

**MORRIS TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
FEBRUARY 16, 2017**

**Roll Call:** Peter O'Hagan Jr., Barbara Byrnes, Ed Thornton, Tom Buchner, Sam Pagano, Bill Foelsch

**Guests:** Casey Brecht, Morris United Soccer Club  
Samantha Hartman, Parks & Recreation Dept. Administrative Assistant  
Max Niemeyer, Eagle Scout Candidate

**Minutes of September 8, 2016** were approved.

**Committee Roster:** Mr. Foelsch noted that there had not been any new additions to the Committee roster for 2017 and that Mr. Duetsch had resigned as he had relocated to Virginia. The Township is seeking individuals interested in joining the Committee.

Mr. Foelsch introduced **Samantha Hartman** to the Committee. Samantha has joined the Parks and recreation Department staff as the Administrative Assistant.

**Eagle Scout Project:**

**Max Neimeyer**, a local resident teen, made a presentation seeking approval of an Eagle Scout project proposal – the development of a loop trail around Jones Pond and the extension of that trail to the west to intersect Picatinny Road. Max noted his project will include placement of some trail puncheons (raised wooden walkways) and a short bridge at the southern end of the pond, and the placement of two benches on the trail for enjoyment of this beautiful resource area of our park system. Max's project was unanimously approved by the Committee for an anticipated mid-April start.

**Youth Athletic Group Presentation:**

The Committee continued its ongoing efforts to maintain open communications with our local youth athletics programs, we were fortunate to have Casey Becht, the new Travel Soccer Coordinator for the **Morris United Soccer Club** give the Committee an update on the participation levels, success and challenges of their program. MUSC has a new leadership team – in addition to Casey the new MUSC president is **Rocco Mastrodomenico**, and the new Recreation Soccer Coordinator is **Kevin Murtha** (Congrats to **Ed Thornton** for completing his many years as the MUSC Rec. Soccer Coordinator). Mr. Brecht noted that the program has 1,300 players primarily residing in Morris Township, Morristown and Morris Plains. The league uses the synthetic turf fields at Morris County's Central Park and a smaller synthetic field at Simmons Park in Morris Plains. Ketch Road Field and Jean Street Field in Morris Township are important practice and game facilities for the Travel program. The Fall Recreation Soccer season uses fields at Frelinghuysen School with 1,000 players.

Mr. Foelsch noted that he had invited representatives of the **Colonials Junior Lacrosse Program** to attend this meeting for a similar sharing session, both the boys and the girls programs, and they had never responded to multiple invitations.

### **Fall/Winter Program Report:**

We reviewed our most recent **Program Report** prepared by **Jo Ormsbee, Program Coordinator**. We have mixed feelings in accepting this report as it may be the last that Jo prepares for us. Jo has announced her plans to retire from FT employment with the Township later this spring. All at the meeting acknowledged how sad we will be to not see her organizing nearly all of our highly successful programs in the future. The Department is accepting application for a replacement for Mrs. Ormsbee.

### **2017 Summer Programs:**

Mr. Pagano noted that he has set up two professional baseball trips for the Committee – a **Yankees vs. Orioles** game on June 11<sup>th</sup> and a **Mets vs. Dodgers** game on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Foelsch stated that the annual **Kids Triathlon** will be on July 15<sup>th</sup> at the Ginty complex. The **2017 Spring/Summer Recreation Program Brochure** will be ready for mailing in mid-March and posted on the website in early March.

### **Cornine Field Project:**

Mr. Foelsch gave an update on the **Cornine Field** synthetic turf project with hopeful signs from the NJDEP that they will soon give us the approvals needed to move forward with the field project and the underlying landfill remediation. The Township has received a preliminary approval from the Solid Waste Division and a verbal approval from the Air Quality Division for the landfill remediation plan. The land use Office is still reviewing the Township's application for reliance on the 2009 Letter of Interpretation on wetlands and transition zones at the site.

### **Morris Township Master Plan:**

The evening closed with a discussion of the ongoing **Morris Township Master Plan** update. The Committee noted the many recent projects completed since the 2007 update and noted that those successes should be included in the plan. The Board discussed the continued desire to provide two major recreational facility nodes, one at the Streeter Recreation Complex and the other at the John W. Ginty Recreation Complex. The PRAC noted the continued desire to have neighborhood based parks more available for local community use by moving more formally scheduled activities to the recreation centers with better support infrastructure. We also had a spirited discussion of the need for the improvement of elementary school outdoor fields and playgrounds and the potential for future partnerships on this type of project with the Morris School District Board of Education.

All members of the PRAC are invited to submit comment to Mr. Foelsch who will prepare written recommendations to the Township Planning Office. The relevant documents to review are the **Community Facilities** and the **Recreation and Open Space** elements of both the Township's Master Plan (1994): Link - <http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/173> , and also the Master Plan Re-Examination Report of 2007 Link - <http://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/177>

The next meeting date is **Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** for our **Annual Park Tour** at 6:00 pm.