



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for April 23, 2014**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on April 23, 2014 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Al Quasti, Mike Okino, Tony Ruggieri, Jim Earley, Angelo Grasso and Linda Brooks. Kim Greene was 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

Al Quasti called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to approve the minutes and Mike Okino seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lou Cohen and Jarrod Cohen were present to represent MTBSA and answer any questions about a list of requested items submitted by MTBSA to the Park Board.

Larry Gregan addressed the sound system that was installed by MTBSA over the previous weekend. Larry stated that the Recreation Office has received at least one complaint about the noise level and that the Township needs to have some guidelines in place for the use of the system. Mike Fox agreed that the Township should have some parameters around the use.

Lou Cohen informed the Park Board that the intended use of the sound system is to have music playing throughout the games and between innings on a daily basis at the Connie Mack field. The system would be kept in a locked cabinet and only designated adults would have access to it. The sound system would also be available for use by the Township for any events they are hosting. The Connie Mack division runs from May 18th through the second week of July. Lou stated that as they installed the system to test it out over the week there was one resident that drove over to the park to find out what was going on. The system has the ability to be heard on the soccer fields and almost to the baseball shed near the Windlestrae House.

Lou Cohen agreed that MTBSA will discontinue use of the system until further review by the Park Board and the Board of Supervisors. MTBSA will provide a draft agreement to Sharon Tucker outlining the intended use and that will be reviewed by the Park Board and a recommendation will then need to go to the Board of Supervisors. Tony Ruggieri requested that maximum volume settings be included in that document.

PARK ACTIVITY UPDATE

Linda Brooks stated that the renovations to the Memorial Grove path are great.

Whistlestop Park and Autumn Woods, parks that were assigned to former Park Board member Mark Angelone for review, will be reassigned to Jim Earley.

RECREATION UPDATE

Sharon Tucker reviewed details regarding the upcoming Commemoration Day celebration and encouraged the Park Board members to come out and get involved and spread the word.

Sharon Tucker updated the Park Board on the status of Kids University. The current participation numbers are at a comfortable level with the staffing and available facility space we have. At this point the plan is to put Kids University on a wait list status and review our ability to accept a minimal number of additional participants as we feel we can safely accommodate.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello reported that the bridge project at Memorial Grove is completed and Public Works is working on the sign. Kevin reported that the telephone poles were donated by Armour and Sons. Kevin Costello stated that Public Works is ready to put in the pavilion and the new picnic tables at Whistlestop Park.

Kevin Costello reported that the field renovations at Kenas soccer fields 1 and 2 are underway, the fields are completely closed and they will be doing work on them through the summer, with the plan to reopen the fields in September.

The discussion turned to a list of requests submitted from MTBSA.

MTBSA Request: Installation of Pitching mounds on either the Fellowship or Rose Twig 3 fields – The requirements for the Majors and travel ages program requires us to have at least one more field with 70' bases and 50' mound. (MTBSA would do the work and supply the material)
Township Response: Kevin Costello stated that the requested mounds would be preferable at Rose Twig 3. MTBSA will do the work and the request was approved.

MTBSA Request: MTBSA would like to see an expansion of the backstop on the Connie Mack Field to support safety to those walking on the path behind it or at the snack stand. Netting would be acceptable but just some way from preventing the balls from getting over the fence.
Township Response: Kevin Costello reported that he will research some options and review products and pricing with MTBSA. Lou Cohen stated that MTBSA will be happy to help with the cost as they can.

MTBSA Request: Rework the mound on the 90' field at Whistlestop. Now that it is open we want to get that mound back in shape. (MTBSA would do the work and supply the material)

Township Response: Kevin Costello approved the request.

MTBSA Request: Can the Township move some of the bleachers that are on the soccer fields to the Connie Mack Field to allow for more guest seating? Just for our season only and would be moved back at the end of the season.

Township Response: Kevin Costello stated that the Township could move one additional set of bleachers to the third baseline but not to the first base side due to the safety concern. It would be an expensive project to be able to accommodate bleachers on the first baseline.

MTBSA Request: Can they get a shed over at the Rose Twig facility. Shed would be similar to one used a snack but would allow them to keep a gator type device on that field and not have to drive it into the street to get there.(MTBSA will provide the shed)

Township Response: Kevin Costello stated that the only concern is having proper visibility pulling an ATV out of the shed where a lot of walkers and bikers pass through. MTBSA and Public Works will set up a time to meet at the location and review the safest set up.

MTBSA Request: A shed at Spring Valley, similar to the needs of Rose Twig. They have 4 diamonds there and 4 tee ball fields, so good opportunity to place needed equipment at the facility without having to drive it over from Maule Section of Windlestrae. Near the bathroom would probably be the most logical place but they are open to any location that makes sense. (MTBSA will provide the shed).

Township Response: Kevin Costello again agreed that a meeting at Spring Valley to discuss shed options and locations would be scheduled.

MTBSA Request: Adding an outfield fence to Field 4 at the Maule section of Windlestrae.

MTBSA is not sure about the dimensions as of yet, but would like to see if we could install a fence on that field for home run purposes and keeping the balls in play.

Township Response: Kevin Costello and Larry Gregan agreed that this is not an option at this time.

MTBSA Request: Access to a water source at Field 4 at the Maule section of Windlestrae for wetting down the infield as they have at other fields at the facility. When it gets very dry it helps to keep dust down and protects the kids from injury.

Township Response: Kevin Costello stated that the expense would be too great for this currently. We could do a separate water source at that location but it would \$6,000-8,000 so it is not recommended.

MTBSA Request: MTBSA would like to know if they can use the Township Trike to groom the fields. It would be limited to only a couple of folks within the organization and used on a scheduled basis.

Township Response: Larry Gregan stated that due to the liability concerns of having someone else use Township equipment, the request is denied. The Public Works staff will handle the grooming of the fields weekly.

MTBSA Request: MTBSA would like to know what the status is of the Windlestrae House and if it could be used as a clubhouse for their organization.

Township Response: Larry Gregan stated that the building is not up to code in its current condition and it would cost a considerable amount to get it ready. Therefore, the request is denied.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Fox inquired about the status of the Park Comp Plan. Larry Gregan reported that it is with the County and staff will follow up on the status.

Larry Gregan gave an update on the Community Center. There will be a pre-construction meeting tomorrow to get the construction process off the ground. The contracts are ready to be signed and the plan is to have a groundbreaking ceremony by the middle of May. Mike Fox suggested that staff take a picture each day during the construction process at the exact same spot to chronicle the process.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry Gregan gave an update on Friendship Park. The ground for Friendship Park was donated by Cutler Group. Cutler Group also paid a contribution fee to the Township for every unit which will generate a total of \$1.4 million for improvements to the site. Those funds would not be paid to the Township until the project is completed. Thus far we have paid \$164,000 to consultants which included the original design and approval by the Conservation District for grading work. \$446,000 is allocated to the contractor, Wolverine Construction. That leaves \$800,000 for additional improvements. Kevin Costello reported that the fields are roughed in, there is a water connection and there could be a sewer connection. There will be electric service as part of the plan.

Mike Fox stated that when the original plans were drawn up the Community Center was not planned. Therefore, he encourages all members of the Park Board to go out and walk the Friendship Park site. Al Quasti stated that all members should get out to the Park then come to the May meeting with recommendations on site improvements. Then the Park Board would like a representative from Gilmore to come to a future meeting to discuss the options.

ADJOURNMENT

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Mike Okino. The motion passed 6-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2014, 7:30 pm at the Township Building.