

**Montgomery Township  
Special Park & Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2008**

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At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Bill Maule called the meeting to order. David Keightly, Larry Fiel, Keith Johnson, Leesa Meade, Barry Weinstein, Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), Pam Gural-Bear (Assistant Township Manager), John Chambers (Township Engineer) and Jeff McDonnell (Board of Supervisors' Liaison) were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**DISC GOLF SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE DISC GOLF COURSE AT WINDLESTRAE PARK:**

***Bill Maule, Park Board Chairman***

A great big thank you goes out to Chuck Ziegler who has worked tirelessly on mapping out the potential alternative disc golf courses in order to reach a compromise that would be acceptable to the majority of residents with minimal environmental impact.

***Chuck Ziegler, Disc Golf Subcommittee***

Mr. Ziegler summarized the findings of the Disc Golf Subcommittee and presented their alternative course design. (Please see the attached design – Exhibit #1) Key highlights include:

- 18 hole course with 3 practice holes (accessible from the Zehr fields)
- Removes holes one through five from the woods and relocates them to the Wiseman tract.
- Official length is 4905 feet and the unofficial length is 5900 feet.
- Monitor course for any environmental damage on an on-going basis
  - Maintain a photographic record of the course
- No tournaments to be permitted that allow money or prizes to be won or awarded.
- 3 holes in the wooded area – ground still dry even with recent rain
- Some holes were reversed in order to add to the flow of the course
- Additional trail to be added from hole #1 to the Wiseman tract

- Tee #11 – to the left of the bridge; basket #1 to end to the right of the bridge for better traffic flow
- Narrow portion of the wetlands will have a bridge built by the Boy Scouts
- Par ratings of the course keep it within the amateur to average player instead of the championship level

Further discussion ensued over the collaborative effort of the subcommittee to work with the Park Board in order to find a viable solution to the many concerns regarding the existing disc golf course.

Larry Caldwell, member of the Disc Golf Course Subcommittee, raised his concerns that a vote was not

taken regarding the proposed alternative course and that the pro disc golfers were not consulted on the new alternative design.

Pete Stewart, Cub Scout Troop 399 Leader, stated that the course was wet and that the majority of the

damage in the area is the result of those who ride bicycles and leave trash behind instead of from disc golfers. He believes that the original course is a very viable course.

Jerry Coleman reviewed his four options to the existing disc golf course design as outlined in his letter dated March 28, 2008 (see attached).

Larry Caldwell stated that the proposed Catwalk Trail is in an area that is underwater during the rainy periods of the year.

It was decided to remove the three practice holes from the proposed alternative course design. Safety

issues were raised regarding the holes along the sewer easement. A suggestion was made to eliminate

the tee boxes which was quickly dismissed due to possible slipping and sliding that could occur which

would cause injuries as well as environmental damage.

Dave Keightly raised the issue that it seems that the proposed alternative course designs were patches to

an overall great disc golf course design which would discourage people from playing the course. Neil

McDevitt further addressed the issue that the course was designed and approved following all the correct procedures a year ago.

Mr. Ward asked how long it would take a hole to be returned to nature if removed. His point was to

monitor the course and if after the agreed upon time, the damage was too great, then return the course

to nature and eliminate it. If there is no environmental impact after the agreed upon time, then add additional holes.

Bill Maule stated that the Pennsylvania State Department of Forestry toured the wooded areas of the

Township's Parks and made a preliminary recommendation to remove the invasive plants and some trees

in order to better manage the wooded areas. Funding is available through the State to further manage

and promote the growth of the wooded areas. It was brought up that the disc golfers would assist in the

management of the wooded areas along with the care of the course. However, by dumbing down the

course, the disc golfers would not be drawn to the park and therefore a community of disc golfers would

not necessarily be created in the Township.

John Chambers, Township engineer, commented that no permits were required by outside agencies. Del

Val Soils confirmed that no permits were required. Initially, no environmental assessments were

completed. When asked what environmental impacts are possible with the disc golf course? John

Chambers replied that it is a balance that must be achieved between the negative environmental impacts

and the positive recreational impacts of disc golf. For example, when people drive to the park to walk

or play (positive experience); they also drive their cars which eat fuel to arrive at the final destination  
(negative impact).

Further discussion ensued over the proximity of the placement of the various holes.

Larry Fiel stated that the Park Board's goal is to serve the public by keeping all of the Township residents' best interests in mind and to listen to all when making recommendations to better the community. There are three concerns to be addressed when proposing an alternative disc golf course:

1. environmental impact of the course
2. financial costs of moving holes
3. safety which there is no compromise

Kevin Costello, Public Works Director, suggested that the 9 hole course design by Ray Barndt and staff was a better compromise in order to address the majority of concerns. However, the Park Board stated that the course was voted down by all at a previous meeting.

#### ***Alternative Disc Golf Course (2-5-08) (see Exhibit 2) Recommendation***

The first alternative disc golf course proposed by the subcommittee was resurrected as a preferable alternative design. Leesa Meade suggested that holes one through three be relocated to the left hand side of the existing walking trail in order to remove them from the existing wooded area. It was pointed out that this area was soft and usually very wet. Further discussion ensued resulting in a compromise of the first three holes to be relocated to the existing walking trail and constructing a new walking trail to the right of the existing one.

Leesa Meade made the motion to recommend the Proposed Alternative Disc Golf Course dated 2-5-08 to the Board of Supervisors with the following exceptions:

- Holes one through three moved to existing trail
- New walking trail constructed to the right of the existing one
- Boy Scout Troop 399 to volunteer to construct the trail adjacent to holes one through three under the supervision of the Public Works Department
- Subcommittee to reconvene on Saturday, April 5 to relocate holes one through three and to measure the course
- The course will not exceed 5400 feet in length

- Chuck Ziegler will map the course which will be reviewed and voted upon by the Park Board to at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The recommendation will then be made to the Board of Supervisors at their April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bill Maule seconded the motion. All Park Board members voted in favor of this recommendation.

### ***Additional New Business***

#### ***Bark Park***

The addition to the Bark Park for smaller dogs is presently under construction. It was suggested that new signage be posted stating that only small dogs under a certain weight are allowed in the new section.

#### ***Park Tour***

To be discussed and scheduled at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman Maule adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

*The next Park and Recreation Board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 9th at 8 p.m. at the Township Building.*