



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2014**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on March 12, 2014 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Al Quasti, Tony Ruggieri, Jim Earley, Angelo Grasso and Linda Brooks. Kim Greene and Mike Okino were absent. Also in attendance were Mike Fox (BOS Liaison), Larry Gegan (Township Manager), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), and Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator).

CALL TO ORDER

Al Quasti called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Fox introduced Jim Earley as the newest member of the Park Board. Jim has been a resident of the township for approximately 5 years. Previously he was very involved with Roslyn Baseball for a number of years. Jim has been interested in getting involved in our Park Board for some time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to approve the January 8, 2014 minutes and Angelo Grasso seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PARK ACTIVITY UPDATE

Kevin Costello reported on the status of Friendship Park. The plan includes allowing the ground to get established, closing out the permit and finishing the grading. Then there will be time to let the grass come in while the Park Board and staff plan for Phase 2 of the project which includes planning of the park amenities.

Al Quasti reported that a speed limit sign was down on the Parkway heading towards Doylestown. Tony Ruggieri inquired as to a reasonable time for the sports groups to get on the fields with the weather conditions the way they have been. Mike Fox stated that the fields will need at least one solid week of warm weather to dry out before they can be used. Kevin Costello stated that Public Works did not have much time after the fall season to get out and do maintenance. They were able to do some seeding on top of the snow at some of the baseball and soccer fields.

RECREATION UPDATE

Sharon Tucker reported that the Macy's Heart Your Park started on March 7th and will continue through the end of the month. Anyone shopping at our Montgomery Mall Macy's will be asked if they would like to donate to a local park and the money will go to Windlestrae Park. Sharon requested that all Park Board members spread the word.

Sharon Tucker reported on the Antiques Road Show program held on February 19th. Staff did not videotape the program with the plan to air it on our cable channel due to some resistance from participants. There were several people uncomfortable with having themselves and their personal belongings taped and shown to the local viewing area. Sharon reported that we may try it at the next Road Show program scheduled in June.

Sharon Tucker reported on the status of Kids University. Registration opened on March 3rd to Township residents only and we have many participants signed up and the optional field trips are filling quickly.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello stated that Public Works is working on the Memorial Grove path. The township received donated telephone poles and an Eagle Scout completed the bridge project over the creek. Public Works will then put a meandering trail that will go over the bridge and to Memorial Grove creating a circular path.

Kevin Costello reported that Public Works has been extremely busy with storm damage cleanup. Their first priority was clearing the dangerous debris and they are now on to the cleaning of general debris from the parks.

Discussion took place about the leaf waste collection dates at Windlestrae Park. Kevin Costello reported that at the last pickup date the dumpster was about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Mike Fox suggested that we continue to review the Township needs as the weather breaks. Larry Gregan stated that we would add dates if there is a demand for it.

Kevin Costello reported that Public Works is planning the signage for Memorial Grove. It will be a handmade sign similar to the one at the entrance of Maule. Public Works is planning to have directional signs for each section of the park, including the Wiseman Tract, Zehr Tract, Maule section and Rose Twig. There will be directional signs from each entrance to the trail and at each junction throughout the trail.

Linda Brooks inquired if an Eagle Scout project could be incorporated to add a small plaque that will identify items such as wetlands, birds or endangered plant species. Mike Fox noted that the Shade Tree Commission is doing a forestry study due to the emerald ash bore issue and the Windlestrae Park area will be evaluated. Following their study a program will be developed for Windlestrae, Memorial Grove, Spring Valley Park and they would like to include the naturalized area.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Gregan gave an update on the Community Center process. 34 bids were accepted for the prime contract. The two lowest bidders on the general contract were within \$2,000 of each other and there were competitive bids for the other 4 contracts. The total anticipated cost was \$9.2 million and we are coming in at \$9,353,000. Larry reported that the township anticipates construction to begin in late April or early May with a May 2015 targeted opening date.

Larry Gregan also gave an update on the Zehr Tract. He stated that the litigation process is complete and the Township will now move on to the discussion over cost and expenses for clean-up of the site. The Township has consultants working on appraisals to negotiate a favorable rate.

Larry Gregan updated the Park Board on the RACP Grant. The application has been filed and the next step is to create the business plan. The Township is requesting \$5,000,000 and a 50% match is expected on the part of the Township.

Linda Brooks and Mike Fox request that a rain chain be considered as an amenity in the planning of the Community Center.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Linda Brooks. The motion passed 5-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2014, 7:30 pm at the Township Building.