

Overlook Pickleball Advisory Committee (OPAC) Meeting Minutes

05/21/25

Quorum confirmed, meeting called to order 6:35 pm by Greg Smith.

Attendees: Dave Martin, Bill Hayek, Greg Smith, Joan Nagy, Penny Pritchett and Harry Norton (non-voting)

Absent: Lesli Binford, Josh Reinert, Glenn Kamen

Old Business : Sun Shades are in progress, Water fountain is installed

New Business: Greg shared that the Manheim Township would like Overlook Pickleball Advisory Committee (OPAC) to stay engaged and continue to advise on future developments.

1. Programming at the Overlook Pickleball courts

Greg gave highlights of a survey he conducted via the Overlook Team Reach-

What programs would be best to offer at Overlook?

1	Beginner lessons	2 votes
2	Clinics to advance in level	11 votes
3	Full weekend tournaments	12 votes
4	Leagues, ladder/skill	35 votes

Programming Some data available through recent survey. When asked about leagues, lessons and tournaments, the overwhelming majority wanted leagues. This led to a lengthy discussion about the complexities of running leagues and the need to carefully and thoughtfully plan before implementation. Uncertain if respondents are representative of the pickleball community. The discussion around leagues is summarized below:

How/Who runs it? Parks & Rec pay court monitor/league organizer?

Harry shared multiple requests received and denied for revenue generating leagues run by an external party. The group discussed the difference between scheduled open play and league play. Can \$\$\$ from tournaments/leagues be used to reinvest in court amenities. Harry recommended Greg bring this up to Andy Bowman. Unbudgeted items will not be funded.

OPAC needs to provide recommendations concerning any Programming. re: how many courts, how many nights/weeks.

Penny suggested a league where teams organize their own times to complete the required matches as outlined by Manheim Twp.

Greg shared his “ladder league” experience at Lititz Rec and RCW

Process for determining time? Communication plan? Precedent exists when tennis courts are reserved for lessons

Dave reminded everyone that courts were meant to be free to the public. Bill reminded the OPAC of lessons available to adults and children for other sports/activities.

Susan shared her experience welcoming new players to the courts and introducing them to court rules of play, she often encounters new players interested in lessons.

Harry shared experience in leagues, lessons, tournaments.

Bill asked - who benefits? Harry responded - fees would be incorporated
Greg suggested starting with a women's league.

Currently Manheim Twp works with youth field hockey and other independent youth sports.

The group discussed whether another survey would be helpful in assessing the pickleball community wants and needs for programming?

VOTE- Greg called for a vote for 2025/26 program recommendations:

Lessons - 7 unanimous yes

Leagues - 1 yes, 6 no

Tournament - Annual (6 yes, 1 no)

2. Court Expansion and improvement possibilities

Team Reach survey results-

What improvement do we need the most at Overlook ?

1	More Courts	23 votes
2	More Parking	4 votes
3	Windscreens	53 votes
4	More seating	12 votes

- a. Utilization of courts has been high since they opened. Courts are often crowded with the number of waiting players exceeding the paddle rack. The group discussed community appetite for additional courts and agreed there is a demand for more. The OPAC would also like the Township to consider possibility of indoor courts. Are there any underused spaces or convertible buildings available for indoor courts? If not, would twp. Consider additional courts where bocce courts currently are?

- b. Windscreens (On exterior fences or extend fencing between courts and add windscreens)- Greg stressed Interior installation to maintain fence integrity. Density varies. Est. \$800-900 for 1 8'h x 60' long panel. Need assessment of placement needs. Group reports winds tend to most commonly blow W to E and N to S. Phased installation possible. Sponsorship for windscreens (Rick Kane is taking charge?)

3. General Topics

Pickleball signage for those entering park from Lititz Pike (several members shared feedback from players having difficulty finding)

Andy Bowman asked the OPAC to consider the amount of parking needed especially as we move into summer months. The group recommends alternative parking signs to divert people to soccer parking.

Dave asked if existing signage explains lighting. Answer, yes. Can lighting be turned on earlier? NO, the park opens at dawn.

Trash cans - No - carry in/carry out, dumpster is available

The group requests 2 picnic tables under shade awnings and 2 more benches behind courts.

The group expressed concerns about bird droppings and asked about a cleaning schedule. Harry informed the committee that there is no cleaning schedule currently in place. The group asked whether private members could seek Manheim Twp. Permission to power wash.

Harry said Stauffer tennis courts are cleaned annually. Reidenbach is cleaned on request with permission from school for algae. The group recommends an annual cleaning schedule or permission for volunteer cleaning to ensure that court integrity is uncompromised.

Commissioners meet 1st and 3rd Monday every month - email summary to Andy Bowman first, then representative to present. **The MT BOC vote in July on 2026 budget.**

4. Proposed adjustments to the OPAC meeting schedule

Upcoming 2025 Meetings: Wednesday July 23, Wednesday Oct 15, Wednesday Dec 3 6:30 pm @ the Stauffer Mansion

This post-meeting Email from Harry

An FYI - I updated Andy after our meeting last night. His comment on the meeting dates is that it must follow the Board of Commissioners' calendar dates as the third Wednesday of the month. Each month, the meeting is promoted on the Township's calendar. If the committee is not meeting that month, Greg should let Susan Shaeffer know so it is noted on the public calendar. The July planned meeting should be on the 16th if you want to stick with July.

5. Recommended Action points from OPAC to Parks & Rec, and the MT Board of Commissioners for consideration

1. possibility of installing windscreens at the Overlook Courts with two possible installation options.
 - a. Install windscreens at the full west side and a portion of the north/south sides to see if this partial installation will solve the problem
 - b. Install windscreens on all sides, doors and transoms.
2. possibility of MT Parks and Rec or volunteered Beginner lessons.
3. possibility of hosting an annual tournament to generate income for court improvement and maintenance.
4. Add (2) picnic tables (movable) for under the new shade structures.
5. Explore the possibility of more courts at the current Destination Park.
6. Obtain a method for court cleaning performed by the Township or volunteers.