

Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – October 4, 2021  
Chairperson Brian Sulewski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Notice Statement – The Notice Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied by notification to the Hunterdon County Democrat and by posting with the Township Clerk and on the Delaware Township bulletin board on January 12, 2021.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Erin Buchanan, Charles Herman, Tyler Kadezabek, Steve Smotrich, Brian Sulewski, Linda Ubry  
Absent: Joe Benincasa, Rebecca Burns, Heather Opdyke, Tim Soltis, Jes Stahl

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of September 8, 2021 – Linda moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 8, 2021, Steve seconded motion, and with a correction to the minutes, members present approved the minutes with an abstention by Charlie.

REPORTS

Teen Report

Tyler said approximately thirty teens attended the Roller Skating event at the Frenchtown Rink. The Rink's bill is \$399. Judy moved to approve payment of this bill, Brian seconded the motion, and members unanimously authorized payment. Tyler said he would like to schedule another Teen Hike in November. After finalizing the date and location, he will notify members. Social media will be used to spread the word. Members asked Tyler to think about spring events. They thanked him for his work.

Recreation Tennis

Brant Switzler held a tennis Meet and Hit session at the Dilts Park on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and he will repeat it on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Brian said about twelve children attended. The Commission would like Brant to run a recreational instructional youth and adult tennis program this fall. Brian said Brant will be paid as a 1099 independent contractor, not a Township employee as previously discussed. Participants will register through the Township as a Recreation Commission event at a Township recreational facility. Brant will carry his own insurance to cover himself. The Township will provide insurance for the program. He had a background check. Brant's father may assist, and members agreed he should also request a background check. The cost will be \$40 per four week session. Brant will run four sessions between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on each of four Saturdays beginning October 16<sup>th</sup>. Brian will get a copy of the registration from Brant and give it to CFO Diane McDaniel for the Township's insurance carrier to review. Portions of the registration form from Summer Recreation program may be used. Brian said he asked Deputy Clerk Tiffany Crivelli to reserve both tennis courts for the program. Members agreed that one court should be available for the public, although use of the second court may be impacted by the program.

Judy moved to sponsor a Recreation Commission instructional youth and adult tennis program at the Dilts Park for four weeks beginning Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at the Dilts Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at cost of \$40 for four one-hour sessions per person. Brant will be paid \$1,600 for his tennis service. Brian seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved the motion.

Board of Education – Rebecca sent an email stating that the first Strategic Planning meeting at DTS was held. The process is going well.

DTAA – Erin said Seth Buchanan is the new DTAA President. There is a General Membership meeting next Wednesday. Soccer schedules were rearranged so they would not conflict with the March on Litter Day.

Brian said the softball field was heavily damaged by Hurricane Ida. John Martin repaired the field, so it is now playable. Members greatly appreciated John's help. A new message board will be constructed. Seth Buchanan offered to spearhead this project. A new map will be posted locating the athletic fields at the Park. The soccer season is in full swing and will continue through November.

Open Space – Steve said the Township hopes to hire a new Open Space Coordinator soon. There are no pending open space applications.

Green Team – Jes agreed to serve as the liaison between the Recreation Commission and Green Team. She provided notes on the Team's 9/28/21 meeting. DTS is now on the Sustainable Jersey site. The Team is trying for the bronze level. Sustainable ideas will be presented to the BOE first, and then it will coordinate and implement them. It will then submit them to Sustainable Jersey for points. Target areas were identified and need to be reviewed by the Team. The Outdoor Learning Garden at DTS can earn points, but more work is needed. The Team encourages the community to use the garden for meetings after completing a DTS facility use form. The rain garden and rain barrels will also earn points, but the documentation has to be submitted. The Team wants to host a Clean Up DTS day in the Spring. Sustainable Jersey is an excellent resource. The Team will meet monthly. There are several vacancies to fill.

## APPROVAL OF DILTS FARM PARK APPLICATIONS

Dilts Park Facility Use Application – None

## PARK PLANNER UPDATE

Brian said Hurricane Ida has slowed the process of hiring a Park Planner. Charlie said the Township's engineering firm has a park planner. Brian said he would like to see other projects designed by the firm. Steve said he would like this prospective planner to meet with the Recreation Commission, perhaps in November or January.

## COMMITTEES:

Fall Fun Fireworks – Brian reported that the Fall Fireworks on September 18th, the most popular event run by the Recreation Commission, was another big success. Family and friend picnicking provided socializing time before the fireworks. The State fireworks permit was delayed, but the fire inspector worked it out. The Medivac helicopter landing was a huge hit. The only complaint he heard was that a letter advising neighbors in advance of the fireworks did not reach everyone. Charlie thought neighbors who want advance notice should opt into a letter from the Township. This event is always widely advertised. Thanks you letters will be sent to the Sergeantsville, Stockton and West Amwell Fire companies for assisting.

Yard Sale – Judy said there were about 35 participants in the Yard Sale on September 18<sup>th</sup>. She was not aware of any issues.

Plant Swap – Jes Stahl said the Swap will be October 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Dilts Park.

Community Block Day – This event on October 2<sup>nd</sup> was another big success. The Sergeantsville Fire Company cooked. Shop Rite of Flemington provided all the food that the Fire Company grilled. Ice cream was provided (\$1,116). Big Horse Band (\$500) entertained all. Delaware Township Public Works members provided cones and signs. Mike Ubry repaired the pedestrian path through the Sergeantsville Green. It was damaged by Hurricane Ida. Vollers provided the outdoor lights because the County was using theirs. About 200 to 250 people attended over the course of the evening. In the future the Green area will be taped to discourage children from running on neighboring properties. Future activities might include a bounce house, games for children possibly run by the Girl Scouts, and face painting.

Brian noted that the evergreen tree at the Green looks dry and needs to be staked and mulched. Judy will ask the Shade Tree Commission to take a look. A power source to light the tree would be good in the future, but in the meantime Mike and Barbara Mills have generously provided power to light it seasonally.

Adult and Teen Recreation at DTS – The DTS BOE approved the request for adult and teen indoor volleyball and basketball. Those activities began October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Halloween Activity – Members agreed to provide an indoor activity at DTS for Halloween from 3 to 5 p.m. if severe weather prevents regular Trick or Treating. Judy will submit a request for use of facilities.

Holiday Decorating Contest – Members agreed to judge the holiday decorating contest on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. In the case of inclement weather forecast for that day, it will be Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Gift certificates to the Sergeantsville Inn will be \$125, \$100, \$75 and \$50. Only amateur displays will be considered.

OLD BUSINESS – Linda noted that the Reimer field has been mowed.

NEW BUSINESS – Brian said DTAA has asked the Commission to consider co-sponsoring a fund raising event at the Dilts Park. It may include vendors, a beer garden, etc. There will be more discussion.

Charlie said better communication is needed. He asked that all requests be sent to him as Liaison to the Township Committee.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. IN PERSON