



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for July 13th, 2022**

DRAFT

The July 2022 monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on Wednesday, July 13th, 2022 within the Community Recreation Center (CRC). The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Linda Brooks, Angelo Grasso, Kim Greene, Heather Pelletier, and Jeremy Dombroski. Also, in attendance were; Candyce Fluehr Chimera, Board Liaison and Floyd S. Shaffer, Community and Recreation Center Director.

July 13th, 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Linda Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. The proceedings began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board was informed that Scott Fontaine has tendered is his resignation from the Parks and Recreation Board effective today July 13th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Linda Brooks and a second by Heather Pelletier, the meeting minutes of Wednesday July 13th were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Merle Wexler (808 Kennedy Drive, 19454) initiated a discussion regarding the Friendship Park pickle ball courts. The specific concerns relayed from Ms. Wexler and the audience to the Board included:

- 1) Need for more than two courts within Friendship Park.
- 2) Space is limited on the two courts when private lessons are being conducted.
- 3) Signs of vandalism are appearing on the playing surface, nets, and poles,
- 4) Cracks are visible on the new courts.
- 5) Park appears to be prioritized to children and families.
- 6) The pickle ball courts need to have lighting to increase access especially by seniors.
- 7) Suggestion to lock the courts in the evening until early morning.

Charles Vesay, Montgomery Township resident, and Chair of the Township Senior Committee introduced himself to the Committee. He was accompanied by Senior Committee member Don Riley. He indicated that the Committee has been revamped and repurposed. Mr. Vesay indicated that the Committee now meets every month. He stated that a goal of the group is to get seniors more active and STAY active.

During the conversation Park Board member Angelo Grasso mentioned that having a senior member on the Parks and Recreation Board. He felt would be a good first step in improving communication efforts inform all seniors about township park activities.

Sue Baron, 714 Kennedy Drive, 19454 was unable to attend the July meeting. She provided the Committee with a number of photos of an ongoing water drainage issue within Friendship Park. Mr. Shaffer and Public Works Director Greg Reiff discussed the problem and possible solutions. The initial “fix” will be to extend a drainage swale further in hopes of capturing the run off and redirecting it away from the walking/jogging trail.

PARKS ACTIVITY

The following topics were discussed with regards to issues/concerns in Montgomery Township parks by the committee:

1) Lynne Reamer provide Chair Meehan with a list of goals/improvement projects for various parks and open spaces; a) Consider extending the power line tail to the Horsham Township boarder to Hartman Road. b) Construct a new small permanent snack stand at Windlestrae. c) Provide accessible access areas to the *Windlestrae* woods. Perhaps build a boardwalk type path could accommodate wheelchairs. d) Connect Zehr field to Rose Twig field with a well-defined walking path. e) Whistle Stop should have a small permanently constructed bathroom and more defined paths to the softball fields. F) Consider additional bocce courts at *Friendship Park*.

2) Mary Beth Meehan also offered the following suggestions; a) *Whistle Stop* picnic tables and benches need to be replaced. Playground needs upgrade as does volleyball area. b) *Memorial Grove* entrance needs upgrade, paving of parking lot, and removal of metal signs if possible. All parks should be considered for permanent pickle ball courts throughout the Township.

3) Linda Brooks initiated a discussion regarding the continuing efforts to preserve the natural forest areas within at Windlestrae. A suggestion by Board liaison, Candyce Fluehr Chimera to schedule a joint meeting between the Parks Board, Environmental Action Committee (EAC), and Shade Tree Committee was well received. Each volunteer group possesses varied expertise that would be beneficial in making positive steps in preserving the unique ecosystem found in Windlestrae Park.

4) Heather Pelletier - spoke regarding the lack of usage of various athletic fields within Spring Valley Park. A dialogue ensued about “repurposing the use of the various areas. Outdoor movies and a summer concert venue were mentioned.

5) Jeremy Dombroski - discussed the lack of usage of the street hockey court at Whispering Pines Park. The street hockey court will also be considered for “repurposing by the Committee.

PARKS/PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

The committee was provided with a copy of the June Public Works/Parks Department activity report. Mr. Reiff discussed the various projects that are being worked on and the challenges of the hot weather on the grass throughout the parks.

RECREATION UPDATE

Mr. Shaffer also provided the Committee with a written report detailing the various activities conducted in and around the CRC during the month of June. Summer activity/programming is in full operation. The Community Center both inside and out (splash pad, playground, and concerts) is seeing usage that is surpassing Pre-Covid 19 numbers.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Shaffer provided updates on the bocce courts in the Township. The updated timeline is as follows:

- a) Posting of plans and specifications on PennBid – August 1st
- b) Bid opening – September 15th
- c) Bid award recommendation to Supervisors – September 22nd.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Kim Greene and a second by Mr. Dombrowski the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm. **The next meeting of Parks and Recreation Board will take place on Wednesday August 8th 2022 at 7:00PM.**

Submitted by: Floyd S. Shaffer, Community Center Director

