Lehigh Township Recreation Commission

September 21, 2026
7:00 PM

Call to Order

David Hess called to order the regular meeting of the Lehigh Township Recreation Commission.

Roll Call

David Hess, Tammy Hess, Patrick VanderPloeg, Keith Hantz, and Jerry Pritchard were present.

Approval of August 17, 2026, Minutes

Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to approve the minutes. Keith Hantz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Old Business

Events—Updates

Noon Year's Eve. Keith Hantz reported everything is going well. They have already started to receive responses from vendors and there are a few more that are interested. They will be using the same net and filling at fire company. Keith Hantz commented there was previously a concern raised regarding obtaining a small game of change license. He contacted the County and they said one was not needed since there is no cash being exchanged.

Tree Lighting. Patrick VanderPloeg is still working on the entertainment. The ballon artist will come again. The balloon artist and the grinch have been confirmed. The owner would be adding one or two additional characters for a price not to exceed $1,250. The owner also just purchased snow machines and would be willing to donate the use of the machine as long as he could video it. He is also looking at getting the Grinch possibly for the whole time because of how well he was received. He will also be looking at providing an additional character.

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A new EZ up will be needed for this year. Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to purchase a 12' X 12' for the Tree Lighting. Keith Hantz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Patrick VanderPloeg reported the Fire Company approved bringing Santa to the tree lighting. He still needs to contact the chorus.

Tammy Hess commented the Scouts will be monitoring the fire. The Lioness are also on Board with participating again.

It was agreed that the Board would get together on Monday, November 30th to get the Santa bags and s'more bags together.

Small Christmas Trees. The sponsorship applications will be available for National Night Out. Trees will need to be ordered at the end of October. The stands for the trees are still available through Palmerton.

Pennsville Park Playground. Alice Rehrig reported she provided the information regarding the playground equipment to the Jaindl Corporation and they will be getting back to her regarding their fees, the removal of the equipment, and the installation. If Mr. Jaindl is agreeable to everything, approximately $18,000 will need to come from the Rec Land Fee Account. Once all the details are worked out, it will be presented to the Supervisors for approval. The Rec Board would like to see the equipment in green and yellow, rather than the blue that was provided in the quote.

Jerry Pritchard commented he is working to obtaining a quote from Blue Mountain Evergreen for the delivery and installation of the playground mulch.

New Business

2027 Budget & Capital. Alice Rehrig provided the Board with a revised Capital and Budget. There were no changes recommended to the budget. The Capital will be discussed at a future meeting to include possibly adding a pavilion to Berlinsville Park. The tennis court in Berlinsville should also be evaluated to try to prevent having the issues we currently have at Danielsville.

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Jerry Pritchard questioned if there was going to be anything additional done regarding the shades at the dog park. Tianna VanderPloeg commented she was out at the park and looked at the shades. You will not be able to provide shade for everyone at the specific time they want to use the park. She was there at noon and there was plenty of shade under the structure. If you go there at 4 PM, the shade will move. The Rec Board agreed the shades will remain as they are.

Field Fees for Practices. Alice Rehrig noted there is nothing in the resolution regarding what type of fees will be charged if a non-resident team only wants to use the fields for practice. She was told there is a trend right now where people are breaking away from their local athletic association and starting their own teams and then they are trying to find places for the teams to practice. It was agreed that there would be a charge of $50 per practice. If a team is looking to have practices for an entire season, they will need to come before the Board for approval because of the potential of scheduling issues.

Jerry Pritchard commented he was able to get the astro turf from the school when they tore it out. There has been conversation regarding improving the batting cage and installing the turf near the dugouts. He will have the group come to a meeting to explain what they are planning on doing.

Public Comment.

Rec Fees

Marc Kracji questioned how often the pavilion at Delps get rented? He commented the Board may want to consider adding electricity to the pavilion. Alice Rehrig commented she has not received any requests to rent the pavilion. She is guessing that people do not want to rent the pavilion because of the size. Most people are looking for a pavilion that hold 50 to 100 people.

The Lions provided the Board with a picture of their insignia to be place on the fence. Jerry Prithard commented it would look nice if it can be placed next to the lettering on the fence. The Board was in agreement with placing the insignia on a section of the fence.

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Tianna VanderPloeg commented there is a stump with a lot of overgrow coming out of it and it does not look nice. It would be good to have this cleaned up if there is going to be a new playground set installed at the park.

Adjourn. Patrick VanderPloeg made a motion to adjourn. Keith Hantz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried