

Mt. Lebanon Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

October 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 Michael Diven, Andrew Grobe, Stacie Hill, Tom Langston, Kristen Reisinger, Kari Resler, Amanda Rost, Shelly Saba and Ian Smith.

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

Ed Cipriano, Katie Sharon, Stephen Strotmeyer and Chad Wertz were absent.

2. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

3. Approval of the September 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Commissioner Report

Commissioner Ranney informed the board that due to a resignation there was an opening on the Municipal Commission. She reported that the Commission would interview candidates and appoint an interim Commissioner soon who will serve until January 3, 2024, or until the installation of the person elected at the next available election. She encouraged the board to help spread the word.

Ms. Ranney reported that the search for a police chief was entering its final stage. She said that she participated in an assessment of the candidates. She said candidates were also introduced to employees, including police employees. She said the field would be narrowed to 2-3 candidates who would move forward to a moderated public question and answer session. She said it would likely be invitation only, but the public could view the event and participate in a survey to provide input for consideration.

Commissioner Ranney reported that there was a project to put artificial turf on Bird Park's soccer field listed in the capital improvement plan. She noted that this document is only an improvement plan and not a list of approved projects. Mr. Donnellan noted that this project was ranked number 4 by the Sports Advisory Board. Ms. Ranney acknowledged that the project is contentious.

Ms. Ranney reported that the Commission is considering restructuring its boards and authorities. She said combining Parks Advisory and Sports Advisory into a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was under consideration.

She reported that the Brafferton Field fencing and backstop were removed.

5. Field Census

Amanda Rost reported that she hopes to complete the main presentation this month. She said she, Stacie Hill, Ian Smith and Tom Langston met and went over the presentation. The committee plans to roll out the information beginning in November and December beginning with advisory board members, then youth sports groups, school district officials and the recreation department. She said the groups would refine the presentation with the feedback from these groups, before presenting it to the Commission and School Board. She said the main point is there is a shortage of field space, and the goal is to help use our field space more efficiently.

6. Prioritization of Sports Related Improvement Projects

Amanda Rost noted that the list had been prioritized and no further work was needed at this time. She said that the census would help to provide data to support field related projects.

7. Recreation Department Advertising

Mr. Donnellan said that the department had been making advertising opportunities known through its newsletter. He said that there were many openings available including on the ice rink dasher boards. He asked the board to send any interested advertisers to him.

Mr. Diven asked if advertising revenues directly benefited sports programs. Mr. Donnellan replied that field banner sales revenues were earmarked for field improvements and that other revenues would help to offset operating costs.

Ms. Rost suggested that sports organizations could push these opportunities out to their participants.

8. Standardized Field Signage Proposal

Tom Langston reported that he has made contact with the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) and they would be getting together soon. He noted that there were existing approved signs in the municipality for parks and that they could work with the company who designed them to expand on that design. Mr. Langston said that athletic fields would be a logical place to start the process of sign standardization as it was less complicated than overall parks signage.

Ms. Ranney said the next step would be to get input from the Public Works Department along with Recreation and Public Information. Mr. Langston said he would organize a meeting.

9. Comprehensive Plan Advisory Group

Mr. Donnellan said the first meeting for board liaisons would be October 24 at 6:30 p.m. in Room C of the Municipal Building. He reminded the group about the Ascend Lebo website, survey and interactive map.

10. New Business

Amanda Rost shared that the school district confirmed that it provides portable toilets only at school fields where it has sports programs. She said that meant there were no portable units at the elementary school fields. She said she would add this topic to the field census.

Ms. Rost reported that Mellon Field was closed due to damage caused by use during wet weather.

Mr. Donnellan reported that Bird Park soccer field was aerated and advised teams to inspect the field prior to use.

11. Announcements

There were no announcements.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.