



**Montgomery Township
Park & Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2010**

Leesa Meade, Heather Berkey, Keith Johnson, Tony Ruggieri, Mark Angelone, Michael Fox, Kevin Costello, (Public Works Director), Matt Shelly and Beth Pilling (Montgomery County Planning Commission), and Shirley Snyder were in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Leesa Meade called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the September 8, 2010 meeting were approved with one change: Pete Chimera was the Township Resident who spoke on behalf of Montgomery Basketball regarding Mike Brooks.

RECREATION UPDATE

- There was no recreation update at the evening meeting.
- Heather Berkey suggested that we contact Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc. to see if they would consider printing an article about Bill Maule in an upcoming issue. Shirley Snyder has the information and will discuss with the staff.
- Heather Berkey suggested putting a fountain in Friendship Park and dedicating it to Bill Maule.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dwight Wilkinson, venue manager of Montgomery Soccer commented that the Soccer Association expects to be in attendance at the Park Board meetings and would like to take a more pro-active role in field maintenance. Mr. Wilkinson noted that the Soccer Association would rather have monies spent on field maintenance and improvement, rather than on the installation of a kick wall. If a kick wall is installed, the Association would prefer it be constructed of wood, rather than masonry. Mr. Wilkinson also commented on the “no play” guidelines and closing of the soccer fields due to weather conditions. Kevin Costello stated that both he and Ray Barndt had checked the conditions of the fields the day in question and found them to be unsuitable for play. Mr. Wilkinson noted that the Soccer Association would be willing to spend some monies on landscaping of the fields. Some discussion followed on whether the Soccer Association would use outside contractors to do any of the possible improvement work to the fields. Heather Berkey inquired whether the Township would need to have a Certificate of Liability if this work were done by outside contractors. Michael Fox commented that the fields are for the use of all township residents, not just Montgomery Soccer. There was some discussion on the Zehr field that has been “shut down” for a year and is still not in good shape. Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Costello will work on a plan for maintenance of soccer fields.
- Chris Brick, Executive Director of Montgomery Soccer introduced Liz Allen, who is working on some projects and would like to make a presentation to the Park Board at a future meeting.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Kevin Costello reported that Ray Barndt had gotten quotes on the soccer wall and noted that Zehr was a good location for the wall. The anticipated cost of the wall is \$4,300.00 to \$8,000.00. It was felt that a concrete wall will ruin a soccer ball in a short time. Mr. Costello stated that a special coating would be applied to the masonry to make it a less abrasive surface. A wooden wall requires more maintenance than a masonry wall. Also, a masonry wall is a “stand alone” wall. Leesa Meade noted that this soccer wall could be used by various sports groups, not just soccer.
- Kevin Costello noted that the money to purchase and install a soccer wall comes from the capital funds, while field maintenance is from a completely separate account.
- Resident, Chuck Ziegler suggested that both approaches could be used. The wall could be made of masonry with a wood veneer application on top.
- Dug Out Covers – Kevin Costello and Ray Barndt are doing research and gathering information on providing and installing dug out covers, and possibly using volunteers to assist with the work involved.
- Whistlestop Project – Kevin Costello reported that all resources have been exhausted in obtaining a contractor to provide the fill, topsoil and the labor to improve the baseball fields. Michael Fox noted that he had been actively speaking with several contractors and no one was willing to take on this project. \$100,000.00 was budgeted in 2010 for the project. However, without the donation of fill and topsoil, the cost is expected to reach \$265,000.00 to complete this project. Tony Ruggieri made a motion to submit the Whistlestop Project for consideration on the 2011 budget and requested a budget amount of \$265,000.00 for this project. The motion was seconded by Mark Angelone. The vote was unanimous.

PARK COMP PLAN

- Beth Pilling and Matt Shelly of the Montgomery County Planning Commission provided a presentation of the Park Comprehensive Plan. The main areas addressed were: Information Gathering Phase, Plan Update Considerations, MCPC Objectives as Consultants to Montgomery Township, Balance is a Key Plan Component, Two-pronged Approach to Plan Update, Active Recreation and Community Parks, Passive Park Examples, People, Paths and Pedestrians and Project Status. Ms. Pilling noted that they are planning to make this presentation to the Volunteer Advisory Committees within the Township are looking for feedback from all involved.
- Michael Fox inquired if there were any previous Comprehensive Plans available. Kevin Costello stated that an Executive Summary of a previous plan had been provided to members of the committee. Kevin Johnson stated that it seems that the Township parks are under-utilized and wondered if the implementation of an updated Comprehensive Plan will help in this area.
- The updated Park Comprehensive Plan will be discussed at the November 10, 2010 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tony Ruggieri questioned why the fall Recreation News arrived in homes so late. Several of the programs have started before the newsletter arrived. Shirley Snyder noted that the newsletter was late in getting to homes. The Administration staff is now handling the Recreation News and at the same time, was planning and coordinating the Autumn Festival event. Michael Fox stated that the Autumn Festival Committee is made up of only two members. Tony Ruggieri suggested that staff consider using members of the Key Club or other High School groups to volunteer their time to help in getting the newsletter out on time. Shirley Snyder assured the group that future Recreation News editions will be mailed out in adequate time for residents to sign up for programs.

- Tony Ruggieri suggested that the time of the Park & Recreation Board meeting be moved to 7:00 p.m. After some discussion, it was decided the time will remain 7:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- Skate Bowl Request – Kevin Costello reported that he had spoken with Peter Erndwein from DVIT about the skate bowl. Mr. Erndwein feels that it is not a good idea, and that there would be a lot of factors involved, including engineering studies and the liability risk.
- Wiseman Tract – Keith Johnson stated that there are several out buildings on the Wiseman Tract that are about ready to fall down. Kevin Costello will check these buildings and find out what kind of condition they are in.
- Field Usage Policy – Kevin Costello reported that a draft policy has been put together and staff is working on the details. Kevin Costello also has contacted John Stroebe of NPHS to see if we could use any part of their policy regarding “no play”. Frank Bartle will also need to review this revised policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Keith Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. and was seconded by Heather Berkey. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Building.