



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on October 12, 2011 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Tony Ruggieri, Mark Angelone, Heather Berkey, Keith Johnson, Leesa Meade and Dan Spinelli. Also in attendance were Michael Fox (BOS Liaison), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), and Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator).

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tony Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to approve the September minutes and Heather Berkey seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MUSC TOURNAMENT REQUEST

Tony Ruggieri reported that at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on 9/26/11 a permit request was submitted from Montgomery United Soccer (MonU) to hold their Roger Erb Select Soccer Tournament in November. The Board of Supervisors referred the request back to the Park Board for review and recommendations first. The tournament dates are 11/12 for girls with rain date of 11/13 and 11/26 for the boys (11/27 rain date). Tony Ruggieri reviewed some of the basic information from the permit request. MonU has been working closely with the township to maintain the fields.

Bob Selheimer from MonU commented that they will not just be using our fields. They will be using other townships and possibly school fields – Horsham, Warrington, Ukrainian fields. They are spreading out due to the large number of teams as well as to help maintain the fields. Bob Selheimer also commented that MonU has been very respectful of the decisions of the township regarding closures and will continue to follow the township's rules for weather related closures.

The Park Board stated that they do not want to have tournaments after Nov 1 on any fields and that if they approve it this year, they would like to not do it next year. The fields need time to recover and they cannot do that over the winter. Kevin Costello indicated that the fields most likely won't be able to recover until spring when the ground temperature gets above 40 degrees. Kevin Costello stated that determining the amount of play that the fields can handle can be very subjective based on factors such as weather, age of the players and how much time between games. MonU should also be prepared for the possibility that the fields will be closed with the weather conditions that we have had.

Leesa Meade and Keith Johnson stated that the Select season is only held in November after the completion of the Recreation season. They indicated that there was one bad year with the soccer fields following the tournament and things have been done to rectify the situation. They also commented that historically this tournament has worked and the fields are fine in the spring. It is not up to MonU to change the date of this tournament.

Tony Ruggieri recommended that we make the exception and approve the tournament this year. He further recommended that right after the tournament we need to evaluate the condition of the fields. The Park Board will review the evaluation in November or December. Bob Selheimer recommended that after the girls' tournament he would meet with Kevin Costello (or a Public Works Representative) to evaluate the fields.

Tony Ruggieri recommended that the approval be contingent upon two items:

- MonU would put up a bond for each weekend of the tournament that the township can use if there is any damage. Public Works would be responsible for making the decision on whether there is damage and the cost needed to repair it. Tony Ruggieri looked at the numbers (number of teams and registration costs) and proposed \$5,000 per weekend. Kevin Costello noted that when we had damages before the cost was \$4,500 to correct it (not including labor). Kevin Costello would like to talk to Larry Gregan (Township Manager) about it first.
- The actual playing of the games is to be controlled by Public Works. If they decide the fields are not playable, there is no playing. The township needs MonU to provide details regarding the tournament (even if it is from last year) such as ages and how long the games are to help determine field usage.

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the tournament be approved only with the noted conditions: surety bond of \$5,000 to cover any expenses with regard to field damage; and the actual playing of the games will be under the control of the township prior to the tournament, allowing the township to close fields or shorten any of the games as necessary. Seconded by Dan Spinelli, approved 6-0.

PARK COMP PLAN – UPDATE

Kevin Costello informed the board that staff met with Matt Shelley and Beth Pilling with MCPC earlier in the day. Matt Shelley reviewed a lot of census data and indicated that the township has just short of 25,000 residents. They are evaluating the demographics, ages, concentration of the people, the needs and the evolution of the township. The younger group is leveling off and the older groups are becoming more prevalent. The plan is to have a draft at the November meeting to be reviewed by the Park Board. Michael Fox asked if there is a rush to get the plan done next month since it might be a packed agenda in November. Kevin Costello noted that the hope is to get something to the Board in January so they would really like to push for November.

PARK ACTIVITY – UPDATE

Mark Bates resigned from the Park Board on September 20. Tony Ruggieri thanked him for being a member of the board and for coming to state that he couldn't put forth the time required. Mark

Bates also indicated that when he can devote the time, he would be interested in getting involved in the Park Board again. Tony Ruggieri stated that they need to start looking at candidates. If anyone knows of an interested party, please pass along the word.

