



COUNTY OF DELAWARE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
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COUNCIL
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VICE CHAIR

KEVIN M. MADDEN
ELAINE PAUL SCHAEFER
CHRISTINE A. REUTHER

PARKS AND RECREATION
ANNE P. STAUFFER
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Delaware County Park Board Meeting
March 12, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

- Board: John McMullan; Kathy Lopez; Barron Lacy; Kelly Johnson; Mary Coniglio; Stephanie Gaboriault; Meagan Hopkins-Doerr; Michelle Alvare
Department of Parks and Recreation: Anne Stauffer, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation; Beth Chapman, Marketing & Communications Manager; Brooke Kempczynski, Redwood Center Coordinator; Charlie Tustin, Clayton Golf Course Manager
County: Steven Beckley, Infrastructure Planner, Open Space and Trails
General Public: Richard Shaw
Not present: Nicholas Hoyt; Trish McFarland; Parker Snowe
Minutes by Carol Tustin
Call to Order: 12:03 pm

Annual Election.....Kathy Lopez

- The results of the selection of the new Park Board Chair were announced. The new Park Board Chair is John McMullan. John started the meeting as the new Park Board Chair.

Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2024 were approved by the board.

Call to Order..... Chair John McMullan

- We welcomed our two new board members, Meagan Hopkins-Doerr and Michelle Alvare.

Interim Directors report..... Anne Stauffer

- Anne discussed Festival of Lights Sponsorship and Fundraising. She reported that previous funding for this was a \$150,000 one-time sponsorship and an additional \$13,500 in additional sponsorship was raised. Suggested future contributions from both monetary sponsors and in-kind donations (e.g., selfie stations, etc.). Sponsors

would get a tax break for donations. Having a donation link for online donation payments, Venmo payments and credit cards was discussed.

- We have a voting item today, which is the Clayton Golf Course fee structure. We are proposing increased golf fees. This would be the first increase since 2014. The rates were compared with other local nine-hole walking courses. Fee change is aimed at a near cost recovery goal. The current recovery is approximately 90%. It was suggested that we could try stepped increases and then schedule fee reviews every 3-5 years. The GAP program discounts will be retained for weekdays only.
- The board discussed the fee increase and a vote was taken, the motion was approved 6 to 2 to raise the fees. The new fee structure is attached.
- There is a proposal to move the Story Walk closer to the playground for visibility and accessibility. There are some minor concerns about traffic flow and the stormwater basin, but this move is generally supported. It was suggested that there are more frequent book changes and some publicity via library channels. The motion to relocate was passed with board support. There will be an announcement of the new Story Walk location by Library services in coordination with the County PR department.

Old Business

- Community Garden fee comparisons information was shared confirming comparative data used to justify fee increases.
- The Kent Dog Park gate was repaired after six months. Parks has extended the member access accordingly. We will increase the mulch application to twice yearly in response to user request.
- Park Board members are reminded to confirm their interest in reappointment by March 31, 2025. Stephanie Gaboriault announced that she would be stepping down.
- The Delco Woods master plan is nearing finalization with acknowledgement of budget constraints. A DCNR grant is being pursued for a paved, accessible loop trail. Stormwater management and invasive species control has been incorporated into the design.

New Business

- We are working on development of an Alcohol Policy in the parks. A potential pilot program for alcohol sales at the Delco Gives Week event was discussed. The legal, insurance, and permitting issues were raised; reference to other townships' models was suggested and discussed. There was a proposal for a future subcommittee to draft policy framework.
- Currently, we have no fees for pavilion rental or park events. There was a discussion on implementing a new fee structure in 2026. We would give early notification to prior permit holders. There was an interest in adopting online payment and reservation systems for rentals.
- For Earth Day, we are having a project in Rose Tree Park at 3:30. We will send reminders to the Park Board.

- The state will be starting a new program to combat invasive species. We will have a Kickoff Event at the New County Park, formerly Little Flower Manor.

Open Discussion and Public Comment

- Steve Beckley mentioned that the Delaware County Planning Department is looking for a Park Board representative to be on the steering committee for the Chester Creek Trail Phase 4 study. It was suggested that Barron Lacy be appointed to represent the board since this area is included in his district. Mary Coniglio also volunteered if Barron is unable to accept.
- **Meeting adjourned: 1:21 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

PARKS // Golf Course - Revised

Delaware County owns and operates the Clayton Park Golf Course, a 9-hole course open to the public. It is a walking course that does not require tee times or dress code. A schedule of greens fees are charged to every user, with lower rates available to Delaware County residents, and to seniors and juniors on weekdays.

Three area publicly owned courses are used for comparison All three peer courses are 9-hole, walking courses. The data were collected from course websites and phone calls in February of 2025. The fee schedule at each course lists rates that vary based on day, schedule (e.g. "Twilight"), golfer age, and residency status. Bucks County recently privatized Oxford Valley Golf Course and no longer is responsible for operations of the course.

At \$13 for a walking, 9-hole, weekday rate, the Clayton Golf Course fee is 28% lower than its closest Pennsylvania peer, Oxford Valley Golf Course at \$18 dollars for 9-holes on a weekday. Clayton Golf Course also charges 50% less than its peers for the 18-hole fee. Clayton charges an additional \$2 to go around the 9 holes a second time whereas the peers listed below charge \$2-\$5. The Clayton Golf Course fees were last updated 10 years ago in 2014.



Clayton Golf Fees	CURRENT RATE	PROPOSED RATES
WEEKDAY RATES – MONDAY through THURSDAY		
Regular 9 Holes	\$11.00	\$18.00
Regular 18 Holes (twice)	\$13.00	\$22.00
Juniors 9 Holes	\$9.00	\$16.00
Juniors 18 Holes (twice)	\$11.00	\$20.00
Senoir 9 Holes	\$6.00	\$10.00
Senior 18 Holes	\$7.00	\$12.00
Non County 9 Holes	\$13.00	\$22.00
Non County 18 Holes (twice)	\$15.00	\$26.00
WEEKEND RATES – FRIDAY through SUNDAY - NO DISCOUNTS		
Weekend 9 Holes	\$13.00	\$22.00
Weekend 18 Holes	\$15.00	\$26.00
Non County 9 Holes	\$13.00	\$25.00
Non County 18 Holes	\$15.00	\$29.00