

Mt. Lebanon Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2022 - 8 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Amanda Rost called the meeting to order and David Donnellan called the roll. The meeting was attended by board members, Lynn Hagan, Stacie Hill, Tom Langston, Megan O'Brakta, Kristen Reisinger, Amanda Rost, Shelly Saba, Ian Smith and Chad Wertz.

Kari Resler joined the meeting after roll call.

The meeting was also attended by Recreation Director David Donnellan.

Ed Cipriano, Katie Sharon and Stephen Strotmeyer were absent.

2. Election of Chair

Amanda Rost was reelected Chair.

3. Election of Vice Chair

Chad Wertz was reelected Vice Chair.

4. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Amanda Rost inquired about the status of pickleball lines at Meadowcroft Park. David Donnellan said that the contractor was not able to install the lines before the weather turned too cold. He said he would get the lines painted as soon as possible.

David Donnellan will request that the tennis nets be reinstalled and left up year-round at Williamsburg and Meadowcroft Parks.

5. Approval of the November 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

6. Commissioner Report

There was no Commissioner report.

7. 2022 Budget Update

Mr. Donnellan reported that the 2022 budget was approved by the Commission on December 14. He said the most significant change for recreation was substantial

increase in funding for part time wages and this was necessary to keep up with the recent increases in wages that employers are offering due to worker shortages. He said otherwise, the recreation operating budget was pretty standard.

He said on the capital side of the budget, the tennis court reconstruction project was not funded and that it was due, at least in part, to Indoor Tennis electing not to participate in the project. He said there were no other sports related capital projects funded in the budget.

Mr. Donnellan said the 2022 budget was available on the website if anyone was interested in reviewing it.

8. Field Census

Amanda Rost reported that the group is continuing to work on the data, and that she received a list of questions from consultant, Carolyn Yagle. Ms. Rost said the group will work on providing answers soon, so that the census data can be considered in the context of the Parks Master Plan.

9. Recreation Center Feasibility Study/Parks Master Plan

Mr. Donnellan asked if everyone had a chance to review the shared documents from the consultants and provide comments. He suggested that it might still be possible to email comments directly to Carolyn Yagle.

Mr. Donnellan shared that he requested that the consultants make specific recommendations regarding pickleball courts.

Chad Wertz asked if the final locations for a recreation center would be the three options that were shared earlier. He said he did not think the fields in Main Park should even be a serious consideration. Amanda Rost agreed and said she told the consultant that the school district would not be able to offer all the current sports programs without those fields. Ian Smith said he did not think that option was feasible.

Ms. Rost said that the consultants were only considering locations that the municipality currently owns, and that they should look beyond that. Stacie Hill agreed and said that it was important to explore those opportunities.

Mr. Donnellan encouraged the board to share their feedback on the locations.

Amanda Rost requested that the link to the documents to be shared with the group. Mr. Donnellan shared the email and link during the meeting.

10. 2022 Work Plan

The 2021 Work Plan was shared on the screen for reference, and the board discussed a work plan for the current year.

Mr. Donnellan shared some of the more popular recreation advertising opportunities and said he would provide more information at the next meeting.

Ian Smith asked if the revenue from the banners at the fields on Cedar was for a specific purpose. Mr. Donnellan said that those revenues were earmarked for field improvements.

Mr. Smith shared feedback from businesses that the cost of the advertising was beyond what they could support. Mr. Donnellan said the fees were reviewed and approved by the Commission during the budget process, but those fees can be reviewed.

Ms. Rost said she thought we should have advertising as a regular agenda item for discussion at meetings.

After discussion the board established the 2022 Work Plan as follows:

1. Review and prioritization of sports related improvement projects.
2. Work with the Parks Advisory Board, municipal staff, consultants and the community to complete the Parks Master Plan/Recreation Center Feasibility Study.
3. Sell and promote recreation advertising opportunities.
4. Address issues from citizens and individual sports associations as needed.
5. Complete the field survey and provide a report back to the Commission and stakeholders, as well as pursue recommendations developed from the survey.

11. New Business

Ms. Rost discussed the different start times at the various elementary school fields and questioned why they were different. She said Tom Langston inquired with the school district and they agreed to open 5 elementary school fields as early as 4:30 p.m. in the spring and would include a few more fields in the fall.

Mr. Langston asked if the new times would be reflected on the schedules created by the Recreation Department. Mr. Donnellan said he planned to note the fields with earlier available start times during the Spring/Summer Field meeting and confirm with associations if they want those earlier times so that usage times would be accurate.

12. Announcements

Mr. Donnellan announced that the municipality was going to virtual meetings only through at least January and that the February meeting would most likely be virtual again.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.