

Mt. Lebanon Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2020 - 8:00 p.m.

Municipal Building Room C

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Don Gavett called the meeting to order and David Donnellan called the roll.

The meeting was attended by board members Dale Cable, Stacey Franklin, Don Gavett, Walt Henry, Tom Langston, and Megan O'Brakta. The meeting was also attended by Recreation Director, David Donnellan.

Chip Dalesandro and Shelly Saba joined the meeting via telephone.

Tom Donati, Dave Franklin, Lynn Hagan and Chad Wertz were absent.

2. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

3. Approval of the January 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Recreation Center Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Donnellan shared that municipal staff are still preparing for a committee meeting to discuss the plan and develop specifications for hiring a consultant.

5. 2020 Work Plan

The board approved the following items for the 2020 work plan:

- A. Review and prioritization of sports related improvement projects.
- B. Work with municipal staff and the Parks Advisory Board to develop an RFP for a combined Parks Master Plan and Recreation Center Feasibility Study.
- C. Sell and promote recreation advertising opportunities.

- D. Address issues from citizens and individual sports associations as needed.
- E. Host a meeting among sports organizations to facilitate better communication, and to review each sport's registration, trends and other data to help prepare for future needs.

6. Sports Organizations Communication and Data Meeting

Tom Langston said that a number of sports organizations held a meeting and were in favor of collecting and using data to aid in decision making regarding fields. He said the group was in the process of gathering information on participation numbers, practice needs, game needs, field preference, location, size of field etc., to determine needs and maximize utilization. He said that someone is also taking aerial images of all of the fields (and parking) to analyze the existing footprints and possibly reconfigure the fields for more efficient use. He said the school district is supportive of this effort. Once the data is gathered, a meeting will take place at a future Sports Advisory Board meeting, with all sports associations being invited to attend. Mr. Langston will notify Mr. Donnellan when the meeting should be scheduled.

Mr. Donnellan shared that the Commission had expressed a desire to have more data regarding sports organizations to assist with field scheduling. Mr. Donnellan said that he met with the Commission regarding the field allocation process and he had suggested some possible metrics e.g. number of residents or in-season versus out-of-season, as well as other factors, that could be used to settle disputes over field time. The data collection process could further this effort.

It was noted that installing lights on fields could add a lot of field time.

Mr. Langston suggested a possible fee per participant each season, that could be used to offset field maintenance and improvements.

He also said he would share a study from the Aspen Institute that identifies national trends in youth sports.

7. Soccer Proposal

Tim Defeo, from the Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association, gave a presentation detailing the association's proposal for the installation of sports tiles over the existing basketball court surface at Sunset Hills Park (AKA Brafferton). He said the project would increase the usage of the underutilized area, while providing an additional space for soccer to play futsal. He said the surface has a 25-30 life expectancy, and provides a non-slip, shock absorbing surface. He said Highmark offered a \$5,500 donation and the association would provide an additional \$17,000. The balance of the project cost was proposed to come from the municipality (\$18,570 with fencing or \$10,990 without fencing). The proposal also

included the option to replace the fencing. A fencing company proposed barbed wire on top of the fence. The board was not in favor of barbed wire fencing.

It was agreed that scheduling of the court and field would have to be coordinated to avoid excessive traffic.

The board voted unanimously in favor of the resurfacing project proposal.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.