

**Montgomery Township
Park & Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for July 9, 2008**



At 8:05p.m. Chairman Bill Maule called the meeting to order. David Keightly, Larry Fiel, Keith Johnson, Leesa Meade, Barry Weinstein, Kevin Costello (Public Works Director) and Jeff McDonnell (Board of Supervisors liaison) were present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The Minutes from both the May 14th and June 11th meetings were approved as submitted. (The May 14th Minutes were not considered for approval at the June 11th meeting, as a quorum was not present.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynn Caldwell (Disc Golf Publicity)

Ms. Caldwell asked the Park Board if it was planning to discuss the publicity of the Disc Golf course at Windlestrae Park. Chairman Maule said that it will be discussed during “New Business.”

Alden Zove (Nature of Disc Gold Course Improvements)

Mr. Zove asked if the New Business Agenda item, “Suggested Improvements for Disc Golf Course” included physical or just general improvements. Chairman Maule replied that both types of improvements would be discussed.

Chuck Ziegler (Pedestrian Safety, Rose Twig Entrance at Windlestrae)

Mr. Ziegler asked for an update regarding the possible placement of a bollard across the access road off of the Rose Twig entrance at Windlestrae (near the pump station). Mr. Costello explained that the township Police Department did not recommend an access road bollard and that a possible solution could be to put one in the park, near the fenced area. Discussion ensued regarding how traffic can be slowed with regard to pedestrian safety. Mr. Johnson suggested signage, and Mr. Costello replied that a yellow “Watch Children” sign could be erected on the driveway. The Park Board recommended installation and Mr. Costello will follow through with the request.

OLD BUSINESS

Forestry Study

Mr. Costello mentioned that the township is still awaiting the \$250 grant check from Prudential Real Estate (an award that Chairman Maule was awarded). Since the total cost of the study is between \$300 and \$600, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) would have to approve the additional expenditure. The study would then commence and its results would yield a course of action.

Project Facility Assessment

Mr. Ziegler asked the Park Board to review a self-drafted document that outlines the steps and processes that should be considered for any given project. The scope of this document provides a comprehensive set of project steps that can be essential when proposing a project to the Board of Supervisors and when informing the at-large public. Mr. Ziegler suggested that this document be used as a test case with an existing project, specifically the refreshment stand at the baseball field. Chairman Maule said that he had requested a similar "process document" from the township in order to assess how things are currently done, but has yet to receive it. Discussion on some of the specific points of Mr. Zeigler's document ensued, including the use of the internet as a viable research medium.

Chairman Maule explained that said document is a guide and that the assumption is that the outlined steps are already being performed by the township staff – although confirmation will come when the existing document is furnished and reviewed. Mr. Ziegler then stated that public tension surrounding the execution of a given project can be alleviated if the process document is made public. Ms. Meade added that we need to be more diligent in notifying the public when projects are being undertaken.

Further discussion took place regarding public notification as well as the public's responsibility to read and assess said notification.

Ms. Caldwell requested that both the Park Board meeting Minutes and Agenda be placed on the township website, akin to that of the Board of Supervisors. Discussion ensued regarding the placement of all board and committee minutes/agendas on the website. Website navigation and the need to quickly locate desired items were also discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Suggested Improvements to the Disc Golf Course

Mr. Keightly asked for a discussion of his letter of July 7, 2008, in which he outlined an "Adopt a Hole" initiative which would create stewardship and leverage the good will of concerned disc golfers to ensure the sustained viability of the disc golf course – as well as the surrounding in-park areas. With 4–5 already pledged adopters, a commitment from Pete Stewart and his Boy Scout Troop and the use of citizens who are mandated to perform community services, removal of course debris and the destruction of invasive plants and ivy poison could immediately commence.

Mr. Costello suggested the creation of a "master improvement list" in order to better prioritize tasks and designate resources. He also mentioned that a completed release form is required from all volunteers prior to any work being done. Mr. Keightly suggested naming a volunteer coordinator, who would work with Park Forman, Ray Barndt. Mr. Zove was concerned about using volunteers rather than trained personnel to create an improvement list, especially with regard to which plants should be removed and which should remain and where the removal/retention is best suited for the park. Ms. Barbara Vesay showed pictures

of the current course and explained the need to clear out many of the holes – especially to allow a path that is at least wide enough for two people to walk.

Mr. Zove asked what the process is to create a “Friends of [Montgomery Township Park]” group. Chairman Maule said that all interested parties should organize, come to a Park Board meeting and then seek approval from the BOS.

Discussion ensued regarding a lead volunteer coordinator who would work with Mr. Barndt regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the disc golf course. Mr. Larry Caldwell volunteered.

Mr. Keightly proposed that the Park board adopt the proposal that he had put forth in his aforementioned letter of July 7, 2008 and that Mr. Caldwell be appointed “lead volunteer.” The proposal was accepted by the Park board and was approved by a vote of 6–0.

Mr. Caldwell asked the Park Board to consider the addition of two “introductory” disc golf baskets that could be placed near the flag pole area at the Zehr tract. Said baskets will allow new-comers to practice and better understand disc golf prior to actually playing. He also requested that a new path be created at the “old” 10th hole to better facilitate crossing the stream and that eight “Next Tee” signs and a “Hole 1” sign be erected for better course navigation. Ms. Meade suggested the creation of a course map that can be placed on the township website and inside a kiosk near the course.

Chairman Maule asked the Park Board if it should go to the BOS and ask approval for the introductory baskets: one at Windlestrae and one at Zehr. Discussion commenced. Ms. Meade said that the timing wasn't right to ask for new holes, albeit practice ones. Mr. Fiel explained that these holes are without length and defined structure and accordingly shouldn't go against the Board of Supervisors wishes for a nine-hole playing course. He also said that practice holes would be a great way to introduce disc golf to those who may otherwise not attempt to play, that it would be a good draw for young children, and that the BOS may be receptive to this minor addition – especially with regard to all the volunteer work and stewardship that has been coordinated and planned. While Mr. Keightly agreed, Mr. Weinstein said that he would prefer to wait until the volunteer work was actually performed before asking the BOS to consider course add-ons. And Mr. Johnson and Chairman Maule both expressed their desire to wait until the planned improvements are completed as well. Chairman Maule then called for a vote and it was defeated with four “Nays” (Maule, Meade, Weinstein & Johnson) and two “Ayes” (Fiel, Keightly).

Discussion then took place regarding the promotion of the disc golf course on the township website and other websites, including that of the USDGA. Talk also surrounded the legality of censorship and the right of free speech as it pertains to publicizing a township-owned course on a non-township website.

Ms. Vesay suggested holding a disc golf “Instructional Day” in which disc golf can be taught. Ms. Meade mentioned having an instructional area at the Autumn Festival.

OTHER BUSINESS

Water Fountain at Windlestrae

The water fountain by the pavilion is apparently non-functional. Mr. Costello's crew will investigate and resolve.

Kiosk at Windlestrae

The kiosk still contains signage from last year's Autumn Festival. Mr. Costello's crew will remove.

Foxes at the Upper Tot Lot at Windlestrae?

Ms. Meade reported that some park-goers were apparently feeding baby foxes near the upper tot lot. She encouraged those who either observe this behavior or encounter a fox to call the township police. Mr. Costello's crew will investigate further.

There being no further business, Chairman Maule adjourned the meeting at 10:25 PM.

The next Park and Recreation Board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 13 at 8:00 PM at the Township Building.