



**Montgomery Township  
Park and Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2014**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on January 8, 2014 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Kim Greene, Mike Okino, Angelo Grasso and Al Quasti. Tony Ruggieri and Linda Brooks were absent. Also in attendance were Mike Fox (BOS Liaison), Larry Gregan (Township Manager), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), and Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator).

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mike Okino called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING**

Al Quasti was named the temporary Chairman for the Re-Organization meeting. Al Quasti asked for Chairman Nominations and Al Quasti was nominated by Mike Okino and seconded by Kim Greene. Al Quasti was unanimously approved as the 2014 Chairman of the Park & Recreation Board. Mike Okino nominated Linda Brooks to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Park & Recreation Board. The nomination was seconded by Kim Greene and Linda Brooks was unanimously approved as the 2014 Vice-Chairman of the Park & Recreation Board. The re-organization meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Al Quasti called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mike Okino asked for an update on the PowerLine Trail Feasibility Study that was reviewed at the December Park Board meeting and went to the Board of Supervisors on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Larry Gregan stated that the report quantified what was the logical option for the trail. Mike Fox stated that there is currently no funding for the trail and the township has no plans to fund it in its entirety in the near future. Larry Gregan reported that the plan serves as a ready-made study that could be used to submit for available grant funds.

Kim Greene made a motion to approve the December 11, 2013 minutes and Mike Okino seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 4-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **PARK ACTIVITY UPDATE**

No Park Board members had any updates on their respective parks.

### **RECREATION UPDATE**

Sharon Tucker reported that the Winter Blast event will be held at Montgomery Mall on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:30am. It is a free family event and Park Board members are encouraged to come out and to spread the word about the event.

Sharon Tucker commented on the success of the first Breakfast with Santa event. Sharon thanked Angelo Grasso and Tony Ruggieri for helping out at the event.

Sharon Tucker distributed information about a program being held in March at Macy's stores nationwide. The Montgomery Mall Macy's employees will be inquiring if customers are interested in making a donation to support a local park. Money raised at that store will be donated to Montgomery Township, and matched up to \$250,000 by Macy's, to be used at Windlestrae Park.

Sharon Tucker gave an update on the current status of park permit requests for 2014. To date, four permits have been received. Sharon reported that Montgomery Township is receiving more requests from organizations outside of our two primary youth sports organizations. Many of those requests are for use by a group of residents that belong to an organization outside of the township. Further discussion needs to take place regarding the need to avoid block scheduling and to decide if a standard fee structure will be applied to all groups in order to cover the maintenance involved with the fields. The Park Board members expressed an interest in exploring the option of charging all groups in 2015.

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Larry gave an update on Friendship Park. The contractor will be back in the spring. \$98,000 is being held for final work at the site. The site is starting to stabilize. Larry reported that the trail is in but there are sections that need to be completed or redone because of a drainage issue. The current plan is to get phase 1 wrapped up in spring and established in fall 2014, then the park amenities will be developed in spring 2015. Larry noted that Gilmore and Associates Park Planner could come to a Park Board meeting to work on some fresh ideas for park amenities. The Finance Department will be able to give a report on what money is available to spend on amenities. Kim Greene inquired if we could solicit for contributions towards the amenities. Mike Fox stated that we could do that but would need to have a well-defined plan before requesting any financial assistance.

Larry Gregan reported that we received the \$250,000 grant that will be used towards the splash park and accessible playground. Larry noted that the options are being explored regarding the water for the splash park and whether a circulation treatment program is incorporated or fresh water is used that goes to the stormwater basin.

Larry stated that a workshop session is being scheduled in the near future to review the final plans with the Board of Supervisors so the project can go out to bid. The Park Board will be invited to that session.

Kevin Costello stated that his current projects include preparing to purchase a large mower and the planning to remove the current gazebo from Whistlestop Park and replace it with a small pavilion.

Kevin Costello reported that he will be working on a trail mapping plan and will come back to the Park Board with some options to discuss.

Kevin Costello reported that there is a plan for an Eagle Scout project at Memorial Grove. The Scout will build a bridge where the sidewalk ends.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mike Okino reported that Mark Angelone has officially resigned as a member of the Park and Recreation Board. Mike Fox indicated that there is a resident already interested in stepping into the role.

Mike Okino congratulated Mike Fox on his election for the new term and congratulated Larry Gegan on the renewal of his contract with the Township.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Angelo Grasso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. The motion was seconded by Kim Greene. The motion passed 4-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2014, 7:30 pm at the Township Building.