

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
RECREATION BOARD MEETING
JULY 5, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Recreation Board was held on **Tuesday, July 5, 2022** at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, which is located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Tony Borger called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL:

The following Recreation Board members answered roll call: Tony Borger, Robert Cornman, Robert Farley, Ira Hiberan and Roy Bellis.

Also present were Township Manager, Tom Petrucci (Secretary to the Recreation Board) and Glenn Borger, who is the Board of Supervisors liaison to the Recreation Board.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

ACTION: Motion was made by Roy Bellis and seconded by Robert Farley to approve the June 7, 2022 meeting minutes, as submitted.

Prior to the vote, Tony Borger asked if there were any further questions or comments.

Motion approved. Vote 4-0-1, with Robert Cornman abstaining (due to the fact that he was not in attendance during the June 7, 2022 Recreation Board meeting).

II. NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review/Discussion- Pickleball Court Request – Plainfield Township Municipal Park:

Township Manager Petrucci reported that he had received a few inquiries from residents concerning the possibility of adding pickleball courts to the Township. After researching this matter, he had discovered that pickleball is a sport with established rules, has an extensive following, and is more forgiving on knees and joints than sports such as tennis. Both Forks Township and Palmer Township provide their residents with multiple pickleball court options.

He is recommending that the Township attempt to line one (1) or two (2) (or both) of the tennis courts at the Plainfield Township Municipal Park to provide a dual tennis/pickleball option for residents. He mentioned that it is good to show that the

Township is responsive to the suggestions of residents concerning additional recreational opportunities, especially when the improvements are relatively low in cost.

Robert Cornman inquired as to the estimated cost, and Township Manager Petrucci responded that he had sent in an inquiry to the company that typically handles this work for the Township, but no response was provided to date. He conservatively estimates that the work could take place for approximately \$3,000.00 (or less).

Ira Hiberman stated that if the dual-purpose courts are installed, it would be helpful to track the number of specific pickleball participants. Tony Borger added that the Township could build upon the use and justify further courts, depending on the number of participants tracked by the data.

Tony Borger also recommended that the Township could hold instructional sessions for pickleball.

Township Manager Petrucci reported that the funds for the court striping would be drawn from the Recreation Fund.

Following discussion, the Recreation Board took action. It was decided that it would be more advantageous to only line one (1) of the tennis courts at Municipal Park to provide a dual-purpose tennis or pickleball option.

ACTION: Motion was made by Robert Cornman and seconded by Ira Hiberman to recommend that the Board of Supervisors install one (1) dual-purpose pickleball court at the Municipal Park at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Prior to the vote, Tony Borger asked if there were any further questions or comments.

Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT- AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting

- Township Manager Petrucci reported that Lee Bakewell will hold a soccer camp at Community Park over the next two (2) weeks.
- Township Manager Petrucci reported that the Township was awarded a \$10,000.00 matching grant (total project cost of \$20,000.00) for the design of the Plainfield Township Knitter's Hill Trailhead Improvements. The project will add additional parking spots, amenities and landscaping to the trailhead. He explained that this is the first phase of the project (for design), and that the Township will need to then seek additional funding to implement the improvements once the design is finalized.

- Ira Hiberman inquired if grant funding is available for a multi-purpose artificial turf athletic field. Tony Borger responded that an artificial turf field would cost approximately 1.25 million dollars for the initial installation. After twenty (20) years of use, the field must be resurfaced at a cost of approximately \$200,000.00. Township Manager Petrucci opined that grant funding agencies are typically focused on environmental conservation, and it may be difficult to obtain a grant for an artificial turf field.
- Tony Borger inquired if the Township would have any interest in a GPS-guided field marking device. The device can autonomously mark out parking spaces, soccer field lines, baseball lines, etc. on an automated basis; personnel are only needed to program the device and fill/refill the paint. Township Manager Petrucci responded that he would be willing to listen to the concept. Tony Borger will obtain more information for the review of the Township and the Pen Argyl Area School District.
- The Recreation Board members briefly discussed the ongoing Nazareth Borough Municipal Authority Hower Farm biosolids land application matter. Tony Borger reported that the citizen's group opposing the land application of biosolids on the Hower Farm will facilitate a stand at the Farmer's Fair to educate attendees of the Fair about the issue. There were no other substantive updates concerning this ongoing issue.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Recreation Board, a motion was made by Robert Cornman and seconded by Robert Farley to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci
Township Manager
Secretary to Recreation Board