



**Montgomery Township  
Park and Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2012**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on January 11, 2012 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Tony Ruggieri, Dan Spinelli, Kim Greene, Mark McMahon, Michael Okino, Mark Angelone. Also in attendance were Michael Fox (BOS Liaison), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), and Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator).

**CALL TO ORDER**

Tony Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

**RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING**

Tony Ruggieri was named the temporary chair for the re-organization meeting. Tony Ruggieri was nominated and unanimously approved as the 2012 Chair of the Park & Recreation Board. Tony Ruggieri nominated Mark Angelone to serve as the Vice Chair of the committee. The nomination was seconded and unanimously approved. Dan Spinelli will remain on the Open Space Committee. The re-organization meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Tony Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mark Angelone made a motion to approve the November 9, 2011 minutes and Dan Spinelli seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**PARK COMP PLAN**

Beth Pilling from Montgomery County was in attendance. The three new Park Board members introduced themselves. Beth Pilling reviewed the overall Park Comp Plan history and updated everyone on the status of the plan. Beth Pilling requested that all the Park Board members get out to visit as many of the parks as they can before the next meeting. They will then have a better understanding of the plan and will be able to make park specific recommendations going forward.

Tony Ruggieri thanked Beth Pilling for attending.

**PARK ACTIVITY UPDATE**

Tony Ruggieri started the follow-up discussion regarding the Roger Erb Tournament. Everything went well during the girl's tournament weekend. There was a lot of rain before the boy's weekend

but adjustments were made to the schedule and everything came off well. Tony Ruggieri wants to revisit the tournament issue again before the planning begins for 2012. The goal remains to have tournaments during the April to October timeframe. MonU would prefer to have the tournament held on one weekend - boys one day, girls the next. All agree that would be preferable.

Tony Ruggieri made a request to MonU to hold another turf proposal meeting for the new Park Board members. The new members, along with Tony Ruggieri, will go to the soccer meeting to do that so it doesn't take Park Board time.

### **RECREATION UPDATE**

Sharon Tucker gave a brief overview to the new members of the Recreation Office and the services they provide.

Sharon Tucker thanked the Park Board for their participation in Holiday Lights. The contest was a lot of fun and everything went well. The Recreation Office is considering changing the event for 2012 to see how it goes. We only received 13 participants in 2011, which is about the average each year. We would like to try a different event that might draw more participation from the residents.

Sharon Tucker let Tony Ruggieri know that staff will be in contact to set up a meeting time to review some issues encountered with the park permit process in 2011.

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Kevin Costello gave an update on the Whistlestop project. It is in the maintenance period. Grass seed is established. The park is on schedule and the items to be done for spring are outlined - overseeding, light aeration, fertilizing and the first 2 cuttings will be done by the company.

Mark Angelone inquired about vandalism being a problem at Whistlestop and Kevin Costello indicated that it has not been an issue.

Mark McMahon asked if anything could be done about the pop-up balls constantly going in the woods from the corner field (a net or push homeplate back further). This is also a problem at Windlestrae 1. Kevin Costello will look into the options. We want to make sure anything put up doesn't interfere with a ball in play and maintains the Connie Mack specs for the field.

Kevin Costello wants to make sure everyone is aware that they cannot play on Whistlestop this year. It is scheduled to open fall 2013.

Kevin Costello stated that the rain garden is in and seeded.

Kevin Costello gave an update on Friendship Park. 50% U&O triggers the funding but Kevin Costello is not sure how close to that we are. The new engineer, Gilmore & Assoc is picking up where Chambers left off since his retirement. The permits are still in place and the first phase of grading is being worked on. Kevin Costello stated that he would have Gilmore come in and review the plans with the Park Board. The Park Board would like the opportunity to review the plans and make recommendations for changes. Kim Greene asked if there are any recommendations to put in facilities for handicapped children? Everybody's Park in Horsham is a great facility and a model that could be considered for this location. Kevin Costello will have Friendship Park on the agenda for February.

Tony Ruggieri stated that the Park Board would review the list of their improvements and decide what they can do with the 2012 budget. As far as hockey courts, Spring Valley is the worst court we have. Whispering Pines only has one crack in it but they don't use the court.

Kevin Costello stated that the fence around the tot lot at Spring Valley needs to be replaced. Ray Barndt suggested they do the concrete posts and 2 x 6's. It looks nicer, is maintenance free and it will last.

Tony Ruggieri will check with Joe Walsh about EAC taking care of the recycling effort so that can be removed from the Park Board's list.

Kevin Costello will look into the rates for electric to determine if it is feasible to have outlets at the basketball courts. Kevin will talk to the electrician and see if it can be done without going to PECO.

Prioritize the list.

Some ideas that were discussed are:

- Shed at Spring Valley to store tables, chairs and benches for a basketball league.
- Community Garden – could be done if there is still interest.
- Dugouts at Rose Twig - \$30,000
- Shuffleboard courts at Windlestrae; could consider converting Whispering Pines basketball courts to Shuffleboard

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Tony Ruggieri inquired about the land being acquired across the street and making sure the Park Board is part of the review process to determine how that is used. Michael Fox indicated that there will most likely be a feasibility study to find out what we could reasonably expect to put there. Larry Gregan will develop a plan on how to go about collecting that information. The Park Board will be an integral part of the process.

Kevin Costello discussed the purchase of the property at 1237 Stump Road. It goes from Stump Road to 202 Bypass. A 5.5 acre parcel with a private home and largely wooded area. This will allow the township the opportunity to connect Zehr to 202 Parkway should we ever want to do that.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm. The motion was seconded by Mark McMahon. The motion passed 6-0. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2012 at 7:30 pm at the Township Building.