
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board Agenda
December 7, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

**The Township Building remains closed to the public.
This meeting will be held through a Zoom teleconferencing link.
Information to join the meeting will be provided on our website.**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of November 2, 2020 Minutes
4. Presentations
5. Citizen Non-Agenda Items
6. Updates
 - Little Free Library at Southeastern Park
 - Little Free Library at Steel City Park
7. Special Event Applications – None
8. Old Business
9. New Business
 - Woodland Hills Signage
10. Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 1, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order by David Spirk at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom.
2. **Roll Call - Present** – David Spirk, Chairman; Niloofar Aflatooni, Atom Kallen, Katrina Schreefer, and Frank Thompson, Members; Colin Griffith, Mason Simms, Junior Council Members; Brenda Detweiler, Township Administrative Assistant.
Absent – Tom Butera, Bill Ross, Members; Jason Banonis, Council Liaison; Breanna Kemmerer, Junior Council Member.
3. **Approval of October 5, 2020 Minutes** – Frank Thompson moved for approval of the October 5, 2020 minutes, second by Atom Kallen. Motion passed 5-0 (Tom Butera, Bill Ross – Absent).
4. **Presentations** – None
5. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items** – None
6. **Updates**
 - **Little Free Library at Southeastern Park** – No updates at this time. Dave & Tom did not have time to get the design together.
 - **Little Free Library at Steel City Park** – No updates at this time.
7. **Special Event Applications** – None
8. **Old Business** – None
9. **New Business**
 - **Review of Pavilion & Special Events Policy** – Dave Spirk read over the application & special events policies from surrounding areas that was emailed to the Parks & Rec committee. He would have to say that Lower Saucon Township has the most exhaustive legalese, definitions, and directions than anybody. He would also like to add if there were things done wrong by the group that rented the pavilion last month, they shouldn't change the rules just because of one incident. He doesn't like a knee-jerk reaction to change rules because they felt like they were misled in any way. Atom Kallen asked if it was a matter of the rules being changed or the current rules being enforced. Dave clarified Atom's question by saying if someone wanted to come in and rent a pavilion, he's assuming that they're going to take them on their word & allowed to rent it. He gave an example of himself renting a pavilion for his daughter's birthday, with his intention to have 20 family & friends there. He receives the reservation & 200 people end up turning up. He asked Atom if he meant that the Township did something wrong in that example or Dave did something wrong. Atom said it wasn't a matter of someone doing something wrong, but whether or not they were talking about enacting new rules going forward or enforcing the current rules they have in place. Dave said he was suggesting that they don't need to change the rules. They are very exhaustive, especially compared to neighboring municipalities. As far as he knows, there were no citations given or laws broken. Maybe they did have more people than goes under a normal reservation, some swearing was going on & parking on the grass. There were probably some rules broken. Is the question how do we enforce that when it's happening? Atom said no, as that would be a police matter, not for Parks & Rec. He thinks the issue was what do they do now that something has happened. Katrina Schreefer said that she sat in on the Council meeting to hear what their weigh in was on it. She said it sounded like it was up to the police to enforce the rules. She's not sure what the Parks & Rec Board can do, as they're not in a spot to fine anyone. They're not in a position to enforce rules. Atom said that it seemed like in the rules & guidelines that denying access to the facility in the future was one of the only things the Township could do, other than levy a fine if there were damages. He doesn't think there were damages. Katrina said her concern is that's the precedent they set when moving forward. If they say there were just a few general rules that were broken, it

