



COUNTY OF DELAWARE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
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Delaware County Park Board Meeting
September 10, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Location: Hunt Club (Hybrid Meeting)

Attendees:

- **Board:** John McMullan; Barron Lacy; Kelly Johnson; Parker Snow; Andy Hood; Brian Warren; Meagan Hopkins-Doerr; Michelle Alvare
Via Zoom: Kathleen Lopez; Mary Coniglio
- **Department of Parks and Recreation:** Anne Stauffer, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation; Beth Chapman, Marketing & Communications Manager; Brooke Kempczynski, Redwood Center Coordinator
- **County:** Steven Beckley, Infrastructure Planner, Open Space and Trails
Via Zoom: Elaine Schaefer, County Council Liaison; Marc Wolley, Deputy Executive Director
- **Guests:** Zameer Sayed, Community Sports Foundation: Cricket Field Presentation
Via Zoom: Eric Tamulonis, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP of Delco Woods Advisory Committee
- **Not present:** Gudrun Anita Hereen
- Minutes by Carol Tustin
- **Call to Order:** 12:04 pm

Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2025 were approved by the board with a few typographical corrections to be made.

Call to Order..... Chair John McMullan

- The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm by John McMullan, Park Board Chair.

Interim Directors report..... Anne Stauffer

- The Parks & Recreation office is moving temporarily to the Hunt Club Conference Room for the next 2 months due to structural repairs at Leedom House. It is expected that we will return to Leedom House before the New Year.
- Parks initial budget meeting went well. There were no cuts or removals from the budget presented. Our budget appears stable.

- Revenue at Clayton Park Golf Course has surpassed last year despite fewer plays. This is due to fee increases. Senior play rounds are down since the increase. Our golf course conditions are receiving positive feedback thanks to the maintenance efforts of our Park Superintendent, Donny DeMutis.
- We would like to welcome new board members Brian Warren and Andy Hood. Our third new member Gudrun Anita Hereen is not present now but is expected to join.

Summer Concert SeriesBeth Chapman

- We had 44 scheduled shows, 6 were canceled due to weather. We had some challenging weather this year including the Juneteenth tornado. Attendance was nearly on par with previous years despite having fewer shows. We can now accept online donations through the Municipay platform. \$6,500 has been collected in public donations so far. A QR code was implemented mid-season for donations.
- Rita’s Concession provides service at the Amphitheater concession stand. Do we want food trucks next year? If so, we would have to limit the number of trucks due to noise interference with the performances. After discussion, no food trucks.

Senior Games.....Brooke Kempczynski

- Senior games 2025 were held June 9th to June 20th. There were 17 games, and 526 participants registered this year, which is comparable to previous years. The new basketball game of “Free Throws” run by Marc Manfre was very popular.
- The Golf format changed to tee times due to lower participation.
- The Winner Circle Luncheon was held on July 8th at Drexelbrook Event Center.

Park Fees and Policies Discussion

- Anne Stauffer presented the Park Board with the proposed fee schedule which would start January 2026 if approved.
- For private rentals / picnic grove rental, the rental would be a 4-hour base rental with additional hours at \$35.00 / hour to pay for required staff presence overtime. Pavilions and picnic areas would have varying prices based on capacity. The Environmental Center is proposed at a higher rate due to amenities.
- For Special Events there would be tiered pricing based on expected attendance at the event; small event, medium event, or large-scale event. Rose Tree Park events will currently remain non-profit only.
- There was discussion on non-profit discounts. Waivers for special circumstances were discussed and it was suggested that waivers require County Council approval. A \$10.00 administrative fee was suggested for all applicants. All athletic activities would require a certificate of insurance. Private rentals require signed contracts and liability waivers. A deposit would be required, which would be non-refundable except for extenuating circumstances.
- The concerns that were discussed included the need for separate non-profit vs private rate schedules. The Environmental Center rate may seem high given condition of the building. It may need some upgrades. Also, municipal partnerships should be

treated differently.

