



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on March 9, 2011 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Tony Ruggieri, Mark Angelone, Keith Johnson, Leesa Meade, and Dan Spinelli. Also in attendance were Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), Lawrence Gegan (Township Manager), Stacy Crandell and Kate Grubb.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tony Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leesa Meade made a motion to approve the February 9, 2011 minutes and Keith Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Calhoun with Montgomery Township Baseball Softball Association (MTBSA) presented a proposal for a temporary snack stand project at the William F. Maule Park at Windlestrae. Rick Calhoun stated that MTBSA is hoping to erect a temporary snack stand in an effort to raise money for a permanent structure in the future. The structure will be 10' X 16' and will be located in front of the existing bathroom and across from the Connie Mack field. The stand will sell items such as hot dogs, pretzels, water, soda, sports drinks, candies, etc. The structure will not include food preparation, open flame or running water. The hours of operation will be as follows: on weeknights from 5pm to dusk and on game days open 1 hour prior to the first game and will close at the end of game day. Rick Calhoun also mentioned that the temporary structure may also house an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine. Additionally, MTBSA would like to include a hard-wired connection to the electrical power at the park but if not, they would use a generator to power appliances.

Tony Ruggieri and Lisa Meade addressed concerns with the AED machine potentially being exposed to the public.

Mark Angelone asked if there was any connection to soccer in a joint collaboration of the snack stand. Bob Selheimer with MUSC said that he spoke to Rick Calhoun before the meeting and that MUSC would be amenable to partner with MTBSA.

Dan Spinelli commented that MMR had almost an identical shed where they sold food out of it and it was great.

Leesa Meade questioned the need for permits when handling food? It was stated that there may be permits required from the County but not from the Township.

Mark Bates asked if it would need to be hard-wired for the storage of food and Rick Calhoun commented that MTBSA has a refrigerator in another shed where they store food.

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to accept the proposal for a temporary snack stand and Dan Spinelli seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Bob Selheimer with Montgomery United Soccer Club (MUSC) presented to the Board some concerns regarding the Township's "No Play" Field Policy. In addition, Bob Selheimer distributed a proposal with his recommendations for field maintenance. Tony Ruggieri stated that he and Kevin Costello will go over the proposal and meet with MUSC.

Chuck Ziegler stated that in the past, the Parks and Recreation Board have been very friendly to youth associations.

PARK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Beth Pilling with the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) spoke to the Board regarding the Township's Park Comprehensive Plan Update. She informed the Board that she finished up the presentations to the various Township committees and is in the process of receiving feedback and comments. Specifically from the Parks and Recreation Board, MCPC is looking for an overall assessment about the Township's park system. Beth Pilling asked the Board to go to individual parks and see how the character and role/identity of the park showcases within the community. Beth Pilling distributed and discussed a list of questions the Board may use when visiting the parks to use as a framework. Beth Pilling noted that the Board should have their assessments complete by mid-April.

Beth Pilling also distributed a list of features typically located in municipal parks, such as playgrounds, pocket parks, plazas, natural areas, education areas, etc. Larry Gregan stated that most municipalities have their park information and photos on their websites, which is a good way to research other parks.

Tony Ruggieri asked the Board if they should divide the parks among members to visit or try to schedule a large park tour. The Board concluded that they should divide the parks up where each member visits two or three parks each.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello reported that the township had the bid openings for the Whistlestop Park Project and the bids ranged from \$206,000 to \$385,000 for the total project. Kevin Costello stated that staff is still in the process of reviewing the bonds, references, and past projects of each bid applicant. Larry Gregan commented that the Township's obligation is to accept the lowest responsible bidder. The bid is scheduled to be awarded on Monday, March 14, 2011 at the Board of Supervisor's meeting. If the Board of Supervisors awards the bid on March 14, 2011, construction of the project could commence as early as April but the seeding & sodding would be held off until the fall of 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Gregan distributed a proposed fee schedule for the use of fields, specifically for non-residential use. The proposed policy states that there is no fee for residents or youth groups to reserve Township fields or facilities. Larry Gregan discussed the proposed details of the fee schedule and provided a comparison to neighboring municipalities.

Leesa Meade questioned the reciprocity of tournaments between youth associations of non-Township associations in terms of waiving the field use fee when Montgomery township teams share fields with non-Township youth associations.

Tony Ruggieri stated that in the past, Montgomery Township required 75% of a group be Township residents in order to qualify as a resident group.

Tony Ruggieri made a motion to accept the proposed Facilities and Field Use Fee Schedule and Mark Angelone seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Leesa Meade questioned if the Township would be hosting the Phillies Camp this year for 2011. Larry Gregan clarified that that the organization couldn't wait until the Board of Supervisors approved its Facilities and Field Use Policy in order to advertise their program.

Tony Ruggieri asked the Board if the Township has any recommendations to residents to help absorb excess water on private property. Larry Gregan stated that the DEP and EPA offer Best Municipal Practices (BMP) for stormwater management. Kevin Costello commented that the Penn State Montgomery County Extension Program provides a lot of information regarding rain gardens, composting, etc. that address excess water.

OLD BUSINESS

Tony Ruggieri announced that the Township did not have to raise its fees for the 2011 Kids University Summer Recreation Program nor did the Township incur any fees from the North Penn School District for 2011.

Tony Ruggieri met with a representative from the Montgomery Basketball Association (MBA) regarding the naming of the basketball courts at Spring Valley Park. The Association will be lettering the court by putting "Mike Brooks Court" around the 3-point circle. MBA will hold a ceremony at noon on Saturday, April 2, 2011 unveiling the new lettering of the court. Additionally, the MBA is looking into creating a summer basketball program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Bates made a motion for adjournment and Dan Spinelli seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.