



Upper Allen Township
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**PARK & RECREATION
REGULAR MEETING**

March 23, 2022

PRESENT: JEFF WILLIAMS, JASON SAPOSNEK, CHRISTINA DRYDEN, DANIEL HARRISON, NICK CHRISTIE, LAUREN SANKER, JESSICA MARTINI – MEMBERS; James Cochran, Township Commissioner; Richard Castranio, Township Commissioner; Kelly Palmer, Assistant Township Manager; Chad Krebs, Parks Director; Julie Roth, Recording Secretary

VISITORS

Jim Salter- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Softball
Sean Cochran- Keystone FCU
Dawn Waterman- Keystone FCU
Jeff Alba- Alba Orthodontics
Eric Fairchild- 1224 McCormick Rd

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 February 23, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dryden and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Fairchild if he could remove the remaining Save the Farm signs and Mr. Fairchild stated he thought he had removed them all, but he will remove any remaining signs. Mr. Williams mentioned that he will be attending the Recreation Parks Society Conference next week. He also added that Commissioner Cochran, Ms. Sanker, and himself all attended Nick Smeal's Eagle Scout Court of Honor at Simpson Park. Mr. Williams mentioned that the Dog Park meeting was held on March 9th and it had a good turnout.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. *Township Commissioners – Jim Cochran, Richard Castranio*

None

2. *Assistant Township Manager – Kelly Palmer*

None

3. *Park Maintenance Supervisor – Chad Krebs*

Mr. Krebs stated that all the playgrounds have fresh mulch on them, but he is holding off on opening the bathrooms until next week due to the low temperatures. He added that both Fisher Park and Winding Hills basketball courts have been recoated.

4. *Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – Tonya Brown*

Ms. Brown thanked Jeff Alba from Alba Orthodontics for being a long-time sponsor of recreation. She added that the summer brochure is at the printer and will be going out soon. Ms. Brown mentioned that with the construction going on at the high school, they have lost a lot of space for their programs, and they have a full slate of programs this summer that are almost full or full with waiting lists. She stated that they are hiring for the playground program at Fisher and Koser Parks and they are in need of about four teachers or someone with that type of background yet for the Summer Adventure Camp. Ms. Brown added that the joint board meeting was held a few weeks ago and everyone was present except for a representative from Shiremanstown. She added that the Concert in the Park series is starting on June 17th with Christian Yeager performing. Ms. Brown mentioned that the Mechanicsburg Pool is very short on lifeguards and Big Spring High School has a program being offered for lifeguard training.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Christie mentioned that Center Square Park looked really great except there were a few twigs down and the same with Simpson Park.

Mr. Williams mentioned that Country Estates Park and McCormick Park both looked fine. He added that as of the Dog Park Meeting, there were 254 registrants for the Dog Park. Mr. Williams stated that there is a problem with dogs digging and Ms. Cook posted on the Dog Park Facebook Page about filling in the holes since it is a safety hazard. Mr. Williams added that there was a lot of response about behavior guidelines that need to be addressed. He mentioned that the John Burch memorial bench dedication will be held toward the end of June.

Ms. Sanker mentioned that Grantham Park looked really good.

Ms. Dryden stated that both Fisher Park and Rosegarden Park looked good.

Ms. Martini mentioned that Apsen Park looked good, the mulch at Spring Run Park looks great, and that a large tree limb is down at Mt. Allen Park.

Mr. Saposnek stated that Miller's Crest basketball hoop is hanging on by a thread and the garage at Fisher on the far end has holes in the glass windows.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jeff Alba of Alba Othodontics introduced himself. He stated that he would like to propose a Movies in the Park Night. Mr. Alba stated that they would be sponsoring the event and maybe have a food truck present. He added that one complication is sundown especially in July. Mr. Alba added that the movie would be current and help drive a crowd to the event. Mr. Krebs suggested holding the event at Fisher Park due to the parking lot lights. Mr. Williams mentioned that the township has held special events like this before and Ms. Sanker stated that it is a great idea. Mr. Williams suggested a Disney movie as they would include the entire family and they tend to be shorter. Mr. Alba stated that they would pay for the license for the movie. Doug Marsico, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association, mentioned that baseball hosted a movie night to honor Gia Glinatsis after she passed away and he would be happy to help them work on a date that would work. Mr. Krebs stated that he would bring the date to the next meeting once it is figured out.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Dog Park Discussion

Mr. Williams mentioned that there have been a few instances at the Dog Park with behavior. Ms. Palmer stated that it came to the township's attention, and she is working with the Solicitor, Police Chief, and Mr. Krebs to create a policy. She added that she will bring the policy before this board when completed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Concession Stand Discussion