Tony Ruggieri thanked Heather Berkey and Keith Johnson for coming out to Autumn Fest. Thanks for all the support from the township and everyone involved. It was a great event.

Tony Ruggieri stated that he did respond to the resident that had a concern about the condition of Fellowship Park. Dan Spinelli noted that Fellowship was sprayed, the baseball field is in good shape. It was top soiled again. Michael Fox added that the volleyball court was filled with weeds and asked Kevin Costello if it could be sprayed. Kevin Costello indicated that it needs to dry out first. Then they can spray and take out some sod, bring in more sand and level it off as the weather permits. Leesa Meade stated that Spring Valley looks great.

This Friday the final draft budget will be distributed by Shannon Drosnock (Finance Director). The Park Board can still make recommendations. Kevin Costello needs to get the additional cost and information for Park Board budget requests. Tony Ruggieri sent an email to the Park Board asking for any budget requests. Tony Ruggieri would like to consider getting tot lot coverage for Rose Twig, but that is just his suggestion. Kevin Costello noted that the Park Comp Plan will include recommendations for improvements to what we have – trails, equipment, etc. Currently the Park and Rec Budget meeting is Oct 20th. Tony Ruggieri also suggested replacing the Spring Valley backboards because they shake too much. If there is going to be a league there they should have better backboards.

Fellowship tennis courts are recoated and will reopen Thursday 10/13.

RECREATION UPDATE

Sharon Tucker also thanked the Park Board for their assistance with Autumn Fest. The staff of Montgomery Township really appreciated them giving their time to help make the event great.

Sharon Tucker also said that she will be working on getting some updates done to the website in the near future – adding park pictures, maps, more detail about the parks.

Sharon Tucker is working on the Winter programs and trying to incorporate some different ideas. Tony Ruggieri asked if we were doing a New York trip this holiday season and Sharon Tucker answered no. We tried Longwood Gardens for the holiday season this year. Tony Ruggieri asked if we could look at doing a New York trip to see the World Trade Center Memorial. Sharon Tucker will look into that.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello indicated that 75% of Whistlestop Park has been hydroseeded. They can't get out there with the weather. A good amount of the baseball field has been hydroseeded and hopefully won't be washed out. They may not get it done this year. Tony Ruggieri noted that the sooner Kevin Costello can let him know if it will be ready for fall 2013 the better so he can let soccer and baseball know if they will need to make other arrangements.

Michael Fox asked about the dugouts. They will probably have the best luck of doing the work in the winter. Goal is to have them in and ready for the spring season.

Kevin Costello budgeted for the other 2 tennis courts at Spring Valley to be recoated, about \$10,000; \$12,800 for a replacement mower and \$3,000 for tables, bleachers, etc.

Tony Ruggieri asked about additional paving of walkways at Windlestrae. Kevin Costello noted that we would like to have them redone and possibly widened.

Kevin indicated that soccer is looking for portable player benches. They are aluminum 20' long benches. Kevin Costello suggested we get 6 portable benches because we have the money for that now. 6 benches would cost \$2,490 and 4 could be put at Zehr and 2 at Kenas.

Tony Ruggieri made a motion for Public Works to purchase 6 portable player benches. Mark Angelone seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Kevin Costello noted that a green fence was added along the driveway into the William F. Maule at Windlestrae main for Kenas fields 1 and 2 to keep the soccer balls from rolling into the driveway. It was attached to the existing post and rail fence.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Angelone noted that nets are off at Whistlestop's basketball courts.

Sharon Tucker asked for input from the Park Board about a situation that came up for a permit request. There is a township resident that is interested in hosting an open house for a home-based business at a park pavilion. We don't necessarily have a policy that would not allow it but we are not sure that we want to allow that activity at the parks. There is still a lot of information that we need to gather regarding licensing, solicitation, etc. The general consensus of the Park Board is that we refrain from doing such activities at the park, but the township staff will need to look into it further before a decision is made. Mike Fox recommended that the Township Solicitor look into it.

Tony Ruggieri asked if there was a permit request in for Monday 10/10 at Spring Valley that would have included portable lights. The fire trucks were there and lights were set up. Sharon Tucker said she would look into it.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Tony Ruggieri made a motion for adjournment and Leesa Meade seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.