



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on August 10, 2011 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Dan Spinelli, Heather Berkey, Keith Johnson, and Leesa Meade. Also in attendance were Mike Fox (BOS Liaison), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), Sharon Tucker (Recreation Coordinator) and Kate Grubb (Management Analyst).

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Dan Spinelli called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PARK COMP PLAN – UPDATE

Kevin Costello provided an update that staff is continuing to meet with Beth Pilling and Matt Shelly of the Montgomery County Planning Commission. The scheduled meeting for the morning of Wednesday, August 10, 2011 was postponed until next week due to a scheduling conflict. Kevin Costello reminded the Park Board that the County is still accepting feedback and comments from any Township Board or Commission and that committee members may email Kevin Costello with his/her feedback and he will forward them accordingly.

PARK ACTIVITY – UPDATE

Mike Fox stated that a large portion of the Memorial Grove Park open space, between Usher Lane and the PECO power lines, will be transformed into a meadow. He continued that the County Conservancy is seeding it and in time will become a meadow.

Heather Berkey noted that the new William F. Maule sign at Windlestrae Park looked nice.

RECREATION UPDATE

Sharon Tucker stated that this upcoming Friday, August 12th, will be the last day of Kids University, concluding the 8-week program. She continued that since her last report, Science Tellers held two demonstrations; the Township's EAC provided an earth friendly presentation, the ambulance and Police K-9 Unit came out for Emergency Services week, and the children participated in a talent show. Sharon Tucker noted that it's been a fun 8 weeks and she is looking forward to next year's program. She added that should anyone wish to provide feedback or recommendations to contact the Recreation Office. Additionally, the fall Recreation News went to the printer this past Monday and is on the Township's website. Participants have already started signing up for various programs. Lastly, there are a few more outdoor concerts left on Thursday nights in August from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm.

Dan Spinelli said that he was contacted by a lady who runs trips for Upper Gwynedd & Worcester about day trips for Montgomery Township. Sharon Tucker responded that she would be happy to speak with the woman and that Dan may give out the recreation office phone number. Discussion ensued regarding the participation of Township-organized day trips and Sharon stated that there are two trips booked for this fall: one to Longwood Gardens and the other to New York City. She added that in the past a lot of trips have been cancelled due to low attendance but if the Township can work with another municipality or choose family-oriented trips, they tend to book themselves.

Mike Fox congratulated Sharon for surviving her first Kids University experience and Dan Spinelli commented that Sharon's enthusiasm is greatly welcomed and is contagious.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello reported that Wolverine Construction, the grading contractor, is currently on hold as he is looking for another source for their top fill. Bloodgood Landscape Corporation, the field work contractor, has most of the work done on the baseball field. Additionally, now that the baseball tournaments at Windlestrae Rose Twig are finished, Ray Barndt will be getting everything ready for the dugout installation.

Dan Spinelli asked if everything was okay with the repairs performed at the tennis courts at Spring Valley Park. Kevin Costello said that the upgrades to the courts were able to greatly reduce the size of the puddle but it is still there. Public Works will put a tennis court squeegee roller on the court for players to use directly after inclement weather.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Costello stated that the Montgomery United Soccer Club (MUSC) utilizes the pump station at Windlestrae Rose Twig to store soccer equipment. MUSC asked if the Township would activate the electric if MUSC paid for the service. A 3-phase circuit was taken down to 1-phase circuit, which was a similar situation that the Township did for the youth baseball association. Baseball had the service hooked up, turned on and they pay the bill. This pump station will be separately metered and be billed directly to MUSC. Kevin Costello noted that the Sewer Authority abandoned the pump station and the Township took it over.

Dan Spinelli made a motion for MUSC to have the electric turned on and billed to them directly, Leesa Meade seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Dan Spinelli asked Kevin Costello if and when repairs were to be implemented at the tennis courts at Fellowship Park. Heather Berkey said that there has been talk about repairing the tennis courts for at least 3 years. Kevin Costello said that there is some room in the capital budget this year to make the necessary repairs if the Park Board recommends the repairs for the Board of Supervisors to approve. Mike Fox said that he thinks it's a great idea to go back to some of the older parks and upgrade the amenities in order to have the same features as the new parks, especially to try to evenly distribute those upgrades throughout the Township. Kevin Costello said that the repairs to the tennis courts would take approximately one week to 10 days. Once the Park Board makes their recommendation, the request for repairs would go to the Board of Supervisors on August 22, 2011 and be completed in September.

Dan Spinelli made a motion to fix the tennis courts at Fellowship Park with improvements not to exceed \$20,000, Leesa Meade seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Leesa Meade asked if the Township was going to put back up the American flags at the parks, such as Spring Valley Park, William F. Maule Park at Windlestrae, Whistlestop Park, etc. Kevin Costello said that Ray Barndt is trying to find a better solar light in which to illuminate the flags at night and that the flags will be back up in the near future.

Heather Berkey suggested that the Township have a collection site for residents to drop off their retired flags so that the Township could dispose of them properly. Sharon Tucker will first call the neighboring VFW / American Legion's in hopes of setting up a partnership for them to dispose of the flags and then consider the potential of having a drop off location at the Township Building.

OLD BUSINESS

Keith Johnson inquired as to the condition of the Windlestrae Zehr parking lot as soccer enters its main season. Kevin Costello said that he drove through the parking lot tonight and while there are a few ripples, there aren't any large holes that need to be filled at this time.

Dan Spinelli asked how the trash situation was at Spring Valley Park and if there has been any improvement. Kevin Costello reported that Public Works has been keeping after it and it hasn't been as bad lately. Additionally, the police patrol car has paid a couple of visits to the park and spoke with the kids that hang out there.

Mike Fox recommended that staff send a reminder to the sports teams to urge their players to recycle in the appropriate recycling containers. Kevin Costello commented that the upper portion of Spring Valley Park looks a lot better regarding recycling.

Heather Berkey asked if there is a lighting system at Spring Valley Park was to deter vandalism. Kevin Costello replied that motion detector lighting was installed on the pavilion.

Keith Johnson expressed a concern about speeding drivers along the Kenas soccer fields. He asked if there was a possibility to either post a speed limit sign or some type of slow down sign. Kevin Costello commented that speed limit signs nor other postings will deter speeders because it is not that long of a stretch of road. Leesa Meade asked if a speed hump would help. Kevin Costello said that he would not recommend a speed hump due to maintenance issues.

Leesa Meade offered that in addition to the youth association coaches getting the word out about recycling, that they could also let the Township know if there are lighting issues or lights that are out.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan Spinelli made a motion for adjournment and Keith Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.