

**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Minutes of Meeting for March 14, 2007**



Chairman Bill Maule called the meeting to order at 8:13p.m. Keith Johnson (New Park and Recreation Board member), David Keightly, Barry Weinstein, Heather Berkey, Larry Fiel, Leesa Meade, Bob Witmer (Board of Supervisor Liaison), Bob Kuhn (Board of Supervisors), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), Pam Gural-Bear (Assistant Township Manager) and Evelyn DiFeo (Recreation Coordinator) were present.

Welcome Keith Johnson

Chairman Maule and the Park and Recreation Board members welcomed Keith Johnson to the Park and Recreation Board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment: Invasive Plants Discussion

Mr. Keightly said that he met with Cheryl Zybinski (from the Environmental Advisory Committee) at Windlestrae Park to review locations for removing invasive plants. Ms. Zybinski said that they discovered numerous areas where invasive plants could be removed in order to better sustain the ecosystem as well as to increase availability for passive and active recreation. Mr. Keightly said that Ms. Zybinski and he agreed that the first project should be to remove the vines and plants around the pond and creek banks. Ms. Zybinski explained that the Invasive Plant “committee” needs to put together a plan for plant removal throughout the park and for replacing them with noninvasive plants. She continued to explain that Horsham Township has done a similar project at Kohler Park and they worked with Nancy Minnick. There are other people the Township can contact, including David Brother or Anterplogen. Mr. Keightly said that he and Ms. Zybinski agreed on some of the issues and disagreed on others. Ms Zybinski said that the Township can create a riparian buffer along the creek.

Chairman Maule asked who decides what is an invasive plant and what is not. Ms. Zybinski explained that the DEP has a list of plants that are considered invasive. Chairman Maule asked if the plants could be identified before they are removed from the

park. Mr. Keightly showed pictures of White's Road Park as an example for what he would like the creek area to look like in Windlestrae Park. Chairman Maule asked if removing all these plants around the creek would create a flooding issue. Ms. Gural-Bear suggested that Boucher & James, the Township's landscape engineering firm, or John Chambers, the Township Engineer, review the matter. Chairman Maule suggested filling in the pond at Windlestrae since it is man-made. Cheryl asked if the prior landscape architect's plan was still being used. Chairman Maule said he did not think so since the plan was over twenty years old. Ms. Zybinski said that the old landscape architect did not address the ecology issue of the plants. Ms. Berkey asked if making these changes to the creek would have to be approved by the DEP. Chairman Maule asked Ms. Gural-Bear to invite John Chambers to the April Park and Recreation Board meeting to discuss the matter further. Chairman Maule said the Township has owned the park since 1984 and has not cleaned the silt out of the pond. Mr. Keightly explained that he could have community service people come to the Township to work on removing the vines and plants around the pond and the creek. Mr. Keightly asked that the site be reviewed during the Park and Recreation Board's upcoming Park Tour.

Memorial Park

Ms. Berkey asked if Memorial Park had been approved. Mr. Witmer explained that the Memorial Park had been approved and the Township recently accepted bids for Phase I and Phase II. The bids are currently being reviewed and should be awarded at a future Board of Supervisors Action Meeting.

Review of Correspondence

The Park and Recreation Board reviewed the monthly reports for the Parks Department and the Community Services Office.

MMR Using the Baseball Fields at Windlestrae Park

Ms. DiFeo mentioned that Mr. Barndt had contacted her regarding Mary, Mother of the Redeemer using the baseball fields at Windlestrae Park. Mr. Ruggieri, a representative from MTBSA, said that MTBSA gave MMR permission to use the fields. Ms. DiFeo explained that MMR needs to contact the Township and complete a permit in order to use the fields. Mr. Ruggieri said he would pass that message on.

Spring Valley Park and Windlestrae Park Bathrooms

Ms. Meade asked if the bathrooms at Spring Valley Park and Windlestrae Park were still closed. Mr. Costello said yes, but they were *still* vandalized.

Radio Disney

Mr. Keightly asked Ms. DiFeo what was "Radio Disney." Ms. DiFeo explained that Radio Disney had approached the Township about providing entertainment at the Autumn Festival. Ms. DiFeo continued to explain that Radio Disney would charge the Township \$6000 to be involved, but would help generate sponsors to pay for the cost.

Cancelled Programs

Mr. Fiel expressed the concern of programs being cancelled. With regard to KidzArt, Ms. Gural-Bear explained that it is a new program and it was offered in the winter. Ms. Gural-Bear explained that KidzArt was being featured at the Winter Family Follies so the residents would be able to learn about the program for the future. Mr. Keightly said he had mentioned about working with the other Townships for programs. Ms. DiFeo explained that she has a trip planned with Lower Gwynedd and that the North Penn Recreation Consortium has discussed coordinating trips together to help defray the costs. Ms. DiFeo explained that program location is an issue with inter-Township programs, as some people do not want to travel out of their Township for a program. Ms. DiFeo also pointed out that the Board of Supervisors charges a resident fee and a nonresident fee. Mr. Witmer said that the Board of Supervisors would consider waiving the nonresident fee if she worked with other Township's. Ms. Gural-Bear explained to Mr. Witmer that in the previous Township she had worked, the Township charged a general fee for their programs instead of breaking it down between resident and nonresident, as it helped eliminate the

administrative paperwork. Mr. Witmer suggested to Ms. Gural-Bear to present that issue to the Board of Supervisors at a future meeting. Mr. Fiel suggested that the Townships could take turns hosting events in order to accommodate all participants.

