

TOWN OF LINCOLN
PARKS AND RECREATION MONTHLY MEETING

March 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. Commission members present were Chairman John Sharkey, Andy Bruscini, Sean Gaughan, Frank Kelly, Frank Morin, William Goho, and Chris Cutler. Scott Winslow, Parks and Recreation Director, was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Andy Bruscini and was seconded by member Frank Kelly to accept the minutes of the February 11th meeting. The minutes were accepted.

Director's Report: Scott reported that February was similar to January in the parks. Snow removal at all of the parks was the most important thing with the blizzard. With the weather there was not much we could get done, but we did identify things we would like to accomplish. We have painting that is needed in multiple parks, and a broken wooden pillar at Lonsdale park. Hopefully we don't get anymore snow so we can focus on Spring projects. An email was sent out to the leagues and the schools so we can set up schedules for programs and permits. As far as a timeline for field preparation, we never have a set date. It changes every year based on the weather. The goal is for April 15th this year. The snow is melting, but we need warm dry days. This might not align with the schedules you have, but we are working really hard to get the fields done. We are in a relatively good position given the weather we have had. Sam Moore and Fairlawn need more work than others. Professional work is being done at Sullivan. Our other responsibilities include the trails and playgrounds.

We have many programs running right now and more to start soon. The rec basketball league is coming to an end. It was pushed back a little due to the weather. The Colours and men's and woman's league has started. Mahong, pickleball and kickball are going well. We are excited to get the theatre program, pound fitness, and yoga started. We need to finalize with the school to add more programs as we are excited to do. There is no update on the Manville grant at this time. We are very fortunate to be able to use the new school gyms.

Scott provided a handout to all present of the Notte Park Valley Breeze article from Phil to reference for any questions that come up.

We are getting Spring ready!

Commissioner's Report:

Saylesville- Chris Cutler – Looking at the parking lot at Arnold Park, it is not as bad as he thought the previous month with the ruts. Definitely not a priority because it looked better. Saylesville is good but snow-covered. Chris is interested to see the playground plans and

where things will go. Where is the sign going? Scott will take a look with Leslie and determine a good spot for the park sign, but install after the snow is gone.

Lonsdale- Sean Gaughan – Sam Moore is snow free, but will take a lot of work before anyone can play on it. It's going to take a while and we are in for a late start to sports. It snowed late and the fields are wet. John brought up the big puddle that has been where the parent pickup is.

Albion- John Sharkey – Snow covered. He has noticed dogs in the outfield which is a problem. The double gate going into the field needs to be fixed. The park looks good. Let's go Spring!

Manville- Frank Morin – The snow is almost gone and kids have been playing basketball. There is a missing bench seat on the bleachers in centerfield and it's not the one you already replaced. The bathroom side of the concession stand, the light is gone and it's very dark. We either need a new light fixture or a new cover. Scott stated that the lights are scheduled to be fixed here and at Lonsdale. Graffiti on the ceiling of the pavilion and it's looking shabby. The parking lot lines are completely gone. There are trees down to the left of the concession stand. Scott said there are branches everywhere and we will get rid of them.

Fairlawn- Andy Bruscini – Full of snow, but the outfield has no snow. The junior high won the championship, and the high school semifinals is tonight. Both programs are doing really well.

Limerock- Frank Kelly – Covered with snow, but kids are playing on the tennis courts because they shoveled it off. The basketball court is still snow-covered. There is a lot of water with no where to go. What are they going to do about the Middle school baseball team and the front field at Lime Acres? Scott said the backfield needs more attention, and the outfield at the front field. Once we seed the outfield in the front, it should grow back with the irrigation setup. With less activity hopefully it will pop right back up. Scott said Lime Acres isn't dangerous, it's more of a mud pit, and not good to look at. Chris said that soccer doesn't plan on using LA at all if we can secure the middle school field.

Quinville- William Goho – With the snow, there is small limited use of the playground. No graffiti. The barrels are empty. There are large mounds of snow piled up from where they plowed and this will take a while to melt. Scott stated that we fixed the park bench. The parking lot is being used, and there is a few nips littered. It's going to be a while to get fixed up with the way the weather has been.

John asked when will the pickleball courts in Fairlawn be open? Scott stated that when the snow clears, they are available if you bring your own sets. John asked if we are going to have any kind of opening ceremony? Scott answered that he will see about that, but it will get out to the public by word of mouth. There is a huge pickleball

following in town right now. We will also put it on social media, and the Valley Breeze. Andy asked if the police will be there to keep the rift raft out and breaking bottles? Scott said if anyone see's anything like that to call the police, and they will be making their rounds around the parks. Chris stated that the parking lot is getting used a ton back there and it used to be a dumping ground. Maybe we could put a camera in the parking lot. Scott said there is always potential to add cameras if needed and that we will keep an eye on it.

John also asked if any of the park cameras are covering any of the fields? For instance, are the cameras covering the soccer goals and the L-screens? Scott stated that there hasn't been many issues at the soccer field in Manville. If something does happen, we can reposition the cameras or add more. Let's see how it plays out first. John stated that we caught someone with a dirtbike on the baseball field in Manville. The person that caught them said something to the biker, but was totally disregarded. We should look to see if the cameras could cover it? Scott also said he can go back and look over the video footage. This is the first he is hearing about it. John asked him to check out what range he can see on that. Chris stated there is always a lot of dirtbikes in Manville Park and it's always been a problem. Baseball and soccer need to notify the police and Scott when this happens. Frank Morin said that another camera over near the Holiday would catch the kids coming in from that side of the park. If we can guess their path, it might help to catch them. Scott will ask the IT department how far the wifi will reach.

Old Business:

- A) **Review of Rec basketball:** John asked if there were any problems with spectators or referees? Scott stated that we used to hire kids as referees, but not we use adults who can do a great job and aren't influenced by the outside noise. The program has gone well. Only weather cancellations.
- B) **Status of Manville Park Grant:** No update currently.
- C) **Status of new school gyms/school grounds:** When are the grounds around the gyms going to be completed? When you step out of the gym at Lonsdale, it's all mud. Chris said he heard all of the landscaping will be completed in the Spring for all of the gyms. Scott will double check on what they agreed on. John asked if we can make sure the flagpole goes back up at Lonsdale.

New Business:

- A) **Preparation for Spring Sports:** We are trying our best with all of the weather problems. As Frank Kelly said, baseball might need to use neighboring turf fields if it's too wet. We are trying our best.
- B) **Proposed sale/lease of Notte Park land:** See the article in the Valley Breeze that Scott passed out from Phil to answer any questions people had. John was wondering if there is any room for a field here? We can't build anything, but could we have a field? Scott can look into it, but there is no parking there, and it's Open Space. Chris said it would be crazy to try to put a field there.

C) **Election of officers:** Andy Bruscini nominated John Sharkey for Chairman of the parks and recreation commission, and Sean Gaughan seconded. All were in favor. John Sharkey nominated Andy Bruscini for Vice Chair and Frank Kelly seconded. All were in favor.

No public comment.

Andy Bruscini made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and member William Goho seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.