Ms. Palmer mentioned that the Township has a limited number of concession stands with multiple groups wanting to use them, especially at Winding Hills Park North. She added that the physical concession stands belong to the Township but the items in the stands for the most part belong to the groups. Ms. Palmer stated that they want to come up with something that is fair to all of the groups. She added that softball has equipment in the concession stand at Winding Hill North but it conflicts with tournaments for soccer that are held there. Dawn Waterman, Keystone FCU, stated that they are only asking for four days to use the concession stand and they have no problem bringing in their own items and not using any of softball's items. She mentioned that they just don't feel they should have to set up in front of the stand when the stand is not in use instead of actually getting to use the stand. Jim Salter, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Girl's Softball, added that all of their groups' food is coming in for opening day and the counters are filled with their items including pretzel machines. Mr. Williams asked if the concession stand at Friendship Park is used and he was told that they do not use that for tournaments as there are only three fields and the younger kids play at Winding Hills Park North. Mr. Williams stated that it sounds like the problem is the concession stand is full of softball items since that is their home base. Mr. Salter mentioned that they have an issue with putting their equipment and product at risk by having another group in the concession stand. Sean Cochran, Keystone FCU, stated that softball was contacted back in November about their interest in using the concession stand which gave them plenty of time to move their items to the back of the concession stand where there is open space to hold the items while the stand is in use. Mr. Salter mentioned that since the concession stand is owned by the Township, he was waiting on the township to come up with a formal

agreement. Ms. Palmer stated that it was talked about last fall but was put on hold until this spring. Mr. Christie added that it sounds like the issue is softball does not want soccer to use its equipment or inventory so a signed agreement that states that could be done. Ms. Palmer mentioned that she is not opposed to having the equipment covered and creating a signed agreement, but she wanted to have this discussion first and be proactive for any other groups or times that the concession stands have use conflict. She added that down the road, lacrosse might end up wanting to use it as well. Mr. Salter mentioned that he encourages the use of running water if the concession stand is being used. Mr. Krebs stated that it depends on the weather for how early the water can be turned on. Ms. Sanker added that it needs to be recognized that the space in discussion is a township facility. Ms. Palmer concluded that the groups have come to an agreement that there will be a written agreement to sign for usage of the concession stand for the four days soccer is requesting to use the concession stand.

2. 2021 Accomplishments

Mr. Krebs gave a presentation on the 2021 Park Projects and Improvements. He stated that Country Estates Park and Rosegarden Park playgrounds were replaced. Mr. Krebs mentioned that there were field improvements done at both Winding Hills North Park and Fisher Park. He stated that the highlight of the projects was the playground replacement at Friendship Park. Mr. Krebs added that the basketball courts at Spring Run Park and Mt. Allen Park were replaced, and pickle ball courts were added at Winding Hills South Park. He mentioned that lights were added at the tennis courts at Fisher Park and all parking lots were relined along with the poured in place surface clear coated. Mr. Krebs stated that another crosswalk was added in at Winding Hill North Park parking lot and approximately thirty trees were planted between the Winding Hills Parks and the Dog Park. He mentioned that the new building at Winding Hill North Park was completed, and an office addition was added on to work out of the building.

Mr. Krebs presented on 2022 Park Improvement and Development Projects. He stated that a section of the path at Fisher Park will be replaced, and Fisher West field will have outfield regrading and a fence installed. Mr. Krebs added that the softball field 4 at Winding Hill North Park will be rotated and the basketball courts at Winding Hill North Park and Fisher Park will be recoated. He stated that a story walk will be installed at Winding Hill South Park along with misters at Friendship Park. Mr. Krebs mentioned that the path to the dog park will be paved, and dumpster enclosures will be installed at Winding Hill North and South Parks. He stated that Fisher Park playground equipment will be replaced in the spring of 2023 with the equipment purchased the end of this year. Mr. Krebs added that benches and trees will be added throughout the parks and more parking spots at Fisher might be added in where the trailers used to park at. Commissioner Cochran stated that the goal is to remove as many sheds from the parking lots as possible to create more parking.

Commissioner Cochran mentioned that the board does not see the full picture of how the money flows, and this does not show the employee and equipment expenses for each year. Ms. Sanker stated that she would be interested in seeing that. Commissioner Cochran added that the money for the parks department comes out of four accounts which are the park improvement fund, the park acquisition funds, the capital improvement fund, and the general fund. Ms. Palmer mentioned that she can create something to show the breakdown and if they board has something specific in mind, she can add that in. Mr. Williams stated that the DCNR community grants are due in two weeks and Ms. Palmer added that they

were hoping to have 1215 McCormick property submitted for that, but it is not ready yet. She added that the township received a little over two million for the American Recovery Act and they are still strategizing on where those funds would be best used. Mr. Williams encouraged everyone to get out and see what is going on and mentioned that baseball's opening day is April 9th and Softball's is April 16th.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on April 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary