



**Montgomery Township
Park & Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2010**

Heather Berkey, Dan Spinelli, Keith Johnson, Tony Ruggeri, Mark Angelone, Matt Bamford, John Chambers, Michael Fox, Kevin Costello (Public Works Director) and Sudha Suryadevara (Recreation Coordinator) were in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Tony Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the January 13th meeting were approved as submitted.

RECREATION UPDATE

- Sudha Suryadevara spoke about the spring and summer recreation news as well as, upcoming recreation events.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Kevin Costello stated that the Public Works Department purchased infield mix and soil mix.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Beth Staab inquired about a pool partnership for Montgomery Township residents with Hatfield Township and Lansdale Borough.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Kevin Costello stated that he would have the specs together for a shade structure at Whistlestop Park.
- Tony Ruggeri inquired about the status of Whistlestop Park. Kevin Costello stated that the permits are in place and negotiations are currently in progress.
- Kevin Costello updated the Park Board on Rosetwig. The baseball field will be available in the spring and the soccer field in the fall.
- Kevin Costello updated the Board on the status of the watering system for the Windlestrae baseball fields; the material cost is approximately \$2,700.00. Labor is additional.
- Tony Ruggeri asked if MTBSA volunteers could assist with the work. Kevin Costello explained that the utilities would be a challenge.

NEW BUSINESS

FRIENDSHIP PARK PLAN PREVIEW

- Kevin Costello stated that the Board of Supervisors want the Park Board's input on the final plans for Friendship Park. Michael Fox explained that the plan was approved by the Park Board about a year ago and that John Chambers would create a final design and apply for the DEP permits.

John Chambers stated that the plan is ready for the permit process, pending the Park Board's approval.

- John Chambers explained that the current plan consists of a tot-lot, amphitheater with a stage, bocce court, putting green, slow pitch softball, all purpose fields and 55-60 parking spaces. He clarified that the funding would be coming from the Cutler Group, as homes are sold, for a total of \$1.1 million. This includes lighting and landscaping.
- John Chambers further stated that the softball field would not be lighted; the parking lot and certain parts of the trail would be lit. Dan Spinelli asked why the softball fields weren't lit. Michael Fox explained that the lights would cost over \$150,000.00.
- Dan Spinelli stated that the putting green would be too expensive to maintain. John Chambers explained that it is a synthetic material. Tony Ruggeri expressed the concern of kids hitting balls into the parking lot and amphitheater as well as, chipping issues. Michael Fox stated that synthetic materials would attract vandals and would require a different maintenance skill set.
- Dan Spinelli stated that the basketball courts would bring kids to the park. Kevin Costello suggested two, side by side courts.
- Tony Ruggeri stated that the Park Board would meet before the next meeting to make final decisions regarding the plan.

USHER LANE

- Kevin Costello explained that Usher Lane (an extension of the Horvath Tract) is land that was acquired by the Township with the assistance of the Montgomery County Lands Trust. The acquired land can only be used for passive recreation. Kevin Costello stated that the residents of Usher Lane want the turnaround area to be finished and the Shade Tree Committee would plant trees, shrubs and at some point a connecting trail.

OLD BUSINESS

FIELD USAGE POLICY REVIEW

- Tony Ruggeri stated that the Township needs a Tournament Play Policy and notification method to eliminate last season's issues. He recommended an October 30th deadline for tournament play.
- Michael Fox stated that league play is not a problem but, tournament play in November is an issue.
- Tony Ruggeri stated that the Park Board would work on the Tournament Policy for approval at the next meeting.

PARK COMP PLAN REVIEW

- Kevin Costello explained that the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 1999. He also stated that the Township is moving forward and that the Park Board would be involved.

ADJOURNMENT

Tony Ruggeri adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Building.