



**Montgomery Township
Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board was held on September 14, 2011 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the Park and Recreation Board in attendance included: Tony Ruggieri, Mark Angelone, Heather Berkey, Keith Johnson, and Dan Spinelli. Also in attendance were Mike Fox (BOS Liaison), Kevin Costello (Public Works Director), and Kate Grubb (Management Analyst).

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Heather Berkey made a motion to approve the August 10, 2011 minutes and Dan Spinelli seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Selheimer thanked the Park Board for working with Montgomery United Soccer Club, especially to keep the fields in good playing condition. Additionally, Bob Selheimer sent Tony Ruggieri information regarding the installation of turf fields within the Township. Tony Ruggieri will put it on the agenda for October's meeting.

PARK COMP PLAN – UPDATE

Kevin Costello informed the board that staff met with Matt Shelley and Beth Pilling with MCPC earlier in the day where the group worked to update the Park Comprehensive Plan's mission and vision statements. Matt Shelly and Beth Pilling were crunching the numbers and looking at census information. The draft Park Comprehensive Plan is about a month behind but Beth Pilling will attend the November meeting to present the draft plan. Lastly, MCPC will continue to accept feedback and additional comments.

PARK ACTIVITY – UPDATE

Tony Ruggieri went to Whistlestop Park in August and reported that construction appeared to be at a standstill. Kevin Costello added that due to the exorbitant amount of rain recently, the project was temporarily on hold until the ground dries. As of today, the contractors were back to work. Currently, the contractor is sifting topsoil and filling the area to prepare it for seeding. Seeding the fields can still be done within the first week or two in October. Kevin Costello added that if the Township did not incur significant rain, the project would be back on schedule. The Parks System can only handle small mowers now due to residual track marks and tearing up the grass by the larger mowers.

A resident reached out to the Park Board regarding the condition of Fellowship Park. Once the rain has subsided, the Parks Crew can take a closer look as to what can be done to improve the park. While the infield was sprayed twice, some Nutsedge and Crab grass have begun to grow and will take time to die off. Mike Fox added that the entire meadow at Memorial Grove is full of Nutsedge grass. Tony Ruggieri will respond back to the resident. Kevin Costello stated that the Parks Crew is still doing hurricane

cleanup with branch pick up, filling sink holes, and removing down trees at Spring Valley Park. Mike Fox reported that he walked through Windlestrae Park and all of the Boy Scout bridges were out.

Tony Ruggieri asked the committee members to send him an email regarding volunteer availability for Autumn Festival on October, 1, 2011. Heather Berkey, Tony Ruggieri, and Dan Spinelli could all attend the festival.

RECREATION UPDATE

Kevin Costello reported that due to a scheduling conflict, Sharon Tucker would not be able to attend tonight's meeting but the Recreation Report was included in the Board's packet. Should anyone have questions or comments about the report, they can address them with Sharon Tucker or Kevin Costello. Kate Grubb added that Sharon Tucker has begun overseeing the facility and field use permit process. She added that there were currently close to 90 permits for the year and that the last two years yielded about 100 reservations per year.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kevin Costello reported that four holes for the dugouts had been dug, but then the rain came. Once the rain stopped, the crew was able to get 3 footers completed and then another round of inclement weather hit. Kevin Costello assured the board that the Parks Crew could complete the footings and dugout installation anytime in the fall or winter months once it dries out.

Mike Fox questioned if anyone notified Lansdale Catholic about the recoating of the tennis courts at Fellowship Park. Kate Grubb stated that she notified Jon Slabek, Athletic Director, regarding the upgrades and that the team would be permitted to use three out of the four tennis courts at Spring Valley Park during the upgrades. Kevin Costello added that the recoating began earlier today.

NEW BUSINESS

Tony Ruggieri reported that MonU would like to present a proposal at the next Park Board Meeting about the possibility to install turf on the soccer fields at Windlestrae Park. Dan Spinelli asked if the Board visited this same topic when Chuck Vesay was on the board for MonU. Tony Ruggieri replied that Chuck Vesay made mention of turf fields, but never came back with a level of detail or a proposed plan. Kevin Costello will put the presentation on the Park Board's October agenda. Bob Selheimer with MonU provided a summary of the presentation and will provide some information to the Board before the next meeting.

Heather Berkey inquired if portable lights could be used to illuminate the athletic fields like at Horsham Township instead of installing permanent lighting for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Kevin Costello replied that Monu uses portable lighting for some fields that don't already have permanent lighting. Heather Berkey asked if there was a hotel going to be built within the Township. Mike Fox replied that there is an open lot by Star Bucks and the Board just approved a Hilton Garden Hotel. Additionally, there will be two more hotels at the old Garden Golf complex along with 98 townhomes. Kevin Costello said that the creation of the hotels may be forward thinking with the completion of the 202 Parkway.

Heather Berkey noted that she was over at the Bark Park to look at the kiosk when she noticed some clean up was needed. There were branches down in the smaller park and a tree was down in the

larger section. There was a fungus around the trees and an unknown orange-stalked plants growing. Additionally, the dog statute is no longer attached to the stone. Mike Fox reported that the orange plant is a fungus commonly known as an Elegant Stinkhorn.

OLD BUSINESS

Kevin Costello stated that he had been working with Kate Grubb to order 8 recycling bins from www.recycleaway.com and they should delivered by Friday, 9/30. As discussed previously, the EAC purchased the bins through recycling grants and its annual budget. Mark Angelone inquired if Spring Valley Park had gotten any cleaner regarding trash and recycling debris. Board members presented conflicting interpretations as to the condition of the trash. Kevin Costello said that the flags were back up on the flag poles and while the solar lights were working at a very low illumination, it will simply be a matter of time until the lights were fully charged and illuminated.

Mike Fox reported that if anyone had old flags, MMR Boy Scouts would be hosting a ceremony to dispose of them properly.

Tony Ruggieri asked why the leaf branch collection bins were only at Windlestrae Park and didn't rotate throughout the park system. Mike Fox stated that the containers cost money and if the Township rotates the collection site, then it may confuse residents. Additionally, the parking and surface area to receive branches is the largest at Windlestrae Park.

Tony Ruggieri asked Kate Grubb for an attendance tally of Park Board Members for past year.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan Spinelli made a motion for adjournment and Heather Berkey seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.