

**NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
SUMMIT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING of June 26, 2018**

A public meeting of the Summit School Committee of Nether Providence Township, duly advertised and posted in accordance with law, was called to order at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, Township Municipal Building, 214 Sykes Lane, Wallingford, PA 19086.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ward 1 – Bob Kelly
Ward 2 – Dana Pickup
Ward 3 – Caity Kennedy
Ward 5 – Jessica Mudrick
Ward 7 – Marty Molloy
Planning Committee – Robert Linn
Commissioner Garson (2nd Ward)

EXCUSED: Ward 4 – Justin Henzel
Ward 6 – Patricia Robinson Linder
Parks Committee – Steve Henry
Commissioner McKenzie-Fiumara (4th Ward)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 12, 2018 were approved with no revisions.

PUBLIC

6 persons in attendance -

Al Hurd, Stage One made comments regarding that it is not easy to find spaces in other parts of the community. Over 100 different groups come and perform in the current space. He suggested that we consider looking at doing something other townships are not doing...other townships do not have a performing arts center. We don't have a resident company, we are all volunteer and we have something to be proud of. He suggested that the township fix the roof, stating that 'I cannot keep up with it,' but he will commit to fixing the interior on the inside and would like to create the inside as a legitimate real theater. With a long lease he can do the work over time so that we can raise money to do what needs to be done on the inside.

Questions:

What type of lease would you want? A: 25 years.

What are your projection to fix the building? Unsure, depends on the depth of the expenses. Some things quickly, but major upgrades will take more time.

Where will the money come from? Believe we can raise the money for a capital campaign as needed.

Costs are astronomical, but are you sure you could do that? I believe we can get the labor in-kind in many ways.

Christopher Lackley, Travel Basketball for SRA, also a former board member for NPAA

Chris spoke about logistics and numbers for baseball and softball. SRA - 765 kids ages K-12. Two yrs ago at Swarthmore for outdoor summer we had 285 kids in the first year.

This year, we could not do it because the court at SRS was damaged. As far as bball is concerned - Narberth has had a league for 72 yrs - right now they have girls and boys - roughly 500 kids in summer. As soon as it is done, we could do a program similar bringing in kids all over SE Delco.

NPAA baseball - 520 kids play baseball and softball. It is very difficult to get practice time - We share Hepford with Nether Soccer - we have two 60-90 fields with 8 teams in the league. Other townships have much more - we are falling behind in terms of field complexes. Urban and Hepford are our only fields - NPE and High School have fields but they are rarely available when we are in season because they need them. Season ends last week of school.

Questions:

Any fields at Smedley? No. Only Softball.

Little league fields? 50-70 Urban

LL fields? two at Helpford, 1 bullens and SRS

What if the fields at Hepford were not shared? Not enough. We need a real 60-90 field. In terms of bball, there are no Outdoor courts except at Sapovitz plus we have an Adult league - 6 teams with 10-12 people and a waiting list. Currently using Creekside.

Does NPAA / SRA have money to help projects? No, but private grant money is available with grants - like the Cal Ripken Grant.

Who would maintain the fields? Township to maintain overall - Day to day during season is the NPAA.

Urban is a great field. Hepford is maintained by the townships because it is multiple use.

What about Indoor Basketball? 700 kids, school board is charging us for every practice. Practicing four teams at a time and its is very very difficult. Can't accomplish what you want with that environment. Started travel program 3 yrs ago to help kids get ready for hs ball. Ridley, Aston, Brandywine all have opportunities and our kids don't. Travel is on the back burner, to the rec league because of the overall numbers of the rec league. We are willing to spend money - Elwyn.

Aston is the ideal model. Tear down Summit and then in 7-10 years we rebuild for indoor courts.

Noah Tolson, Coach representing baseball for Nether and Swarthmore combined and coached bball and Architect

Noah echoed Chris' comments. We were afforded one practice slot for baseball because there is not enough space. There are lots of kids who want to play - 500+ kids in the program. An indoor bball facility would be a dream. The maintenance of the fields is one of those things that the sports orgs could and should handle.

Questions:

Noah could you provide sketches of ideas and will submit some for the next meeting that might overlay with ideas discussed? Sure. I think you can get a baseball field and three bball courts. Even a simple prefab structure and enclose it later. Maybe even two to three lacrosse/soccer fields. Parking should be accommodated and not be like Hepford and Sapovitz. 100 parking spaces with 3 bball courts, baseball field, 2 small soccer fields - Please note this is NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT WETLANDS/EASEMENT.

