

**Montgomery Township**  
**Park and Recreation Board**  
**Minutes of Meeting for January 10, 2007**

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Chairman Bill Maule called the meeting to order at 8:04p.m. Jerry Glackin, Leesa Meade, Heather Berkey, Larry Fiel, Barry Weinstein, David Keightly, Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), Bob Witmer (Board of Supervisor Liaison), Pam Gural-Bear (Assistant Township Manager), and Evelyn DiFeo (Recreation Coordinator) were present.

**Reorganization**

After Chairman Maule called the meeting to order, he turned the Reorganization meeting over to Mr. Glackin. Mr. Glackin asked if anyone wanted to nominate a Chairman for the year 2007. Mr. Keightly nominated Mr. Bill Maule and Mr. Weinstein seconded the nomination. Mr. Keightly then motioned to approve and Mr. Fiel seconded the motion.

After Mr. Maule's nomination was motioned and seconded, Mr. Glackin turned the meeting over to him as Chairman. Chairman Maule then requested nominations for Vice-Chairman. David Keightly nominated Mr. Barry Weinstein and Mr. Fiel seconded the nomination. Mr. Keightly motioned to accept and Mr. Fiel seconded the motion.

Chairman Maule then asked for a nomination for Secretary. Mr. Fiel nominated himself and Mr. Keightly seconded the nomination. Mr. Weinstein motioned to accept and Mr. Keightly seconded the motion.

After the reorganization meeting, Chairman Maule called the regular meeting to order at 8:12p.m.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

The first item of discussion was the acceptance of the minutes from December's meeting.

Mr. Glackin requested that the minutes be changes to clarify that his (Mr. Glackin's) term had expired and he had opted not to renew.

Chairman Maule asked if the Park and Recreation Board had previously discussed what to charge the men's softball leagues. Ms. DiFeo and Ms. Gural-Bear said no, but Ms. DiFeo explained that she, Mr. Costello, Ms. Gural-Bear, and the Finance Department would have to get together to discuss how to charge.

Chairman Maule requested that the text on the third page of the minutes should be changed from "will" to "could" with regard to the Open Space Funds Montgomery County will be providing the Township.

After all of the amendments were requested, Mr. Glackin motioned the minutes be approved and Mr. Weinstein seconded the motion.

### **Open Space**

While reading a prioritized list of parcels that the Open Space committee should consider acquiring over the next few years, Chairman Maule spoke about the need and merits of open space acquisition. Chairman Maule mentioned that the Grotzinger property is for sale, with an asking price of \$1.75 million. Chairman Maule then suggested to Mr. Witmer that the Township should consider acquiring this property for open space.

## **Correspondence**

The Park and Recreation Board reviewed the correspondence, which encompassed the monthly reports for both the Community Services Office and the Parks Department in Public Works.

Chairman Maule told Mr. Costello that the gate to the roller hockey rink at Spring Valley Park is damaged. Mr. Costello said he would have the Parks Department repair it.

Ms. Meade said she noticed a rotting bench on one of the picnic tables at the upper tot lot at Spring Valley Park. Mr. Costello said that the Parks Department will inspect it.

Chairman Maule asked Mr. Costello if an officer from the police department could go out to Spring Valley Park between the hours of 3p.m. and 5p.m., as there are people parking their vehicles on the grass in front of the pavilion. Mr. Costello said that he and the Park Foreman also noticed the cars parked on the grass and that he would have a police officer advise these people that they are not allowed to park on the grass.

## **Old Business: Capital Projects**

Mr. Costello updated the Park and Recreation Board on the capital projects.

*Disc Golf:* Mr. Costello said that Mr. Duesler contacted him and he has set up a meeting for January 22. The meeting attendees will include Mr. Duesler, Mr. Chambers (the Township Engineer), Ray Barndt (Park Foreman), and Mr. Costello. The purpose is to look at the specifications and pricing of the Disc Golf project. Mr. Costello said after that meeting he will make a recommendation for approval at a Board of Supervisors meeting and once that has been completed, Mr. Chambers can move forward with the project.

