- 19 ➤ Mighty Kicks- 37 ➤ T-ball- 46 ➤ Co- ed Volleyball- 39 ➤ 3 vs 3 pick-up basketball – 69 ➤ Fencing- 25 ➤ Art- Classes- 66 ➤ Basketball Skills Camps- Co-ed K to 2nd grade- 40 ➤ Basketball Skills Camps- Boys- 3rd to 8th grade – 37 ➤ Basketball Skills Camps- Girls - 3rd to 8th grade – 29 ➤ Summer Band Camp- 97 ➤ Summer String Lessons – 53 ➤ Damp Camp – 11 ➤ Passion – 61 ➤ Chess Camp - 6 ➤ Mother Son Event- 43
Special Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Farmers’ Market is currently running and will be until September 26, 2023. We are adding a once-per-month winter market at the Community Center October thru March. This season, the market has been approved to accept SNAP and EBT benefits. We will be combining this with the FAM program (offers a 1:1 match for all SNAP benefits used). This program has been successful so far, and we are still working on promoting it. We held Christmas in July last week, which was very well received – vendors and customers both seemed to enjoy the event. National Farmers’ Market week is August 6-12 – we will hold a cooking demo at the market with John from Holy Smokes BBQ, which will also be filmed for our LiveWell series, focusing on creating recipes from ingredients you can find at the market. ➤ No Cook Tuesdays (NCT) planning is in progress – we have confirmed several new trucks this season – Cousins Maine Lobster, Sooo Delicious, Mommalicious, Tokayo. We are still waiting for more applications. We will continue to offer 1-2 market vendors at NCT, and for October and November they will coincide with the new winter market. <p style="color: red;">Mr. Stover asked if Ms. Sibert would like to discuss EBT. Ms. Sibert noted that the EBT was successful at the Farmers’ Market. Ms. Sibert explained that the senior</p>

	<p>voucher checks were wildly successful at the Farmers' Market with hundreds received. Ms. Sibert stated that the five \$10.00 senior voucher checks can be doubled with matching to become five \$20.00 checks. Ms. Sibert informed that the farmers and customers are happy with the program.</p> <p>Mr. Galloni asked about the Winter Market and if tables will be inside. Ms. Sibert explained that the Winter Market will be indoors in Rooms A and B, or Rooms B and C. Ms. Sibert informed that while there will be no produce, year-round vendors such as Hello Hummus will be present. Ms. Sibert noted the event will coincide with No Cook Tuesdays and the table layout will be determined.</p> <p>Mr. Bonaccorsi asked if the Winter Market would offer items and products eligible for senior vouchers. Ms. Sibert explained that vouchers expire at the end of November, due to the limited produce available. Ms. Sibert noted the farm at No Cook Tuesdays may return this year, and they had sold decorative corn stalks and pumpkins. Ms. Sibert clarified that decorative items are ineligible, as the checks can purchase edible fruits, vegetables, or herbs.</p> <p>Mr. Bonaccorsi asked if honey was eligible for senior vouchers. Ms. Sibert informed that the Department of Agriculture inspects the farms of vendors vigorously, and only three vendors from over sixty qualify. Ms. Sibert noted honey was not covered by the vouchers. Mr. Galloni asked what caused the vendors to be approved. Ms. Sibert explained that the three vendors passed the Department of Agriculture inspection for produce growth.</p>
Field Banners	<p>➤ Total Revenue is \$13,400.00 and expenses are \$5,655.00 for a net of \$7,745.00. There are 50 banners on every field, except Village Green which has 51 banners. Mr. Stover informed a real estate agent inquired for banner information.</p>
Summer Spectacular	<p>➤ The Summer Spectacular was June 30 at 9:40pm. The fireworks were shot from Millennium Park. The parking lots at Lowes, Abraham Lincoln School, St. Germaine's Church, Cool Springs, and Hamilton Presbyterian Church were full. Kona Ice, Wild River Kettle Corn, and Beedle's Ice Cream returned as vendors. Port-A-Johns at every site except Lowes. Bethel Park Recreation did not receive any complaints. Mr. Stover stated there were resident complaints on Facebook about the Fireworks finale.</p>
Rec Desk	<p>➤ Recreation Software (Rec Desk) is up and running. People can register online or in person. However, people can use the kiosk at the front desk for in-person registration.</p>
Chronicles	<p>➤ The fall Chronicles is scheduled for delivery the week of August 8. Mr. Stover announced that the Chronicles will be a week late.</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. Mr. Gastgeb announced that Park Avenue Football called for a solution for losing the bottom field. Mr. Gastgeb explained teams on the Park Avenue field warmed up on the bottom field which became the Splash Pad. Mr. Gastgeb asked on behalf of Park Avenue Football if Bethel teams and opposing teams could enter the gym in a single file line without equipment to warm up. Ms. Skoczlas explained that the teams could enter the front led by coaches. Ms. Skoczlas noted they may not have gym use during programs. Mr. Gastgeb suggested for Mr. Stover and Ms. Skoczlas to create a policy that Park Avenue Football could email to opposing teams. Mr. Spiczza suggested requiring a minimum number of adults.</p> <p>Ms. Kuhn suggested Football games could be scheduled with warm-up time. Ms. Murtaugh noted Football goes over their times without a place to warm up. Mr. Gastgeb explained there are six home games scheduled, and there will be overlap.</p>

