

**Franklin Township
Advisory Recreation Council
Wednesday, November 5, 2025
6:00 PM – Senior/Community Center**



Attendance: Stephen, Michele, Venk, Sanal, Karen, Bill, Pete, Rich, Keith, John, Eugene, Nancy
Public: None (Bill Connell came later)

1) Call to Order at 6:04 PM by Keith

2) Approval of minutes

- October meeting's minutes passed

3) Public Comments

- Motion to open. No public present.
- Motion to close.

4) PROGRAM REPORT

- **Holiday Craft Market** (November 22, 10am-4pm): All vendor spots sold out within 2 days, with 15-20 vendors on waiting list. Marianne spearheading the event.
- **Basketball Program Delays:** Registration delayed due to insurance certificate issues with Board of Education. The municipality's insurance expires December 31st but renews annually in December, creating a system conflict. Stephen may involve township manager if not resolved soon.
- **New Therapeutic Recreation:** Buddy basketball program at Franklin Park with 10 kids enrolled, featuring adjustable 8-foot rims.

5) OLD BUSINESS

- **Cricket permitting:** Regarding the group that was subletting their space. All was good. There was a group coming before 9AM. Right now we don't know who the group is. Sanal thinks perhaps it's the people living in that neighborhood. Fireworks remnants were found on cricket pitch. Possibly from Diwali, but that issue has likely ended.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- **Catalpa update:**
- Bids came in at \$9-9.5 million, well over budget

- Open Space Advisory recommended Option 4: limited park with only cricket pitches, community garden, and playground
- Pickleball courts, basketball courts, and other amenities removed from scaled-down plan
- Councilman Wright pushing for full Option 1 despite cost concerns
- Committee expressed frustration about lack of Recreation Advisory input in decision-making

- **Franklin Day:**
- Franklin Day Financial Results:
 - Generated \$10,770 profit (vs. \$2,500 loss in 2024)
 - Major cost savings: no \$8,000 park rental fee, reduced portable restrooms
 - Event will return to Franklin Park in 2026 on September 12th
- **Pickle ball nets:**
 - Two options presented: \$389 basic nets vs. \$2,000 premium weatherproof nets
 - Decision deferred for capital budget consideration
 - May start with 1-2 nets as pilot program

7) ADJOURN - 7:35 PM