- A motion was called for approval for the proposed fee schedule for private rentals, picnic groves, pavilions, and special events with a 50% discount for non-profits and that there is a waiver exception process. The vote for approval was unanimous. Anne will revise the fee schedule with nonprofit rates and send an updated version.
- The fees proposed for athletic fields was tabled to be discussed at the November Park Board meeting.

Cricket Field at Featherbed Lane Field Presentation..... Zameer Sayed

- There are 30,000 residents in Delaware County from cricket-playing backgrounds, with 5,000 active players in the region. There are no dedicated cricket facilities in Delaware County with players traveling outside of the state. The proposal being presented is to convert Featherbed Lane field #1 into a cricket pitch. It is underutilized and can accommodate both a cricket pitch and two soccer fields. The proposal is to install a 10-foot by 22-yard proper cricket pitch with artificial turf at an estimated cost of \$15,000 to \$80,000 depending on specifics. The funding would be provided by applicant through fundraising.
- A cricket pitch requires a hard base (asphalt or concrete) with specialized turf. Regular grass cutting maintenance would be required. It can be multi-purpose field compatible with soccer. There is a portable pitch option available, but it is less ideal for proper play.
- The concerns raised were parking limitations at current location (appx. 12 spaces), traffic and parking coordination with Concord Township, and the need for bathroom facilities (portable bathrooms), the environmental impact of artificial turf near wetlands, and the need for County agreement for any earth moving or construction.
- The Park Board requested additional information to be received before the November board meeting. These include the environmental impact details, parking solutions to be addressed, and coordination with Concord Township is required. The board expressed general interest pending the resolution of concerns discussed.
- Board members can email their questions to Carol Tustin about the cricket field proposal.

Old Business

- The budget discussion was already covered under County Updates in the Interim Director's report.

New Business

- Conservancy discussion was presented by Kathy Lopez and Eric Tamulonis. They presented the idea to establish Delaware County Parks Conservancy as a private, nonprofit organization which would partner with the County to improve and manage the parks. It would be modeled after successful conservancies in other regions. The benefits would be long-term stewardship and sustainability with expanded funding opportunities beyond tax revenue. The conservancy would have an ability to raise

private funds and apply for grants. It would enhance community engagement and volunteerism. Strategic planning will insure continuity despite leadership changes. This would be set up as an Independent 501(c)(3) organization. The professional board would include public figures, County officials, and private sector representatives. Potential staff would include a volunteer coordinator. The organization would support individual park “friends’ groups”. The proposed conservancy would be implemented in phases. The startup would be to recruit board members and assess community support. The volunteer phase would be to support existing friends’ groups. The professional phase would be the full board, fundraising, and potentially hiring staff. Councilperson Schaefer expressed strong support and multiple board members expressed interest in participation. It was recommended to present this to the Green Space Task Force. It was suggested that this organization stay independent from County Government and the importance of volunteer coordination was emphasized. The next steps would be to develop a feasibility study, present to the Green Space Task Force, meet with outgoing The Foundation for Delaware County Director Frances Sheehan and identify potential board members and funding sources.

- The bid process for the Festival of Lights is active for an electrical contractor. Ford Electric previously handled it under a CoStars contract. We are planning 5 nights of programming with tree lighting, vendors, and performances.

Open Discussion and Public Comment

- No public comment

- **Meeting adjourned: 1:50 pm**

Meetings:

January 8th, Hunt Club, hybrid
March 12th, Zoom
May 14th, Hunt Club, hybrid
July 9th, Hunt Club, hybrid
September 10th, Hunt Club, hybrid
November 12th, Hunt Club, hybrid

Park Visits:

February 12th – Clayton Park Gold Course, snowed out
April 10th – Kent Park, Clifton Heights/Upper Darby
June 19th – Juneteenth at Rose Tree Park
August 13th – Briarcliffe Building, Darby Township
October 8th – Catania Park
December TBD – Rose Tree Festival of Lights