	<p>Ms. Kuhn and Mr. Spicuzza informed that other sports scheduled games to allow overtime. Mr. Stover noted space may open with the additional lots purchased. Mr. Gastgeb and Ms. Murtaugh suggested parking issues may arise. Mr. Spicuzza asked when the Park Avenue Football season starts. Ms. Murtaugh explained practices begin at the end of August. Ms. Skoczlas and Mr. Stover explained that the Park Avenue Football season will not be held here this fall.</p> <p>Mr. Galloni suggested adding a similar structure to a Quonset hut for teams to warm up in. Ms. Kuhn noted concerns about Basketball may arise due to Park Avenue Football using the gym. Mr. Gastgeb and Mr. Spicuzza suggested that Football may be open to scheduling games differently. Mr. Stover and Mr. Walezak recommended staggering games.</p>
New Employee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jeff Gavin is the new Associate Head Swim Coach/Aquatic Coordinator. He started in June.
Park & Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Saturday, August 12- End of Summer Bash- Simmons Park- 11:00am to 2:00pm Mr. Stover and Ms. Sibert announced that the times for the End of Summer Bash are 10:00am to 2:00pm. ➤ Saturday, September 2 – Battle of the Bands- Millennium Park- 5-9pm – we are finalizing band selections this week and working with a professional sound person to create a cohesive event. ➤ Friday, September 15- Star Party- Millennium Park- 7:00pm ➤ Saturday, October 28 – Boos and Bites- Park Avenue/Community Center- 3:00pm to 7:30pm. Tickets are on sale through RecDesk. Confirmed vendors include La Vigneta, Arsenal Cider, BackAlley Brewing, D&O Cellars, Country Hammer Moonshine, and more.
School Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On July 10 Council voted to accept Ben Franklin and George Washington elementary schools from the school district. ➤ Details on how we plan to use the spaces will be coming soon. ➤ The use of the spaces aligns with the Municipal Strategic Plan.

7. Officer's Report:

Mr. Miller explained the banners on the fence at Village Green are a safety issue. Mr. Miller informed the board how the banners blocked the view of parents watching their players on the field from the playground. Mr. Stover noted banner placement was an issue.

Mr. Gastgeb explained the banners placed at the Simmons Park Tennis Courts are visible from the road. Mr. Gastgeb informed the board was told banners could not be placed near a road. Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Stover, Ms. Skoczlas, Mr. Gastgeb, and Mr. Miller suggested staggering the banner placement. Mr. Miller asked if the restrooms at Village Green were open. Mr. Stover informed that if the field was rented through the Bethel Park Recreation Department, the group should have a restroom key. Mr. Stover noted that if Bethel Park Soccer used the field, they would have a restroom key. Ms. Kuhn and Mr. Spicuzza suggested those using the field when Mr. Miller was present were from an outside organization.

8. Standing Committee Reports:

Parks, Buildings, & Grounds: **None.**
Community Outreach: **None.**
Programing: **None.**

Fields and Banners: Mr. Stover announced that every banner will be new next year, and easier to see through. Mr. Gastgeb suggested adding another field for banners. Mr. Gastgeb, Ms. Kuhn, and Ms. Murtaugh suggested alternate placement for banners. Mr. Gastgeb asked who was on the Banners Committee. Ms. Murtaugh stated that she was on the Banners Committee. Mr. McCall informed that Ms. Salerno was on the Community Outreach Committee.

Special Events: None.

9. Revenue and Disbursements Report:

A. Motion to approve revenues and disbursements report for May & June 2023.

Motion: Mr. McCall Second Mr. Miller

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: None.

