



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2012**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on February 8, 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, and Mark Angelone. Also in attendance were Michael Fox (BOS Liaison), Larry Gregan (Township Manager), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), and Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator).

CALL TO ORDER

Tony Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to approve the January 11, 2012 minutes and Mark McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 (Dan Spinelli was not yet present).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PARK COMP PLAN

Kevin Costello reported that staff had met with Beth Pilling (Montgomery County Planning Commission) earlier that day and she is looking to get feedback regarding the parks from the Park Board members, especially the new members. Comments can be sent to Kevin Costello via email. Beth Pilling also recommended that the Park Board collectively go out to visit the parks. Tony Ruggieri stated that they have not yet done that, but they will.

Beth Pilling is working on in-depth recommendations for each park and she will be distributing those to the Park Board members for review soon. She also asked that everyone consider how the community center can be incorporated into the plan. Beth Pilling is also looking for ideas that would incorporate the special needs population into our plan.

PARK ACTIVITY UPDATE

Larry Gregan reported on the status of the Friendship Park project. The ground was donated by the developer and is owned by the township. There is an active business on part of the property, which will stay there until 2013. The developer agreed to give \$2,000 per dwelling unit, for a maximum of \$1,139,000. Funds are being used for a grading plan and the developer will do the improvements. When 50% of the property permits are taken on the project, the developer is required to commit 100% of the funds. It is currently 1 or 2 permits short of the 50%. The township would like to get started on the project this spring and have the park available for use about one year after.

Tony Ruggieri stated that the Park Board would like to consider rearranging the layout from the original plans. Kevin Costello stated that the site grading plan is finalized but we can make changes to amenities. The only lights at the park are for the parking lot, bocce ball court and limited lights at the amphitheatre. The current plan includes port-a-potty facilities.

The Park Board members are interested in providing a handicapped accessible playground facility at this park. Tony suggested further discussion about what the Park Board members want to see there and come back next month with more details.

Tony Ruggieri stated that MTBSA is going back to revisit the snack stand plans to get that up and running. According to Rick Calhoun they couldn't find enough volunteers last year to investigate and now they have a committee. It would be placed at William F. Maule Park at Windlestrae Main, between the bathrooms and the Connie Mack field. There are still some Board of Health issues that need to be addressed. They can sell pre-packaged food without an issue, but fresh food handling has specific requirements (i.e., sanitation, running water).

Tony Ruggieri stated that MTBSA is also looking to move forward on installing a shed at Rose Twig. He will report back with more details soon.

RECREATION UPDATE

Sharon Tucker reported that the spring/summer newsletter is at the printer and should be distributed to homes by the end of February.

Sharon Tucker also stated that Winter Blast held January 28th at Montgomery Mall was a success. It was well attended and they had some great new community involvement. Bottom Dollar Food Stores was a major sponsor and they are very interested in getting involved in community activities.

Sharon Tucker asked the Park Board members to take a few minutes to review the information on our Park & Rec section of the township website. We are working to revise it and have more detailed information about our park amenities and upcoming activities. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Park Board members discussed some options for their \$50,000 capital improvement budget earmark for 2012. Tony Ruggieri will send the list out to the Park Board members and they will come to a consensus of what projects to move forward with before the next meeting.

Michael Okino asked about addressing the issue of balls from Windlestrae baseball field 3 going out onto Kenas Road. It is dangerous to have balls going out on that busy road and kids running after them. Kevin Costello stated that there is a tree line there as well as a post and rail fence to minimize that as much as possible.

The Park Board will also work to narrow down the guidelines of the proposed Challenger program, so any necessary costs could be factored into the current budget. Targeting a fall start for the program, possibly with flag football, gives some time for planning and doesn't interfere with the Challenger spring baseball program that Horsham already does. They need to consider getting sponsors, facilities, volunteers and equipment. Michael Okino will reach out to someone on the Variety Club board for input regarding their program.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Dwight Wilkinson was present to represent MUSC regarding the previously discussed artificial turf proposal. The new members of the Park Board were able to attend a separate meeting with Greg Gifford from MUSC to learn the specifics of what MUSC is proposing. Tony Ruggieri distributed some rough estimates of the rental income that could be received if the turf fields were installed.

Dwight Wilkinson stated that \$100,000 as a commitment from MUSC might be a conservative number for soccer's usage. They currently pay about \$40,000 in rental fees per year.

Mark Angelone asked how MUSC would feel about putting up one year's payment in escrow? Dwight Wilkinson stated that he would have to go back to the board to discuss.

Tony Ruggieri will adjust his rental estimates based on the conversation. Dwight Wilkinson will come up with an estimate of the number of rental hours MUSC would require. The Park Board will then have one more discussion to decide if they wish to send this up to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Kevin Costello has an article from Ray Barndt regarding the maintenance of the turf field. He will scan and email it to the Park Board for review.

Larry Gregan reviewed the meeting that was held February 3rd with township staff, Michael Fox and Tony Ruggieri regarding proposed revisions to the current Facilities & Field Use policy. The North Penn No Play continues to be the best way to get the word out regarding field closures. There needs to be a formalized process in place to allow specific venue managers the ability to evaluate the fields and open certain fields at their discretion. The township will establish guidelines for this and meet with venue managers.

ADJOURNMENT

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 pm. The motion was seconded by Michael Okino. The motion passed 6-0. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2012 at 7:30 pm at the Township Building.