Blair Bellevue and Guest - representing a local daycare.

Comments centered around being invested in keeping the present Summit school - we've been at current daycare site for 32 years and we are growing and need more space. We would partner with the existing groups to make everything work programmatically and the space work. We are tapped out in Wallingford in terms of space options - there's not many options with a lot of space. We have a lot of Kindergarten students - and a possible investor (among the parents) in keeping Summit.

Questions:

Is Hedgerow current landlord? We lease from the higher ups of the methodist church. We partner with Hedgerow and they use some of the summer programming in our space.

How much space do you need? We would like 5-7 rooms (like a pod)

We have 60 kids because we've lost space. Generally we have 90 families.

How many township resident families do you have? We are mostly Wallingford-Swarthmore, some Penn-Delco and a bit Rose Tree Media.

Rent or Buy? We looking to rent, not buy. We likely have folks in our community who would be ready to step in and assist in building out the community.

Paul Jacobs, Nether Resident and member of many groups

Comments centered around the difficulty of groups of any significant size to find space in the community. Paul is a part of several advocacy groups and others (hobby) in the community and all of them schedule a lot of meetings - There is only one space that's affordable (Kate Furness Library) but not usually available at convenient times. Paul did not come to the committee to present a specific plan, but rather wanted to committee to remember that some affordable communal space is desperately needed in the township.

Bob Kelly - Presentation for concept of athletic fields

Bob described the details of his sketch ((Sketch Attached))

3 baseball fields, 1 basketball court, playground and parking

Leagues are very popular almost all township kids and families - lots of demand with lack of field availability.

Ideally, I would move all baseball to Summit and give Urban to Nether soccer.

Impact to the neighborhood, it would be minimal and parking would be made to work.

Nether Baseball is exploring a loan from Cal Ripken - they pay 50% match for fields and a building.

Q & A for Bob -

Grading question? 7-8 feet of grade? It would be tough to level everything out. But it's doable

I like the idea of moving the parking around - couldn't we have a building still? No

Couldn't we have an exterior building around the bball courts? Yes, maybe temporary or permanent - could be phased in.

From a priority standpoint - what do we need? Ideally two 60-90 fields

Broad Committee Discussion:

The fact that we have no outdoor bball is ridiculous. Our purpose should be about serving the most number of families in the community. And people. Discussion around making sure we present many different issues to the commissioners - both the ideas we settle on and listing out all the was considered.

DP - I see 2 bball indoor outdoor courts and a playground. Two 60-90 fields one up and one down. With a building in front of the parking. This is not doable with building from a space standpoint.

Some discussion of the feasibility of a 'bubble' building followed.

Update from the YMCA - Michael Ranck's, President and CEO of Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County - B Linn read from a letter submitted to the committee. We need a greater level of commitment to check. B Linn to follow up on Mr. Ranck's thinking, planning and commitment.

Consensus Ideas:

After a great deal of discussion about ideas, concepts and all the possibilities. The committee came to agreement that we need to move things forward to have a presentation of recommendations to present to the commissioners. We are targeting a September meeting to present. We decided as a group that we will pursue to ideas with a third option presented noting that the commissioners can do more research and digging if they choose.

1 - Combination Overlay - small community arts/daycare with fields

2 - Open Space with fields and playgrounds

Optional - Lease Option with repairs and costs - Because of concerns regarding fairness, the lack of time to truly vet options and having a fair and openly communicated process through an RFP or similar process, committee felt it would be unfair to continue to pursue this to a specific set of candidate organizations.

Nevertheless, the groups that have come to the committee to present their plans will be given to the commissioners for follow up if they choose. Those groups currently include:

Eastern PA Robotics

Stage One

Creative Living Room

NPAA baseball

NPAA basketball

CADES

Additional Daycare (preferring not to be listed at this time)

Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County

Discussion: Long discussion of all the potential options and what was ruled out and why. We cannot forget that we have a community that is rife with talent and opportunity. When things become closer to reality - I think it will be incumbent upon the commissioners to include more of the community.

Agreed to pursue two options for the remaining meetings to present plus leaving the lease option up to the commissioners. We will work on the Open Space with fields and playground over the course of the next few meetings and the Combination Overlay following that.

ADJOURNMENT

As advertised, the Committee will reconvene in 2 weeks, on July 10. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.