wouldn't be fair to change it for another group. Whatever they do in this instance needs to be equal treatment for someone else. Atom said if all it comes down to is keeping the past behavior in mind, should they ever attempt to rent the pavilion in the future, that may be all they can do is remember what it was like dealing with them in the past. Katrina said she did see that Upper Saucon Township had an area addressing pavilion rentals that included larger groups. It said that it needed to go to PRC if there were more than 150 people. They would make sure there was enough parking available, there were no other scheduled events at the park, consider the wear & tear of the park facilities, and whether the park could reasonably accommodate that many people. It could be something that's added in to our pavilion rentals, at a certain size. She agrees with Dave that they shouldn't make it a hassle for someone renting it for a small birthday party. If it's not a common picnic or birthday party, but a group having a special event, a political group, or whatever the extras categories could be, then maybe they need to ask further questions. She thinks that LST's Event Policy is great, it just didn't apply because they were renting a pavilion. Maybe there needs to be something that covers someone with a larger group for the pavilion. It would probably need to be on the pavilion rental application. Dave said they do cover parking under events. Maybe they need to pick a number for the amount of people & once it goes over that number, then it turns into an event. Event is exhaustive when it comes to directions of what you can & cannot do, recommendations, going to the police & public works, etc. Katrina said that Upper Saucon Township policy covered if there was a pavilion rental over a certain number, there would be a need for more information provided. She believes it could be that simple. There could still be someone who lies about the number, but then the township could flag them for the future if they tried to rent again. Atom said the size limit makes sense, as a birthday party for 200 could be destructive. Dave asked if they wanted to make a recommendation to Council that simple reservations cannot be for more than a specified amount of people. Atom said the size limits might vary, depending on what park was used. He said maybe it can be determined by the amount of parking spaces at each park. Dave said he knows that Steel Club has 220 parking spaces & sometimes they would have 700-800 people on the campus. He said they can recommend that there should be a limit to the number of people that can attend a single reservation. If it's over a certain number it would trigger the event status. The engineers & planners for the township could help to get those numbers. Niloofar Aflatooni said that she found that Upper Saucon Township's policy said that if it's over 150 people, they need to get approval. Katrina said she'd be more comfortable with 100 people, but that they could use some of their language as a sample to cover what they are talking about & leave the events policy alone. Frank Thompson said he agrees that what happened in the past was an incident & it could still happen again, even if they re-wrote all of the rules. If they focus on size/number of people, he thinks that would be good. He agreed with Atom's comment about each park holding a different amount of people. The engineers & planners could make a recommendation to establish when a rental of the pavilion becomes an event. They might come back & say that it's 150 people, that it depends on the parking, or give a specific number for each individual park. They could present those numbers to the Parks & Rec Board for review & then Parks & Rec could make their recommendation to Council. It is very important to make the use of the parks easy during this pandemic. Dave said they can make a motion to Council that there is a size limitation on the pavilion reservation system, but that they further recommend that Council's consultants guide them in their analysis of the size limitation. Niloo said that Bethlehem Township has limits listed for individual pavilions in their township. She thinks it would be good to know the capacity for each park. Dave said that they should include in their motion that each pavilion is unique in their number/limit. The engineers & consultants that helped put the parks together would have the plans at their fingertips. They probably know how many parking spaces are in each park, how big the pavilions are, and how many picnic tables are there. Katrina said she would go along with Dave's motion, as long as they were saying a certain number would kick it to an event & not just looking at the capacity. She would be concerned if they didn't have any number listed as they could just come back & say this is how many they can accommodate and they end up right back where they started. Dave asked Katrina for clarification on what she would like the motion to say. Katrina said the capacity that is currently how the Township handles it – that particular group was given the capacity & they said, yes, that's our capacity and then they exceeded it – if they would have something saying over a number of people, they could have said they'd like to look at it as an event.

Dave made a motion to recommend to Council that there be a capacity limit on every pavilion and park. For every park reservation, if their application exceeds that number, they are then triggered into an event status. Katrina seconded Dave's motion.

Katrina asked if they were making any recommendation about the particular group renting again. Dave said that he's been at the parks plenty of times when there were people parked on the grass & heard swearing. They cannot let the emotions of their current times overtake them. He believes no laws were broken. The only thing that someone could do is not allow them to rent in the future. He does not believe the solicitor would be in favor for a recommendation like that. Atom said there are accusations that they misrepresented themselves versus what they told the public about their event. If that is accurate, it could mean that they are untrustworthy to deal with in the future. Katrina said maybe a letter or email could be sent to say that things were brought to their attention & address what happened. She doesn't want to set a precedent that if they come again & decide not to follow the rules, nothing will come of it. She said during the Council meeting, an attendee had said that she felt like she was being harassed & went up to a police officer to file a complaint. She was told that she had to go to the event organizer. It's concerning to her that someone felt unsafe in the park. She knows that's not their matter to deal with, but it was upsetting to hear that someone felt uncomfortable while they were just going to the park. She wants to be cautious & remember that however they respond to this, they treat each one the same. She said she noticed that you have to put your application no later than 60 days out – that's a far in advance number. Maybe they could reduce that a little? Dave said that's for events, as opposed to a pavilion rental. It goes to Police, Parks & Rec committee, Fire Marshal, and Council. Because of the timing of meetings, that's why they have it at 60 days.

