



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on May 11, 2011 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Mark Angelone, Keith Johnson, Leesa Meade and Dan Spinelli. Also in attendance were Beth Pilling (MCPC), Matt Shelly (MCPC), Michael Fox (BOS Liaison), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), Lawrence Gregan (Township Manager), Ann Shade (Director of Administration and HR), Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator) and Kate Grubb (Management Analyst).

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Dan Spinelli called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leesa Meade made a motion to approve the April 13, 2011 minutes and Keith Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

PARK COMP PLAN – UPDATE

Matt Shelly introduced both himself and Beth Pilling from the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Matt Shelly provided the Board and overview of their presentation on the Park Comprehensive Plan. Beth Pilling stated the agenda for the evening, which consisted of the following: project information and background; discuss input process, feedback from staff, boards and committees, consultant observations and group discussion. Beth Pilling continued with her update presentation of where the Township currently was in its park comprehensive plan update.

Mark Angelone asked what the next step would be and what, if anything, would be needed from the Board. Beth Pilling stated that she would be working with staff over the next 3 months, compiling data and then come back to the Park Board to present a draft Park Comprehensive Plan. Beth commented that the overall plan would include both a broad spectrum of the park system as well as information specific to each individual park.

Leesa Meade inquired about the status of the utility line trail, which was a hot topic a few years ago, but has since slowed down. Beth Pilling stated that there was an application that the Township submitted to construct a portion of the power line trail. Additionally, Horsham Township constructed a large portion of that trail but it did not extend close to the Township property lines for a proper connection and so it created a gap. Larry Gregan added that the Township negotiated with PECO and secured a license agreement for two sections of the trail. The one piece of the trail was to be completed by David Cutler Group, which will begin this summer and the other section will be done by the Township. However, grant funding through the county isn't available and that section will be put on hold until additional resources can be obtained.

Leesa Meade loved the idea of incorporating the history of the park on a sign which would be displayed in the park. She also felt that user groups could be taking more advantage of what the Township parks have to offer instead of traveling outside of the Township. Leesa Meade also added that smaller parks could also be used for a plethora of educational programs such as birds and habitats.

Mike Fox commented that the Shade Tree Committee was to formulate a map of the heritage trees located within the Township. When the committee has completed it, the map can certainly be used for educational purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello commented that the Whistlestop Park Project is on schedule and the pre-construction meeting went well. In roughly 2-3 weeks the contractor will be bringing in the fill and by early September they will be seeding and sodding.

PARK ACTIVITY – UPDATE

Dan Spinelli commented that in the prior two weeks the “No Play” Policy had been better and questioned if the policy actually needed to be changed. Leesa Meade noted that Tony Ruggeri had sent out an email with a draft “No Play” Policy. Dan Spinelli commented that Tony Ruggeri had hoped to have an altered policy in writing in May but that he himself did not feel that the current policy was broke. Mike Fox commented that he never thought the policy was broken but rather that it served as a fail safe for making “No Play” calls on the weekends. Larry Gregan followed up that the NPSD policy allows for league notification where the leagues can then notify their respective teams/coaches which is critical over the weekends.

Chuck Ziegler commented that the Park Board did not need to rewrite the policy but rather add a cover letter with clarifications currently being discussed. Larry Gregan suggested that maybe the venue managers from both associations come in and assess the criteria for opening the fields when a “No Play” has been issued. Larry Gregan also cited that the Township also has an enforcement issue and staff has already addressed one organization that has violated not only the “No Play” Policy but also its Facility and Field Use Permit.

NEW BUSINESS

Keith Johnson reviewed the Township’s website regarding its various parks and stated that there really wasn’t a lot of information of each park. He continued that the interactive map was nice but not really informative or interactive. Keith Johnson thought that it would be better to have more photos of all of the parks online for residents and visitors.

Ann Shade introduced Sharon Tucker to the Park Board as the new Recreation Coordinator for the Township.

Larry Gregan announced that the Township had initiated a 300th Anniversary Committee and that the Committee met last week. The Committee will be reaching out to various boards and commissions for subcommittees and Larry Gregan is the staff liaison to the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan Spinelli made a motion for adjournment and Keith Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.