

## **Mt. Lebanon Sports Advisory Board**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**April 7, 2022 - 8 p.m.**

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Amanda Rost called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. and David Donnellan called the roll. The meeting was attended by board members Ed Cipriano, Michael Diven, Andrew Grobe, Tom Langston, Kari Resler, Amanda Rost, Shelly Saba, Ian Smith, Stephen Strotmeyer and Chad Wertz.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Mindy Ranney, and Recreation Director David Donnellan.

Stacie Hill, Kristen Reisinger, and Katie Sharon were absent.

For the benefit of the new board members, Amanda Rost asked everyone to introduce themselves, indicate what organization they represent and provide some background information.

#### 2. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

#### 3. Approval of the March 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were amended to correct a typographical error. The minutes were approved as amended.

#### 4. Commissioner Report

Commissioner Ranney reported that the Parks Master Plan and Recreation Center Feasibility Study was reviewed by the Commission at its last meeting, and that the meeting could be reviewed on the website. She said the final study would be voted on by the Commission on April 12 and should be posted to the website on April 13. She suggested that the board could have sub committees of 6 people or less to review and rank the recommendations in the study. She said recommendations would need to follow the budget timeline document which would be discussed later in the agenda.

#### 5. Field Census

Amanda Rost reviewed the field use subcommittee's activities consisting of analyzing the use of all fields in Mt. Lebanon from all organizations. The group gathered data on spring and fall use of fields in 2021. The group is now in the process of compiling that information into a report. She said the hope is it will tie into the Parks Master Plan.

Ms. Rost noted that the stadium was underutilized due to its high rental fees.

Tom Langston added that the objective of the study was to use data to increase the efficiency of field use, and considers maintenance and field recovery. He said that the stadium has a cost structure related to the ROI. He noted that usage affects the life expectancy of the turf. He said the district has a la carte pricing to cover things like restrooms, lighting and security.

Amanda Rost mentioned how well maintained the Cedar Turf (Middle and Seymour Fields) is and that its life expectancy is now longer despite being heavily used. She suggested that this data could be presented to the school district to show that through proper maintenance the life expectancy can be extended, which could allow for lower usage fees. It was noted that the stadium usage was much lower than the Cedar Turf.

#### 6. Recreation Center Feasibility Study/Parks Master Plan

Amanda Rost reiterated that the plan would be finalized on April 13.

#### 7. Prioritization of Sports Related Improvement Projects

Ms. Rost summarized that the board reviews and prioritizes sports related projects each year, and those priorities are reviewed by the Commission.

Mr. Donnellan said that he shared a spreadsheet in the meeting packet consisting of all of the improvements from the Parks Master Plan/Recreation Center Feasibility Study. He then shared a chart on the screen consisting of projects from the previous year that were not completed, sports related projects from the Capital Improvements Program and major projects from the study. He said the board could use this chart as a starting point to prioritize projects.

Having a list of smaller projects was deemed to be helpful for decision making. Changing rooms at the ice rink were mentioned as an example. Mr. Donnellan said that this concept would need to be designed by an architect and would likely require accessibility improvements and would be more expensive than originally thought. He said that changing rooms and new locker rooms could be considered as part of a comprehensive renovation of the entire recreation center, including ADA improvements.

Mindy Ranney said an architectural design study would be a good project for consideration in the budget.

The renovation could also include projects like roof and concrete replacement.

Kari Resler inquired if the consultants performing the feasibility study had visited facilities like our recreation center that had an ice rink and fitness. She said the facilities proposed in the study would be difficult to garner support given that we have an existing recreation center. She questioned the level of usage of the facility during the day. David Donnellan said that virtually any facility will have reduced usage during school and work hours.

Tom Langston said that significant expenditures have been made by sports organizations renting fields outside of Mt. Lebanon and that if those investments could be kept within the community, they could be used to support recreation facilities.

Andy Grobe said that he toured our facilities and feels our facility is unique. He said the Spencer YMCA is close, but few ice rinks also have community rooms and it is challenging to manage that combination.

Ed Cipriano suggested a survey to determine programming needs. Mr. Donnellan said that the department was planning to conduct targeted program surveys this year assessing current programs and any new programs desired.

Mr. Cipriano questioned the type of new facilities that were desired. Chad Wertz said the preliminary study conducted by the Sports Advisory Board began by looking at indoor basketball courts, a track and other amenities. Mindy Ranney offered to share that report with the group.

Amanda Rost suggested that a subcommittee could review the sports related projects from the master plan and group them together by location and cost, along with the impact.

Michael Diven asked if there was a description of the projects on the list. Mr. Donnellan said most of the projects were described in the Capital Improvements Plan, which is available on the municipal website.

The top three projects were prioritized as 1. Light Seymour Field, 2. Replace Seymour/Middle Turf, 3. Brafferton Field Improvements. Additional prioritization was planned for the next meeting.

Ian Smith suggested adding a column for impact, and a column for the area or category, and a third column for who requested the project.

Michael Diven suggested that each person prioritize the list for themselves prior to the next meeting to get a head start on an overall ranking.

Kari Resler, Tom Langston and Amanda Rost agreed to reformat the list prior to the next meeting to include impact, cost level category and location.

#### 8. Recreation Department Advertising

David Donnellan reported that two new ballfield banners were sold to Pittsburgh Junk and Totopo.

#### 9. Standardized Field Signage Proposal

Mr. Langston reported that they are developing the scope and that he, Mindy Ranney and Peter Argentine are getting together. He said the Sports Advisory Board would take the lead on design and scope and present back to the Parks and Sports Advisory Boards.

#### 10. Appointment to Comprehensive Plan Advisory Group

Mr. Donnellan referred the group to the letter in the packet from Assistant Manager, Ian McMeans, requesting a board member be appointed to serve on one of the advisory

groups for the Comprehensive Plan update. Mr. Donnellan said it was a 12-18 month project starting in June or July. It was agreed that this would be revisited at the next meeting.

#### 11. Budget Timeline

Mr. Donnellan briefly reviewed the timeline from the packets. He said May is the deadline for CIP items, July for budget items and the Commission would review the budget in November.

#### 12. New Business

There was no new business.

#### 13. Announcements

Michael Diven announced that the platform tennis hut renovation project would be starting this month.

Amanda Rost announced that the next meeting would be held on May 5 at 8 p.m.

#### 14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.