



901 Jefferson Street – Latrobe, Pa 15650
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**Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2025**

The monthly meeting of the Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at the Latrobe Municipal Building.

Mr. Long called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

Roll Call:

Present:

Mrs. Bobbi Harr Mr. Tom Long Mr. Eric Bartels Mr. Bruce Jones
Mr. Will Redinger (late for vote) Mr. Ed Poponick

Also in attendance:

Mr. Craig Shevchik Mrs. Dawn Vavick Mrs. Cindy Smith Mr. Kevin Hook

Absent:

Mrs. Patricia D. Fenton Mr. Joseph Koluder Mr. John Urban

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second, Mr. Poponick. (Vote 5-0)

Executive Session:

N/A

Public Comment:

N/A

Bills and Communications (for approval and / or action):

The Commissioners reviewed the expenditures.

A motion was made to accept the prepaid bills by Mr. Poponick, Second, Mrs. Harr. (Vote 5-0)

A motion was made to accept the unpaid bills by Mr. Bartels. Second, Mr. Jones. (Vote 5-0)

Report of the Committees:

Personnel: (Mr. Long, Mrs. Fenton, Mr. Redinger)

Ethan Haydo, a summer maintenance employee wrecked the Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation Pick Up truck on his way to Bob Evancho Park. A state police report was filed due to some property damage. He was unhurt, and the pick-up was damaged, but still drivable.

Finance: (Mr. Urban, Mr. Koluder, Mr. Bartels)

The Commission reviewed the monthly financial reports. Income is above expectations, and expenses are below budget at this time.

The McFeely Rogers Foundation contributed \$35,000.00 for the pool start up to be used for chemicals and supplementing wages at the facility.

Mr. Shevchik directed Mrs. Smith to transfer \$75,000.00 into the PLIGIT account.

Mr. Poponick distributed the final draft of the "Fun"raiser letter. This letter will be distributed to Unity Township residents. The funds will be designated to Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Long recommended soliciting area clubs for donations.

Facilities/Programs: (Mr. Jones, Mr. Poponick, Mrs. Harr)

Mr. Shevchik informed the Commission West Penn Power damaged turf in Legion Keener Park in April. They recently fixed the affected area.

The scoreboard horn at the Dek Hockey Arena malfunctioned for the third time. A representative from the company came and repaired the defective equipment.

The boat ramp and Latrobe Little League parking lot paving/stripping project is complete. Mr. Shevchik will be closing out the multi-mogul grant soon.

Mr. Shevchik is meeting with The Latrobe Foundation to discuss the addition of a lane divider made of thermoplastic at the park entrance on Chestnut St. extension. The hope is to slow down traffic entering the park complex. This is possible thanks to a generous gift from the Mellon Foundation.

Mr. Shevchik has a meeting with Linda Boxx of the McKenna Foundation and Amanda Wolff of Blue Sky Signs to discuss the design and placement of wayfinding signs in the park.

Mr. Shevchik met with representatives from Vortex regarding construction of the new Splash Pad at the Rogers McFeely Memorial Pool. Construction is slated to begin in August. Garrett Salandro will demo the existing baby pool and related items in the filter house. This project is possible through a DCNR Grant.

The Legion Keener Bathrooms near the Dek Hockey arena were recently out of order. Mr. Bryan Bowman, Mr. Jones and the Latrobe Municipal Water Authority worked together to get them in working order, due to a cracked clean out pipe. A maintenance worker hit the pipe while mowing.

Garrett Salandro was hired to roll/gravel the access path in Legion Keener Park. The cost is \$1650.00.

Mr. Salandro was also commissioned to demo the old Parks & Recreation trailer behind the maintenance building at a cost of \$2500.00.

The Legion Baseball Field project is completed. They are playing and practicing on the field.

A saucer swing purchased by Preserve Play, an organization developed via the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, will be installed soon at Cardinal Park. Maintenance staff has also power washed the basketball courts at the facility as well.

Two grass Volleyball nets have been placed at the grass courts.

The Fourth of July Firecracker Run is scheduled for July 3rd at 7PM. We are still looking for sponsors and participants for the event, as well as volunteers for the Walk Water Station. Wicked Goodly is the top sponsor for the race.

Mr. Al Falkosky is interested in raising funds for refurbishing of the Pickleball Courts. Mr. Shevchik estimated \$50,000.00 would be necessary to start the project.

Ms. Vavick took 29 people on a coach trip to Harrisburg. The group toured the State Capitol, the National Civil War Museum and had a lovely lunch. Representative Rossi's office coordinated the tour and provided goodie bags to all attendees.

There are over 80 participants enrolled in the 4/5 Year Old T-Ball program. Mr. Hook and Mr. Sam Brink are doing a great job with the program.

The 11th Annual Loyalhanna Sojourn on May 17th was a well-attended program, even though registration was a bit light this year.

Old School Painting was contacted about painting and sealing Playland.

The Bob Evancho Pavilion has already been rented 57 times this season. The total for 2024 was 44 rentals.

Mr. Poponick has picnic tables available to pick up, assemble, and stain. They will be placed at the Bob Evancho pavilion.

The Men's Basketball League has been cancelled for the summer due to lack of participation.

Play Camp attendance has increased considerably. Full Time campers have increased to 38 this summer. Participation has topped 60 individuals per day.

Aquatics classes are full.

The Basketball clinic had 32 participants. (full)

Tennis lessons are filling up. (#'s are increasing)

Golf Lessons are full.

The Farmers Market has been having a healthy number of vendors and visitors. Mr. Hook is implementing a no sales until 11:30AM rule. This is to ensure the safety of visitors to the park. The pushback has been decreasing as the weeks go on, and the public adapts to the new rule.

Report of the Director:

There have been two saves already at the pool this season. The guards are doing a nice job guarding as well as teaching lessons.

Mr. Shevchik recently purchased a golf cart and freezer made possible by a grant from Mr. Dean Miller of the FOLLD organization.

A patron has had their season pass for the pool revoked for the summer due to unsafe behavior.

A camper left the pool last week, when she got disoriented as to where to line up for camp. She exited the facility and was found in the parking lot by a woman, and Officer Lukon of the Latrobe Police Department, who were leaving the facility. Officer Lukon returned her to the camp counselors. Parents were notified of the incident. New safety standards have been put in place to make sure this never happens again.

Latrobe Youth Football requested field usage at the Unity Township All Purpose field for the upcoming season due to construction at their current field.

The Greater Latrobe Senior High School requested use of the All Purpose Field in Legion Keener for their summer practices beginning Monday, June 23rd. The group will meet from 8-10AM. Mr. Shevchik was glad to offer assistance.

Mr. Shevchik received a subpoena requesting camera footage from Legion Keener Park. Mr. Shevchik showed the subpoena to Chief Bosco. Chief Bosco said there is already a criminal complaint filed with them regarding the matter and they have access to all footage necessary.

Reports are being sent to the City of Latrobe and Greater Latrobe School District.

Mr. Bartels made a motion to adjourn at 5:30 PM. Second, Mr. Redinger

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 4:30 PM at the UNITY TWP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ON THURSDAY, July 17, 2025.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M Vavick

Dawn M. Vavick

Program/Aquatics Director

Approved by Thomas Long – 7/17/25