



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on June 8, 2011 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Dan Spinelli, Mark Angelone, Mark Bates, Heather Berkey, Keith Johnson and Leesa Meade. Also in attendance were Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), Lawrence Gregan (Township Manager), Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator) and Kate Grubb (Management Analyst).

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Dan Spinelli called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leesa Meade made a motion to approve the May 11, 2011 minutes and Mark Bates seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PARK COMP PLAN – UPDATE

Dan Spinelli stated that Beth Pilling with the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) has been attending the Park Board meetings for several months now and inquired as to the next step in the process. Kevin Costello stated that staff will continue to meet with Beth Pilling monthly and at the most recent meeting, Beth Pilling provided a summary of where she was in the process for the summer and should there be additional input from Boards or Committees throughout the summer, committee members can email Kevin Costello. Beth Pilling will continue to incorporate feedback and data into the draft plan and include various township procedures, maintenance and operational aspects into the plan.

Leesa Meade asked if the County will come up with recommendations for the Board. Kevin Costello replied that the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) would provide recommendations based on the committee input from the various township Committees. MCPC will also provide both short term and long term recommendations. Dan: one thing I heard her say is if there are little things we would want to do, just let her know.

Dan Spinelli asked Kevin Costello if there were other things or aspects of the plan that the Park Board should be thinking about while Beth Pilling is formulating that data and draft plan. Kevin Costello replied that during Beth Pilling and Matt Shelly's presentation, they summarized what information they are looking to capture. The amount of available parcels is limited to build new parks, so the focus shifts to maintaining our existing parks in terms of how to expand and improve them.

PARK ACTIVITY – UPDATE

There were no additional Park Activity Updates regarding ongoing park inspections since the last meeting. Dan Spinelli asked if the “No Play” Policy for field use had been changed. Kevin Costello confirmed that there have not been any changes to the existing, approved policy. Larry Gregan added that the Board has not formally changed the policy but that there may be minor changes that may want to be made in the future.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello stated that the Spring Valley Tennis Courts would be resurfaced that week of June 7th so the courts can be ready for all of the summer tennis camps. Kevin Costello added that Public Works Department replaced the broken basketball rim at Spring Valley Park. He noted that while the recycling container was empty, there were about 100 plastic bottles scattered around the court area. Keith Johnson asked if a sign could be posted at the basketball courts. Kevin Costello said that, in the past, the Police have warned kids who frequently loiter at the basketball courts during the summer. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of shutting the lights off earlier and Kevin Costello said that, at this time, he would request if the Police Department could make an extra loop through the park to monitor loitering and destruction. Keith Johnson asked if there were recycling containers at the Zehr or Kenas Road soccer fields. Kevin Costello stated that recycling containers were installed at Spring Valley Park as a pilot program through the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). Larry Gregan commented that the funding for the EAC comes from performance grants. He added that staff could look at the budget and have Bruce Shoupe, staff liaison to the EAC, bring it up at the next EAC meeting. Keith Johnson asked if by the end of the summer to use the Maule fields and Zehr field #2 as another trial run.

Kevin Costello stated that the Whistlestop Project is well underway. Both fields are closed and the softball field is currently stripped and being grading. The contractor for the project is recommending additional grading to fill in the area located between the outfield of the large field and the parking lot. This additional grading work will also help with additional draining with just a slight swale. The area is well suited for use as an additional soccer field. The estimated cost for the additional grading work would be between \$12,000 and \$15,000 and the contractor would submit a change order. The Township would make sure it was in line current prevailing wage figures and the budget. Larry Gregan added that the original design was cost effective and that the contractor is getting dirt from the Route 202 Parkway Project. If the Township waited on following the recommended drainage changes, it would cost two to three times more in the future. Kevin Costello said that as an advisory board staff is looking for the Park Board to make a motion should the Board wish to follow the recommendations. Leesa Meade made a motion to proceed with the change order on the Whistlestop Project for additional drainage work in the southeast corner, open field area. Dan Spinelli seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Heather Berkey inquired if new left turn traffic signals were going to be installed in the Township near the intersection of Knapp Road and Route 202 and also Route 202 and Route 63. Kevin Costello confirmed that there were several intersections within the Township that were

going to be updated with high-tech, computerized signals. Discussion led to the opening of the Route 202 Parkway and Larry Gregan commented that the Parkway will open in 2012; however not all portions of the Parkway will be open at that time. He added that there may be some delay in finalizing the intersection of Route 202 and Route 63 as well as with the County Line Road improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

Leesa Meade asked if the graffiti on the bathrooms at Spring Valley Park has been washed and if so, will the graffiti fade. Kevin Costello confirmed that the writing will eventually fade and that is the extent of the repairs that can be made.

Kevin Costello thanked Heather Berkey for the dog statue she donated to the Bark Park.

Leesa Meade stated that after the Park Comprehensive Plan presentation she spoke with a representative from Montgomery Elementary School regarding its field trip policy. The district allows (1) bus trip per academic year. Leesa continued that if there was a walking nature/bird guide of some sort for Windlestrae Park, the students could walk to the park and explore their backyard.

Mark Bates commented that the THON Charity Race, held on May 22, 2011, went well and was highly attended. There were roughly 250 attendees at the event.

Mark Bates also stated that he was in contact with the North Penn School District regarding special needs programs. He also spoke with a staff member from Upper Merion Township, where the township offers a Challenger Program and a one day event for children with special needs and their families. Dan Spinelli said that if Mark Bates needed any help to let him know and he would assist in any way he could.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan Spinelli made a motion for adjournment and Mark Angelone seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.