Full Day Summer Camp

Ms. Gural-Bear told the Park and Recreation Board that the Township will be hosting its first full day camp at Montgomery Elementary school. She continued to explain that she has also asked the school district about hosting after school programs at Montgomery Elementary as well. Ms. Gural-Bear said that the Township has started to work with the schools for ideas concerning after school programs on early dismissal days. The Park and Recreation Board seemed very pleased with Ms. Gural-Bear's announcement.

Capital Projects

Disc Golf Course

Mr. Costello explained that the project is currently in Mr. Duesler's hands. Mr. Costello continued to say that Mr. Chambers, Mr. Duesler and he are designing the course on paper so that the Board of Supervisors can review what it will look like. Once the design has been presented to the Board of Supervisors, the project will go out to bid. Mr. Costello said he should have the design to present to the Park and Recreation Board at the April meeting.

Back section of Rose Twig

Mr. Costello explained that the project has been put on hold because the Township is awaiting permits from the DEP. They are particularly waiting for the ENS permit for the ground disturbance.

Bark Park Fence Pricing

Mr. Costello said the material cost to fence the back part of the Bark Park is \$5,500. The front entrance of the park will still continue to be for the large dogs and a separate entrance will be built when the new fence is erected for the small dogs. Mr. Costello said the erecting of the fence can be done in-house. Ms. Berkey asked if the addition to the park will be completed by the five year anniversary of the Bark Park. Mr. Costello said yes it should be done. Ms. Berkey said it would be a good idea to have the grand opening of the new section at the five year anniversary celebration. Chairman Maule agreed.

Batting Cages

Chairman Maule asked Mr. Hagmeier if he had spoken to Mr. Barndt regarding the batting cages. Mr. Hagmeier said he has not yet had a chance to contact Mr. Barndt, but will do so in the near future.

Chairman Maule asked Mr. Costello if the flag poles had been installed. Mr. Costello explained that the ground has been too frozen to do that.

Marketing Recreation Programs

Ms. Meade asked if the Township planned to install kiosks in the parks and should consider placing the Recreation Newsletters in them for the residents to review. Ms. Gural-Bear suggested giving out the newsletters at the parks. She also suggested the Park and Recreation Board give them out to residents. Ms. Meade would like to start an email list so that emails could be made to residents about the programs that are up and coming. Ms. Meade asked Mr. Vesay if the Township could add to their registration form a request asking if Montgomery Township could contact them by email with program information. Mr. Vesay said that could be added to their registration forms. Mr. Ruggieri suggested giving the Township newsletters out at baseball events; such as their "picture day" in May. Ms. Berkey suggested the Township install suggestion boxes at the parks. Chairman Maule suggested the Township use the old Windlestrae House to conduct programs, but vandalism is a concern.

Schedule Annual Park Tour

Chairman Maule asked the Park and Recreation Board when they would like to take the annual Park Tour. After discussion, the Park and Recreation Board agreed that the tour will be on Saturday, April 21st at 8a.m.

PRPS Election Letter

Chairman Maule asked the Park and Recreation Board members to consider voting, as one of the candidates is a local resident.

Bark Park Five Year Celebration

Ms. Berkey asked the Park and Recreation Board what they would like to do for the five year celebration. Chairman Maule suggested an event similar to the one that was done five years ago to celebrate the park's grand opening. Ms. Berkey said that she would start approaching businesses for donations, giveaways and/or sponsorship.

Request to Open Park Bathrooms

Mr. Costello asked the Park and Recreation Board about opening the bathrooms that were closed for the winter. The Park and Recreation Board said yes.

Reset the Lights Timer at Parks

Mr. Costello asked the Park and Recreation Board if he could have the Township staff reset the light timers to go off at 10p.m., as residents are beginning to use the facilities now that Daylight Savings Time has arrived. The Park and Recreation Board said yes.

Kenas Road Field 1

Mr. Costello said that Kenas Road Field 1 is currently closed and being worked on.

Shoot for the Cure Tournament/Ukrainian Nationals Tournament

Ms. DiFeo said that the Shoot for the Cure event staff have changed their request to use only the fields at the Zehr section of Windlestrae Park. Ms. DiFeo also explained that the Ukrainian Nationals are asking for the use of the Kenas Road fields at Windlestrae Park.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Maule adjourned the meeting at 10:18p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11th at 8p.m. at the Montgomery Township Building.