Frank said it's his understanding that Dave made a motion & he'd like to finish making the motion. All voted in favor.

- Brenda Detweiler said that the Township received a check from Motorcar Paint Protection for \$3,310.00 in recreation fees to allocate to a park. Town Hall Park would be the closest park. Dave Spirk made the motion to recommend to Council to allocate the check in the amount of \$3,310.00 from Motorcar Paint Protection to Town Hall Park, specifically to go to the rehabilitation of the stage located at Town Hall Park; second by Frank Thompson; motion passed 5-0 (Tom Butera, Bill Ross – absent).

10. **Public Comment** – None

11. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Frank Thompson at 7:45 p.m.; second by Niloofar Aflatooni. Motion passed 5-0 (Tom Butera, Bill Ross – Absent).

12. **Next Meeting**

Monday, December 7, 2020, via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Woodland Hills Applied Nucleation Research Program

Experimental Cell 4 - Reading Prong Ecoregion

Lower Saucon Township has partnered with ArcheWild to launch a reforestation effort on this site which was once a golf course. The novel reforestation technique you see here is called **applied nucleation**. 9 experimental cells can be found along the way, each representing vegetative communities from three specific Level IV ecoregions; **58h Reading Prong**, **63a Coastal Plains**, and **67a Dolomite Valley**. So what does this all mean?

Taguchi L9 Applied Nucleation
The 9 cells are part of an innovative design of multi-variate experiments to isolate and understand the key factors affecting successful forest restoration, without white-tailed deer pressure.

Applied *nucleation* uses clustered plantings of native vegetation to create 'islands' of species that act as a refuge for future forest recruitment. With time, the diverse clusters mature and continue to expand outward into the surrounding landscape providing seeds and shade for the next generation of plants.

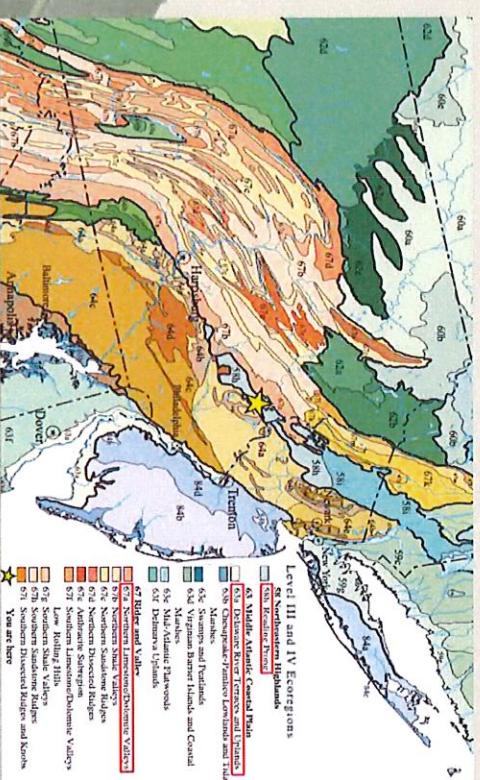
Each ecoregion can be found in three cells, with each cell having its own set of variables to evaluate including plant community type, plant density, starting size, and maintenance regimen.

58h Reading Prong Species In this cell you can see:

- Red oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- White oak (*Quercus alba*)
- Common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
- Common serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
- Shubby St. Johnswort (*Hypericum prolificum*)



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What is an ecoregion?

Ecoregions denote areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources, such as plant communities and pollinator relationships. They are designed to serve as a spatial framework for the research, assessment, management, and monitoring of ecosystems and ecosystem components.