

Morgantown Park Board Meeting

Monday, April 7, 2025 | Morgantown Fire Department Garage Bay

Approved
6/2/25

Attendance: Brad Cooper, Josh Ralph, Suzanne Moyer

Absent: Chad Walker

Also in attendance, Jewel & Joe Blevins, Morgantown Youth Sports Board (Ross Steward, Bill Cooper, Ross Kean) & Savannah Kean

Meeting began at 6:03 p.m.

Discussions

Morgantown Youth Sports have started practices and games officially begin the end of April.

Retaining Wall

Currently Whitaker Park is closed. The retaining wall located on the edge of Field One (upper field) has become a hazard for the park. The excessive amounts of rainfall the area received caused the field to swell and pushed the wall outwardly causing the concrete retaining wall to crack and lean outwardly, almost to the point of completely falling over. This was going to be a focus the Morgantown Park Board was going to address fall of 2025, but since this swell happened and moved the concrete, it is now a high priority to make sure everyone remains safe. The area surrounding the retaining wall was roped off with fencing and caution tape and the park was shut down for a few days until a plan of action was created. Morgantown Youth Sports said they will be having a representative watching over the cautioned area during practices and games to make sure children playing baseball are adhering to the rules to stay away from the cautioned area.

Plan of Action for Retaining Wall

The Morgantown Park Board asked the Morgantown Youth Sports to attend today's meeting because the retaining wall greatly impacts their events at the ball diamond. They give a lot to the fields and park and we want to make sure we work together to come up with a plan for the old retaining wall that will make the park safer and not be a hindrance on their future activities. Discussions were made between the board and Morgantown Youth Sports of the options after the wall is taken down and how each option might affect the league. It was agreed upon that the wall will be taken all the way down. After July 1st soil will be brought in and will create a slope from the high area of the field to the base where the walking path is located. For upkeep purposes the grade needs to be able to safely handle a mower. We believe we need a 5:1 slope and needs roughly 16 feet for that grade. We were roughly quoted 6K for the excavating work, but Morgantown Youth Sports thought they could assist with the labor. For the 16 feet, the upper field might have to lose a few feet from their outfield because we would have to move the outfield fence in 5-10 feet potentially. We didn't have the specs of a youth baseball field requirement, so Morgantown Youth Sports will be looking this up and/or talking with their Tri County League members.

- Motion:

Motion made to remove the existing damaged retaining wall, take the broken concrete pieces to the lagoon and feather the affected area in order to make it safe for the 2025 Baseball season.

Motion: Suzanne | Seconded: Brad. Approved.

Whitaker Park will be open for practice beginning Tuesday, April 8th given the safety parameters that are now in place.

Discussions (Cont'd)

Areas needing future attention

Morgantown Youth Sports wants to make changes to the dugouts and middle building on Field 2 (Lower Field). It was discussed that former town minutes that Joe Blevins found in doing other research elude that the dugouts are the league's. This is something that needs looked into. There are no issues from the board members in attendance with having the league make changes so the following motion was made:

- Motion

To give Morgantown Youth Sports permission to make changes to the dugouts and middle building as they see fit to benefit the playing experience.

Motion: Brad | Seconded: Suzanne. Approved.

The Morgantown Youth Sports brought to our attention that the baseball diamonds have issues with drainage, especially the lower field. The park board will look into grants and opportunities to help address these concerns/issues.

Budget for 2026

It was brought to the attention that if the Morgantown Park Board wants to increase their budget, request for the increase needs to be brought to the town council for their July meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:21 pm

Next Meeting: May 5th, 2025 6:30 p.m. Whitaker Park