

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

### **Meeting Minutes**

**January 4, 2024 - 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, Tom Langston, Shirley McElhattan, Kristen Reisinger, Amanda Rost and Ian Smith.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Craig Grella and Recreation Director David Donnellan.

Kari Resler, Stacie Hill and Stephen Strotmeyer were absent.

2. Election of Chair

As the board is scheduled to sunset at the end of March 2024, the board agreed that with Amanda Rost should remain as Chair.

3. Election of Vice Chair

The board also agreed that Stacie Hill should remain Vice Chair.

4. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

5. Approval of the November 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

6. Commissioner Report

Amanda Rost thanked Commissioner Ranney for her service to the board. Ms. Ranney thanked Ms. Rost and the board for their work over the years.

Commissioner Craig Grella was welcomed as the new Commission Liaison. Mr. Grella said he did not have a report, and he also thanked Mindy Ranney and the board for their service. He said he was looking forward to working with the board.

7. 2024 Budget Update

Mr. Donnellan noted some new or expanded recreation-related items that were funded in the 2024 budget including the following:

Full-time Maintenance Position at the tennis center  
Two seasonal swim center pool managers

Full-Time Golf Course Assistant Superintendent (*mentioned later under Item 12. Announcements*)  
Pool Breezeway Water Fountain  
Automatic Pool Cleaner  
Security Camera system  
Tennis Center Elevator Replacement

#### 8. Advisory Board Restructuring Transition Planning

Mr. Donnellan reminded the board that the municipality would be transitioning to the new restructured boards and authorities in April. He said the Sports Advisory Board would no longer exist, but some of its existing members whose terms extend beyond March, 2024 would be eligible to serve on the new Parks and Recreation Board.

He said new boards will consist of 9 residents with 3-year terms. There would be one Commission Liaison (Commissioner Grella for the Parks and Recreation Board) and two staff liaisons (David Donnellan and Phil Avolio for Parks and Recreation Board).

Ms. Rost asked who would be eligible to serve on the board. Mr. Donnellan said that Michael Diven, Andrew Grobe, Tom Langston and Stephen Strotmeyer were eligible.

Ms. Rost said she wanted to form a separate sports partnership/advisory group that would represent any sport, and ideally have one of its members serve on the Parks and Recreation Board. She said the group would be structured around sports and recreation assets.

Tom Langston said balanced representation on the new board would be important between Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Grella said both active and passive recreation would be represented on the board and it would be consistent with the Parks Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan.

Mindy Ranney said she liked thinking in terms of assets, and that fields and other park assets should not be overlooked.

#### 9. Field Study Update

Ms. Rost said a draft version of the census study had been shared with every youth sports organization and they were supportive of its recommendations. She said she also met with John Grogan and Brian Kattan. She said she will edit and update the report and Mr. Grogan will share it with the Superintendent.

Ms. Rost said she would be reaching out to Mr. Grella and Mr. Donnellan to set up a meeting to review the draft study, prior to reviewing a final report with the Commission.

Mr. Donnellan asked for clarification on the advisory group Ms. Rost had mentioned earlier. He asked if it was just centered around fields, or did it include other assets as well. Ms. Rost said it would start out as just fields, but would expand if successful.

#### 10. Ice Rink Repair Update

Mr. Donnellan updated on ice rink repairs. He said that a temporary chiller installation began on November 6, and once the floor temperatures came down, staff began rebuilding the ice, and the rink was reopened on November 18. He said the temporary chiller operated well until December 27 when it started to fail. The rink closed for part of the day, but was back up the following day. A second, replacement temporary chiller was installed on December 29. Both chillers are on site until the broken unit can be removed. He said the ice conditions have been very good. He said a subfloor warming system was designed and installed, and that the required repair parts for the compressors had not shipped yet. He said parts were due in two to three weeks, but it had been two months.

Ms. Rost asked when it would be time to replace the ice rink chillers. Mr. Donnellan said the time was now, and staff was planning for that, but parts would be a year out.

Mr. Langston inquired about expanding the rink. Mr. Donnellan said he did not think another sheet of ice would pay for itself, was not part of the current architectural study and would add to the parking shortage.

Ms. Rost asked if capacity could be built in to handle another sheet of ice in the future. Mr. Donnellan said that could be done, but that adding ice was not currently an identified priority.

Ms. Rost said that chiller replacement was due along with the turf replacement.

Mr. Grella reported that he expects a bond issue in 2025 for both the municipality and the school district. He suggested that large projects should be prioritized by the end of the year.

Tom Langston asked if there was value in collaboration with the school district on projects like synthetic turf replacement, for example. Mr. Grella said there had not been a lot of coordination in the past, but he has started a conversation with the district.

#### 11. New Business

Tom Langston inquired about the RFP for signage. Mr. Donnellan said he was not part of the RFP process, but that sign locations were determined and that Phil Avolio was working on the RFP, with the goal of producing and installing the signs shortly after.

#### 12. Announcements

Mr. Donnellan announced that after a series of meetings with Indoor Tennis, municipal staff and Commissioners, everyone agreed that it would be best to have one entity

running the tennis center year-round. It was determined that an RFP process would be undertaken, and the municipality issued an RFP for tennis center operations on December 1. Proposals would be due January 11. He said Indoor would likely submit a proposal. He said the municipality would provide maintenance and support, and that the municipality could assume year-round tennis operations also. Mr. Donnellan stated that the municipality appreciated working hand in hand with Indoor Tennis on the process, and looks forward to an improved tennis program.

Mr. Langston asked if golf course labor could be used at the tennis center in the winter. Mr. Donnellan noted that a new Golf Course Assistant Superintendent was also funded in the 2024 budget, but he had not mentioned that during the budget update. He said golf course maintenance currently assists with tennis in some cases and would continue to do so.

Ms. Rost announced that the next meeting would be February 1 and the final meeting would be March 7, both at 8 p.m.

### 13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.