Vote: 9-0

10. New Business: None.

11. Unfinished Business, other comments or concerns of Board members or staff: None.

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

A. Motion to approve Program Expense Reports dated June 30 & July 27, 2023.

Motion Ms. Kuhn Second Ms. Murtaugh

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: None.

Vote: 9-0

B. Motion to approve personnel costs of June 9, 23, July 7 & 21, 2023.

Motion Mr. Galloni Second: Mr. Bonaccorsi

Discussion, Additions, Corrections: None.

Vote: 9-0

13. Motion to adjourn:

Motion: Ms. Murtaugh Second Mr. Miller

Vote: 9-0

Time Adjourned: 7:28pm

**BETHEL PARK
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

August 2, 2023, Workshop Minutes

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Items of interests to Board Members
 2. School Building Usage
 3. Vision Statement
 4. New Municipal Manager
 5. Upcoming Events
- Mr. Bonaccorsi inquired about the school buildings bought by the Municipality, specifically their recreation areas and field placement. Mr. Stover explained that nothing about the purchase is known at this point.
 - Mr. Bonaccorsi asked if the Ben Franklin soccer field would be sold. Mr. Stover announced that part of the agreement is that the Municipality is not allowed to sell the property due to transferring ownership. Mr. Spicuzza stated that the Municipality could not sell it; they would have to give it back to the school district.
 - Mr. Stover informed that sports groups must be honest schedules for their needs.
 - Mr. Spicuzza explained that he was a member of the Committee to utilize the buildings for the community. Mr. Spicuzza stated he did not think there was any intention of eliminating any of the fields or anything else. Mr. Spicuzza noted that they understand the current needs, and that is why the gyms will be available.
 - Mr. Bonaccorsi inquired if the gyms were at the schools. Mr. Spicuzza informed that the Municipality does not have ownership of the gyms of the other schools.
 - Mr. Stover informed that the Municipality is starting to work on grants for building demolition. Ms. Kuhn, Ms. Murtaugh, and Mr. Bonaccorsi inquired if the buildings would be torn down and if the gyms could be used. Mr. Stover explained that needs will be assessed, and that the Municipality cannot afford to keep those schools as they are. Mr. Stover stated that there are many unknowns. Mr. Stover announced that we have ownership, and it will be kept for recreational purposes.
 - Mr. Stover asked if the board reviewed the vision statement suggestions. Mr. Stover announced the vision statement will be emailed and hopes to have the board pick words for consideration. Mr. Miller asked if a vision statement was ever chosen previously. Mr. Stover, Mr. Gastgeb, and Mr. McCall informed that ideas were given, but no vision statement was chosen.
 - Mr. Gastgeb asked who would send the revised June minutes.
 - Mr. Stover announced that a new Municipal Manager will start on August 28th. Mr. Gastgeb and Mr. Spicuzza asked if the Board could meet the new Municipal Manager. Mr. Stover informed it was to be

seen. Mr. Miller asked where the new Municipal Manager was from. Mr. Stover explained that she has previous experience in the east, the City of Johnstown, and Dormont. Ms. Murtaugh inquired about her name and her time at Dormont. Mr. Stover informed us that her name is Kristen Denne. Mr. Stover stated that Ms. Denne has not worked in Dormont for a long time.

- Mr. Stover announced that an email will be sent about the morning of Community Day.
- Ms. Murtaugh asked if James Knight was working with the Recreation Department. Mr. Stover explained that Mr. Knight resigned, and his current position is with Ultimate Fighting Club Gyms.
- Ms. Murtaugh asked about the Positive Coaching Alliance Workshop. Ms. Kuhn and Mr. Stover explained the event will be at the Community Center on August 13 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Ms. Kuhn noted that after speaking at the School Board meeting, the Bethel Park High School coaches will attend. Ms. Skoczlas asked if the incorrect post had been updated. Ms. Kuhn asked if it was the post with the wrong class. Ms. Murtaugh asked if the class was available online. Ms. Kuhn explained that in-person attendance is preferred, but a limited number can attend the online workshop. Mr. Stover explained the heads of sports groups, such as Evan Sivetz and Mike Pawlos, were contacted to encourage coaches to attend. Mr. Stover clarified they were asked through both email and phone calls to attend. Mr. Gastgeb and Ms. Murtaugh asked what day of the week the workshop will be held. Ms. Kuhn informed use it will be held on a Sunday. Mr. Stover asked Ms. Murtaugh to email for information to share about the course.