

Minutes of the Sycamore Township Parks Advisory Committee Meeting June 29, 2020

- The meeting began with the swearing in of the committee members by Trustee Tom James.
- Introductions of all committee members followed.
- The Committee set their meetings to be held on the last Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
- Attendance and announcements were discussed briefly. All committee members were in attendance with the exception of Christine Early who was out of town.
- The Parks Advisory Committee guidelines and duties were read aloud.
- There was discussion of greenspace in our parks and in our public rights of way.
- The next item that was discussed was committee member term limits. All committee members agreed that a six-month term to start was not enough time and asked that the Trustees consider extending the initial term.
- James T. Riley showed an interest in being the Vice Chair. Jay Janus, Jr. made a motion to accept James T. Riley as the Vice Chair, seconded by Lisa Hodge. The motion passed unanimously.
- There was a round table discussion about possible programming and updates to the parks including: music and yoga; visible street addresses for all parks; fenced in, shaded playgrounds for toddlers with benches; ADA compliant playground equipment integrated into our playgrounds; splash pads; additional benches around walking paths; planting more trees throughout the parks; updating trash cans throughout the parks and incorporate recycling.
- It was suggested to create a focus group for each park to find out what the residents like about the parks and what they would like to see change.
- Questions were raised about the Parks Advisory Committee budget, the number of residents who use our athletic fields compared to non-residents, and how to bring more resident youth to play on our ball fields.
- The use of the Township property on the corner of Fields Ertel and School Roads was discussed including the idea of developing the area as a dedicated nature trail or preserve.
- There was a conversation about the committee members visiting the parks to evaluate them.
- There was discussion about updating the website to help generate more revenue through the Community Room at the Schuler Sports Complex.
- There was discussion of possible renovations to Kenwood Gardens with the new Graeter's ice cream going in next door. Ideas included new benches, water features, and soliciting corporate donations from local businesses.
- Renovations in Highpoint Park were discussed along with the possibility of bat houses for mosquito control.
- There was a brief conversation about vandalism in the parks was and how to reach out to the community to help control vandalism.
- The possibility of constructing a lodge in the location of the old pole barn at Bechtold Park was discussed.
- The two top priorities for the committee moving forward were budget, including what will happen to the budgeted money for the Festival in Sycamore since it is not being held this year, and committee members visiting each of the parks.