

COLLIER TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2021 MEETING

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Roll call

Present: Mary Popeck, Sue Harford, Matt Shipton, Anna Ewing; Josh Werner,
Director/Parks & Recreation

Absent: Eric Ives, Dan Styche/Commissioner, Kyle Thauvette/Township Manager

- II. Minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting were previously approved via email to/from the Board members.
- III. There were no public comments or guests.
- IV. Committee reports: Presently, there are no established committees.
- V. Friends Report by Anna Ewing

The wildflower seeds have been planted along the “Meadow Path.” Friends paid \$168.91 to cover the cost of the seeds. The playground equipment at this park will be replaced. Tickets are still available for the Penguins, Pirates and Dog-themed baskets. A discussion was held regarding concerns/problems with the pickleball players at Collier Park and in the Community Center. The Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan is nearing completion. Friends will sponsor a fall flower sale. (In a sidebar discussion at tonight’s meeting, it was suggested that pre-orders could possibly be obtained at the concerts or at one of the Panhandle Trail events.) Other possible fundraisers include a “Taste of Collier” event and a spaghetti dinner.

- VI. Parks & Recreation Department Report by Josh Werner

Introduction: Josh resides in Finleyville with his wife, and they are expecting their first child in December. In his spare time, he coaches a hockey team and enjoys hiking and fishing. His degree in Sports Management was earned at California University. Following an internship with Washington County Parks and Recreation, Josh began his employment with Peters Township as a facility manager. He then continued his employment as their recreation center supervisor for six years and assistant director for the last two years.

Programs: The basketball program has started. Four hundred participants have registered. Twenty-four children have registered for Summer Camp. Josh would like to explore the possibility of hosting a Little Veterinarian School to teach children how to care for pets. Each participant would receive a stuffed dog and 15 hours of instruction

over the course of five days (August 16-20). The approximate cost would be \$200 per child. Another possibility would be a Medical School, which would provide basic knowledge for the treatment of injuries, sports medicine, etc. In an effort to increase usage of the Community Center facilities, Josh would like to offer instructor-based classes. The instructors would receive a 70/30 split for their services. Peters Township offers more than 40 instructor-based classes. Another possibility would be participation in the Macaroni Kid national program which provides local activity guides and news for parents to find fun family things to do in the area. Josh intends to utilize the facilities at the Community Center as much as possible.

Front Desk: A new dress code will be implemented at the Community Center. Shirts have been ordered which will identify employees of the Community Center. Additional training will be provided to the support staff. This will help provide a more professional atmosphere at the Community Center.

Concerts: The “Concerts in the Park” sign will be removed as it impedes the view at the concerts. Also, contrary to the sign, there have not been any sponsors of the concerts for years. Josh will contact the owners of Grist House Craft Brewery to see if they are interested in selling beer at the concerts. This will be done as a courtesy, not as a fundraiser. In a sidebar discussion, having a 50/50 raffle at the concerts was suggested as a fundraising opportunity. Josh is looking into the possibility of having a food truck at each of the remaining concerts.

Advertisement: Josh will use social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), email blasts and, hopefully, onsite television marketing at the Community Center to advertise all the Community Center has to offer. There is no definite installation date for the electronic sign to be placed at the entrance of Collier Park.

Projects: The pickleball courts at Webb Park are nearing completion. The gate leading to the pickleball courts at Collier Park will be installed in the very near future.

Collierfest: This year, Collierfest will once again be held the last Saturday in September (September 25). Due to its huge success, Bike Night will be held on September 24. In the future, Josh hopes to be able to change the date of Collierfest to avoid any scheduling conflicts with neighboring communities or community-wide activities (i.e., high school homecoming).

VII. Old Business

Board Roll: There are still two permanent positions and two alternate positions available on the Board. Val will be sending an email blast regarding the availability of these positions with the hope of reaching anyone who may be interested in interviewing for an open position on the Board.

Website Changes/Additions: Having just recently been hired, Josh has not yet had the opportunity to work on this project.

VIII. New Business

Ideas for future projects/activities: Josh Werner will need volunteers to assist with the Collierfest activities.

Pickleball at Collier Park: There was a discussion regarding ongoing problems with this activity, including the installation of a gate leading to the pickleball courts to eliminate the need to enter through the tennis courts, which usually results in the takeover of the tennis courts by the pickleball players. There was further discussion regarding other possibilities such as a sign-up sheet to reserve individual play time, assessing a fee to reserve league play time, etc. These concerns/problems will be addressed by Josh prior to the start of the fall/winter season so that new policies can be established in the interim.

Dogs in Collier Park: Kyle Thauvette asked Josh to obtain feedback regarding the Board's thoughts on allowing dogs in Collier Park, particularly during the concerts. There were two dogs at the concert on June 20, 2021, which apparently caused no incident. Josh is contemplating asking the Commissioners for approval to allow concert attendees to bring their dogs. A discussion among the Board members occurred with mixed opinions. Josh will obtain additional information regarding issues encountered by other communities permitting dogs at venues and the manner in which any incidents were handled.

IX. Board Member Comments

Mary Popeck and Sue Harford again expressed an interest in visiting each of the township parks. A tour of the parks will be scheduled by Josh for all interested board members.

X. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

XI. The next meeting of the Board will take place at the Community Center on July 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.