

Director's Report for Pottsgrove Recreation Board

August 14, 2025

Summer Playground 2025 – End of Season Report

Overall, Summer Playground went very well. If it weren't for the constant challenges from the School District, the pool, and a few outside vendors with communications issues, we had a truly great summer. The children had so much fun, were well-behaved, and were already talking about coming back next year.

On the final day, one 8th grader came up to me and said, "Ms. Pam, I am going to miss you!" and gave me a hug. As I was about to tell him I would see him next year, I realized he would age out. I invited him to volunteer next year, and if he did a good job, I would hire him to be a counselor the following year. He was so excited at the idea of having a job as a counselor.

Many parents went out of their way to express **gratitude and appreciation** to myself and the staff for the job we did this summer. They commented on how organized and engaging the program was, how much their children loved their counselors, and how many wonderful memories were made. This feedback reaffirmed that all our efforts and hard work truly paid off. This is what Summer Playground is all about, and it makes it all worth it!

After the final pool day, I sent the following email to the board:

"When we arrived at 9:30 this morning the pool manager came out and then locked the gate behind her. Parents were already arriving for their 10am arrival - this has been an ongoing issue them arriving early to be the first in line. Normally at the pool we had been getting them out of the car and took them in groups of 20 kids/2 counselors to the upper pavilion. Today we had to wait until 9:50 to start getting kids out of the car because she wouldn't let us in. Then she changed the location on us for drop off, so we PIVOTED - the theme for the summer, :o) We did drop off in the manner described above. At 10:10 we had all children dropped off and we were waiting for the lifeguards to be ready for us. In my opinion they should be ready on the stands at 10am, but that's for another day.

During the entire stay at the pool the pool manager - Candice was running around the pool yelling at our kids, my counselors and coming to me with every little thing, We handled everything she asked us to from keeping the line at the snack bar down to 10 kids, no one sitting on the wall around the pavilion, keeping kids off the pool steps, etc. At one point she came to me and told me everyone was going to have to get out of the pool because a kid just dove into the shallow end. When I asked her which kid - my counselors and I realized he wasn't even one of our kids - he was a pool member. No apology, just yelled at the kid and asked where his mom was. This continued until 11:40 when we were getting the kids out of the pool and she changed our pickup location - PIVOT - kids are confused, parents are confused, counselors are confused - heck at one point I am pretty sure I didn't know what was happening either, :o)

As we were doing pickup - I was talking with parents as they arrived and EVERY ONE OF THEM had the best things to say about Summer Playground! What a great job we all did, how organized we were, how great the counselors are, how much fun their child had, they talked about their counselors ALL THE TIME! Amazing things like that! So, I know what happened next had nothing to do with what any of my counselors did or didn't do.

1. The pool manager came to me to say that "that parent is never allowed on my property again." I did not actually speak to the parent but know who it is. Apparently, he was annoyed by her changing things and

*said make up your f*cking mind" - She said he yelled and attacked her ????? I think at this point what he said was how we were all feeling.*

2. There was a child - one of our special needs kid getting into a car. The pool manager yelled again at one of my counselors who was helping the child get in and he said, "The little boy is getting into the car you don't want the parent to pull up while he is trying to get in. She will leave when he is in the car.

3. Next, she came to me and said one of my counselors was yelling at her. And that we do not need to come back next year. I told her we weren't anyway, that I was cutting out Fridays. She immediately went on the attack with me yelling at me in front of families, children and the counselors. I tried to calm her down and told her that she made some changes, and we are all doing the best we can to keep the line moving. She kept attacking me saying how terrible things were this year - we complained about the price increase, and now you have to pay by check, and I am not even sure what else because I walked away. She followed me and started talking about next year. I turned to her and asked if we could do this later and she said "oh because it makes you look bad?" and I said "no, it makes you look bad" she must of heard me because she went into the pool and started talking about us to her pool staff.

There is way more than that with her and her complaints to us. You can't even enjoy the time there because she doesn't stop!

My support counselors removed all of our belongings from the pool so I would not need to go back in and I never went back to talk to her because she doesn't listen anyway.

In my opinion she was looking for a fight from the moment we got there this morning. I just want you to know that my counselors have been nothing but respectful to someone who really doesn't deserve the respect. All of this is pretty petty stuff and I wouldn't even worry about it but I do not know if she is going to retaliate in some way or not."

It was then agreed through email that Summer Playground will not be returning to North End Swim Club in 2026. A formal letter will be written and sent to their board explaining why and to inform them of our intentions. This letter is included in this month's meeting files and will be mailed to the North End Swim Club upon board approval.

Swimming Lessons

Summer Swim classes end August 16th and we had 32 participants. The Early Fall Lessons are registering now and will begin September 8, 2025. We already have 16 registered.

Youth Basketball

Youth Basketball is scheduled to begin September 8 and run for 8 weeks through November 3. We will have 3 classes for 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, and 9-12 year olds.

Adult Volleyball

Adult Volleyball returns on September 2 and will have 3 sessions Fall, Winter & Spring like last year.

Adult Programs

We may have to postpone the start of Country Line Dancing due to some health issues Cindy is experiencing. She is able to help support the transition to a new instructor if one becomes available. I have already replaced her with walk club with one of our regular walkers. I will be posting a job listing for a new dance instructor either for country line dancing or other dance styles. I am also trying to find a yoga and/or Fitness instructor to add some fitness classes as well.

Youth Programs

Last fall I did some design work for the Cross Country team and the Cross Country Coach reached out to me this summer asking if I would be interested in starting a running

program for kids. She would like to volunteer her time and some students to run it and said we could charge for it and maybe split the profits between Pottsgrove Recreation and The Pottsgrove Cross Country Team. I told her I think it would be a great idea and we will meet again in the Spring.

I will be reaching out to the Volleyball Coach to see if I can find a couple of students to run the Youth Volleyball after Volleyball again this year. I know Brad's niece is interested in helping with it and if I can find a senior or another young adult who would be interested, I will get this setup for mid-November.

No More Excuses Walk Club

With the rainy weather this summer we didn't really grow, however the small group has been walking as much as possible and even walks at different times when they know the weather is going to be bad in the evenings. I sent an open invitation to participants and parents of youth who have participated in our programs to come out and join us for free until September 18. This season ends at the end of September, but many will continue to walk as long as the weather is not too cold.

Community Band

I provided Ice Cream for the Sanatoga Park Concert on August 3rd. Samantha, Ed's Assistant, was under the impression that the ice cream distribution had stopped many years ago due to allergies. She is going to talk to him and let me know about next year. The band members and community look forward to it so I am hoping he will allow me to continue – if not I will bring less ice cream and hand it out to only band members from inside the band shell at the end of the concert.

On Wednesday, August 6th the community band and I moved the instruments into the garage at Gerald Richards Park. I got the key for the garage at West End Firehouse and Debbie, Township manager at West said I could use the closet there to store the items in my garage. Charlie said he would help me move it there when I am ready. Community Band will resume their practices at the end of September and start preparing for their Holiday Concerts.

Community Day Events

Lower Pottsgrove Community Day – September 6th 10-1

Upper Pottsgrove Community Day – September 27th 10-3 - They will be donating the proceeds to Adventure Grove Inclusive Playground.

Booster Club Holiday Market at the Grove – November 15, 2025 10-2

Next meeting will be September 11, 2025, 6:30pm via Zoom