

**Upper Allen Township
100 Gettysburg Pike
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: (717) 766-0756 ♦ Fax: (717) 796-9833
www.upperallentwp.org**

**PARK & RECREATION
REGULAR MEETING**

October 25, 2023

PRESENT: JEFF WILLIAMS, CHRISTINA DRYDEN, LAUREN SANKER, JASON SAPOSNEK, JESSICA MARTINI, DAN HARRISON -MEMBERS; Jim Cochran, Township Commissioner; Rick Castranio, Township Commissioner; Chad Krebs, Parks Director; Eddie Mera-Aguilar, Parks and Facilities Coordinator

VISITORS

None.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All present introduced themselves.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Sanker to approve the meeting minutes from the September 27, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dryden and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Williams mentioned that he could not tell that the fall festival was the first festival the township has held. He added that the Upper Allen Woman's Club helped with the crafts, and they have their large craft show this coming Saturday from 10am to 2pm. Mr. Williams mentioned that Ms. Palmer, the Township Assistant Manager, put in her notice of resignation and she will be missed. He added that the Board of Commissioners gave a resolution to Tonya Brown at their meeting last week and that was very appreciated.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- 1. Township Commissioners – Jim Cochran/Rick Castranio*
None.
- 2. Assistant Township Manager - Kelly Palmer*
Absent.

3. *Parks Director - Chad Krebs*

Mr. Krebs mentioned that the agenda shows the next Park and Recreation meeting on Tuesday November 22nd, however, the meeting is advertised on the website as Wednesday November 29th. He stated that since it is advertised on the 29th, that's when the next meeting will be held. Mr. Krebs mentioned that Ms. Herron from the Mechanicsburg Recreation Department was not able to attend the meeting but did pass along a report. He stated that they hired an Assistant Recreation Director, Ryan Hartman and that the winter and spring brochure is currently being worked on and any items for publication are due October 27th.

Mr. Krebs mentioned that all paving in the parks is done and the paving at the sensory garden is completed. He stated that next week the fencing and planting at the garden will start. Mr. Krebs added that a lot of tree trimming is going on and contractors came out to Simpson Park to remove the dead trees along the banks. He mentioned that winterizing the parks will start soon however, the bathroom at Winding Hills Park North is now heated and will stay open over the winter.

4. *Parks & Facilities Coordinator-Eddie Mera-Aguilar*

None.

5. *Mechanicsburg Recreation Department- Tiffany Herron*

None.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Williams stated that County Estates Park looked fine as always and the trees at McCormick Park looked gorgeous. He added that there are a lot of new people at the dog park and was asked when the areas would be changed around. Mr. Krebs stated that they will be switched in the next few weeks.

Ms. Sanker mentioned that Grantham Park looked amazing and there is always someone there fishing. She added that a resident sent her a picture of the disc golf sign at Simpson Park that needed replaced. Mr. Krebs asked to see the picture so they can get it taken care of.

Ms. Dryden mentioned that the basketball court at Center Square Park looks great and Simpson Park will look great once it is cleaned up from the tree removal.

Ms. Martini stated that everything looked great at Aspen Park, Spring Run Park, and Mt. Allen Park when she did her visits today, but she added that she gets to spend more time at Mt. Allen Park on Mondays for her daughter's baseball practice.

Mr. Saposnek mentioned that Miller's Crest Park is fine, and Fisher Park was walked with the Park and Recreation Board earlier in the evening. He stated that the natural playground area at Koser Park had some trash blowing around and people are still parking in the no parking area. Mr. Krebs mentioned that no parking area is possibly being turned into a pickleball court and will get some new signage and fencing up to keep cars off it.

Mr. Harrison stated that Winding Hills Parks looked great with a lot of usage. He added that the paving looks fantastic.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fall Fest Recap

Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that approximately three thousand people attended the fall fest and that the event was very successful. He added that all parking lots were full, and people were parking in the adjacent neighborhoods. Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that the Upper Allen Woman's club collected 690 pounds of food donations and their craft area was very organized. He mentioned that a few changes for next year is to plan for better handicap parking and have more lighting. He added that they aren't looking to make any major changes for next year but to perfect the template that they already have. Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that the date for next year is set, and the event will be held on September 27, 2024.

Mr. Williams stated kids were all over the place and Ms. Dryden commented that her daughter had a lot of fun. Commissioner Cochran added that the purpose of the event was to create a sense of community and to pull everyone together. He added that future events might end up at Generations Park. Commissioner Cochran mentioned that there has been a lot of buzz about Generations Park but when you bring in an architect, they make the area look good, but then you need an engineer to say what will work and what won't work. He added that the engineer, C. S. Davidson moved a few things around but didn't add any new features or drop any features. Commissioner Cochran stated that the biggest change made is in regard to parking. He added that they wanted to keep the driveways to a single lane for one way traffic and the original design had several small parking areas that angle off the driveway. Commissioner Cochran mentioned that was an accident waiting to happen and it would probably be less expensive to make small parking lots. He added that C.S. Davidson made the change and came in with 547 parking spots, of which Winding Hills Parks have 588 parking spots. Commissioner Cochran mentioned that an area was rearranged to share parking creating 415 spaces with 198 of them on stabilized grass areas.

Mr. Krebs added that after the first plan was shown to the board, they took the comments and had a site visit. He stated that C.S. Davidson is currently working on the trails for the plan and once it is updated, it will be brought back to the board for review. Commissioner Cochran added that it is budget season and in the budget is to spend one million at Generations Park next year. He added that \$450,000 is from a county grant and \$550,000 is from a bond previously refinanced. Commissioner Cochran stated that the bond was for \$2 million and part of it was used to pave the parks this year and some next year. Mr. Krebs added that it is paying for the engineering work as well.

Mr. Williams stated that he is excited to have a venue for larger events. Commissioner Cochran asked the board to keep an eye out for comments regarding the park and be ambassadors for them. He added that if they have a question about a park, it will gladly be answered so that the correct information can be put out there. Mr. Williams stated that he has seen people excited for what is happening in the parks, giving accurate information with strong support for the parks to inaccurate information and flat out lies about the parks which does a disservice to what the township is trying to do.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parks Permit Updates

Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that the athletic field permit was revamped last year so all that is being changed this year is a few small adjustments. He stated that the name of the permit is being changed to Park Use Permit so that it works for everyone using the park space. Mr. Mera-Aguilar added that he cleaned up some of the verbiage and now vendors that would apply for more than four times in one year will be able to apply one time. He added that it will be the same process just a one-time fee.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on November 29, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary