



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2013**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on January 16, 2013 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Tony Ruggieri, Kim Greene, Michael Okino, Mark Angelone, Michael Thom and Angelo Grasso. Linda Brooks was absent. Also in attendance were Mike Fox (BOS Liaison), Larry Gregan (Township Manager), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), Ann Shade (Director of Human Resources) and Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator).

CALL TO ORDER

Tony Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Tony Ruggieri introduced and welcomed the two new Park Board members, Michael Thom and Angelo Grasso.

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

Michael Okino was named the temporary Chairman for the Re-Organization meeting. Michael Okino asked for Chairman Nominations and Michael Okino was nominated by Tony Ruggieri and seconded by Kim Green. Michael Okino was unanimously approved as the 2013 Chairman of the Park & Recreation Board. Michael Okino nominated Kim Greene to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Park & Recreation Board. The nomination was seconded by Michael Thom and Kim Green was unanimously approved as the 2013 Vice-Chairman of the Park & Recreation Board. The re-organization meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Michael Okino called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to approve the December 12, 2012 minutes and Kim Greene seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Rogers, a Township Resident, presented an idea to build a skate park at Spring Valley Park. Mr. Rogers indicated that the structure for the park is still in place but buried underground. It was a pool that was built in the 1950's and it is 18" thick concrete. Mr. Rogers indicated that his plan would be to build the park with volunteer work and donations, utilizing the existing infrastructure and with minimal initial cost to the township. Mr. Rogers gave a \$1,000 donation to start the project. Kim Greene questioned the liability since skateboarding is considered an extreme sport. Bill Rogers

indicated that even though it is defined as a dangerous sport it would be covered under the same insurance umbrella as other sports, tot lots, etc. Kim Greene also expressed her concern that since the bowl has been buried since 1992 there could be an environmental concern to digging it up.

Kevin Costello reported on the history of the pool. Kevin Costello indicated that when the township acquired the land they were instructed to fill in the pool. The pool was subsequently dug out by the public twice and used for skateboarding. Public Works was then instructed to jackhammer out the bottom to avoid further usage and for better drainage. After Mr. Rogers presented a similar proposal in 2010, our Public Works representative met with DVIT, the township's insurance provider, and DVIT did not recommend proceeding with the park from a liability stand point. Kevin Costello further added that the concrete is probably severely damaged at this point.

PARK COMP PLAN

Tony Ruggieri reported that he emailed Beth Pilling from MCPC to receive a one month extension in order to allow everyone to review the plan thoroughly and provide her with their final comments. Michael Okino stated that he will compile a list of comments from the Park Board by the end of January and forward them Kevin Costello to pass along to Beth Pilling by the first week of February.

Kevin Costello reported that staff met with Beth Pilling last week and made their final recommendations.

PARK ACTIVITY UPDATE

Tony Ruggieri established the park assignments for 2013 and all Park Board members are satisfied with their designated parks.

Mike Fox questioned when the sandbags, benches and nets would be removed from the soccer fields. Kevin Costello indicated that Montgomery United Soccer was instructed to remove them and that they all should be off of the fields by now.

RECREATION UPDATE

Sharon Tucker reviewed the recommendation for Kids University pricing and schedule for 2013. Due to the summer schedule the recommendation is to shorten Kids University to 7 weeks because the North Penn facility will only be available for that length of time and the main concern is that Kids U staff will be unavailable by mid-August. Sharon Tucker is also recommending that the basic pricing stay the same as last year with a 5% discount for township residents only during the first month of registration and then a one-time \$15 charge per non-resident family.

Sharon Tucker distributed information regarding the field use permit requests that have come in to the department so far in 2013. A general discussion took place about the provisions of the current Facilities and Field Use Policy, the Fee Schedule and how to address permitting and reservation requests for the fields by competing organizations. The consensus of the Park Board members was

to schedule a separate meeting to focus specifically on field use and the Facility and Field Use Policy provisions.

Sharon Tucker addressed a request from MTBSA regarding their ability to be permitted for Spring Valley Park field #1. In 2012 Montgomery Township did not permit that field to them because the Township wanted a field that would be available for other groups to reserve or just available for open use. Sharon Tucker indicated that after a discussion with MTBSA President Rick Calhoun the recommendation would be to allow MTBSA to have the permit for the field knowing that we can call them with any specific requests for use of that field by other groups throughout the year. Therefore, MTBSA will include that field in the maintenance that they do to the fields.

Michael Okino stated that he will provide information to Sharon Tucker regarding the Summer Basketball Program that the Park Board will be running in 2013.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello reported that planning for the 2013 projects have begun. The Fellowship Park basketball courts will be updated with new poles and backboards. The Whistlestop Hockey court will be recoated and cracks will be sealed. The walking trail at William F. Maule Park at Windlestrae will be renovated in the most cost effective way possible, utilizing the Public Works staff to handle the majority of the work.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Tony Ruggieri informed Kim Greene that one of the responsibilities of the Vice-Chairman is to be a member of the Open Space Committee. Kim Greene agreed to participate in the Open Space Committee.

Larry Gregan reported on the status of Friendship Park. The expectation is that phase 1, including work on the parking lot, the trail and basic grading, will be completed in the spring. The option of bringing in sewer is being considered. The additional piece of property along Route 309 will be vacated on February 1, 2013. That property already has a parking lot in place. As the project moves forward the discussion of amenities at Friendship Park will be added to the Park Board agenda. Kevin Costello indicated that at this point we cannot deviate from the grading but can discuss what amenities work with the grading as it is.

ADJOURNMENT

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 pm. The motion was seconded by Kim Greene. The motion passed 6-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2013, 7:30 pm at the Township Building.