*Back section of Rose Twig:* Mr. Costello said that there will be a pre-construction meeting with P. K. Moyer at the end of January regarding the back section of Rose Twig at Windlestrae Park. Mr. Costello is hoping that this project can begin over the winter. Mr. Chambers will be preparing the bids for the backstop, fencing,

etc. Mr. Costello asked Mr. Hagmeier and Mr. Ruggieri how they would like fence to line up with the back stop. He asked them to think about it and let him know at the February meeting.

#### **Old Business: Mission Statement**

Ms. Gural-Bear said that the bylaws were being updated to include the newly approved mission statement. Added within the "Purpose" section, the updated bylaws will be available for review at the February meeting.

#### **New Business: Bark Park**

Mr. Keightly said he spoke with Karen Rex, the wife of Officer John McGready, who asked if the Park and Recreation Board would consider adding a section strictly for small dogs. Chairman Maule suggested that a fence could be added to the back portion of the park to facilitate use by small dogs. Mr. Costello said he would check the prices for additional fencing and inform the Park and Recreation Board at the February meeting. Ms. Berkey asked whether use of the small dog section will be mandatory or voluntary, and Chairman Maule explained that it would be voluntary.

Chairman Maule said the Bark Park's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on June 22, and he and Ms. Berkey suggested a five-year anniversary celebration.

Ms. Berkey mentioned that she has been reviewing the "Bark Park Friends" Website and noticed that a few dogs apparently sustained minor injuries while at the park.

Ms. Berkey also said that a few people have reported seeing small pieces of glass and metal, as well as what appears to be an object(s) protruding from the ground toward the rear of the park.

Mr. Costello said that Ms. DiFeo had emailed him about this matter and that Mr. Barndt had inspected the park but has not found any glass, metal, or potentially hazardous protruding objects.

#### **New Business: Survey**

Ms. Meade asked if the soon-to-be-published Park and Recreation Survey could contain a space for people to enter their email addresses, such that they can be sent periodic updates regarding the Township's recreational programs.

#### **New Business: Tot Lot Equipment at Spring Valley**

Ms. Meade asked Mr. Costello if he had reviewed the situation concerning the spacing of the "bridge" on the tot lot equipment at Spring Valley Park. Mr. Costello explained that all the tot lot equipment has been labeled with consumer recommendations. Ms. Meade asked the Park and Recreation Board to consider adding some equipment for younger children at the tot lot, akin to the facilities at Oxford Park in Lower Gwynedd.

#### **New Business: Preschool Programs**

Ms. Meade asked if Ms. DiFeo would consider adding more preschool programs to the Parks and Recreation schedule and could if they could be scheduled in the morning to better coincide with afternoon "naptime." Ms. Guarl-Bear explained that Ms. DiFeo is working to schedule more programs and that she has currently scheduled a KidzArt program for preschoolers. Currently the Township is limited to use of facilities for these programs.

#### **New Business: Disc Golf**

Ms. Gural-Bear distributed a newspaper article regarding Upper Merion's Disc Golf course and the issues they faced along the way.

#### **New Business: Cameo Driving School**

Mr. Weinstein said that Cameo Driving School was apparently cutting short the time allotted for both the “driving theory” and “driving lessons” courses. Ms. DiFeo said she would speak to Mr. Roth, the owner of the Cameo Driving School.

**New Business: Locking of Park Bathrooms during Jan/Feb**

Mr. Costello asked the Park and Recreation Board members if they would be interested in locking the park bathrooms during the months of January and February. The members discussed and agreed that the bathrooms should be closed during those months since the park is not being used to its full capacity.

**New Business: Lights in Spring Valley Park**

Mr. Costello asked the Park and Recreation Board if he could change the timer on the lights in Spring Valley Park to go off at 8p.m. during the winter months. The members discussed and agreed that the lights should go off by 8p.m. since the park is not being used to its full capacity.

**New Business: Meeting Reschedule**

Ms. DiFeo asked the Park and Recreation Board members if they could reschedule the February 14<sup>th</sup> Park and Recreation Board meeting. The members discussed and agreed that they would meet on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 8p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Maule adjourned the meeting at 9:15p.m.

*The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 8p.m. at the Montgomery Township Building.*