



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

**PARK & RECREATION
REGULAR MEETING**

March 22, 2023

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

VISITORS

Kyley Stazewski- Simpson Park Project
Kirsten Smith- Simpson Park Project
Doug Marsico- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association

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 22, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Williams mentioned that the Pennsylvania Recreation Parks Society Conference is currently going on and that is the reason no one from the Recreation Department is in attendance. He added that the Recreation Department was awarded the 2023 PRPS Agency of the year award at last night's banquet. Mr. Williams mentioned that the next annual meeting for the dog park is a week from tonight at 6:30pm.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. ***Township Commissioners – James Cochran/Richard Castranio***

None

2. ***Assistant Township Manager – Kelly Palmer***

Ms. Palmer stated that she is currently working on a DCNR grant that is due on April 5th and the grant is for \$250,000 to expand on the currently funded trails at Generations Park. She stated that if this grant is awarded, then this would plan out around 1.5 miles of trails. Ms. Palmer added that they are working with DEP for permitting of the trails and the engineer is working on plans and will come into next month's meeting to give an overall update. Debbie Getz of McCormick Road asked what the surface of the trails will be, and Ms. Palmer stated that they will be paved asphalt so that they are ADA complaint.

3. ***Parks Director – Chad Krebs***

Mr. Krebs stated that two of the three playgrounds at Fisher Park should be completed by next week and all three will be completed by the end of the month. He added that the extra parking spaces at Winding Hills Park will be usable starting next week. Mr. Krebs added that the grading for the big parking lot is starting, and the lights should be installed by mid-April. He mentioned that in the first week of April, the bathrooms will be opened and water turned on.

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

Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that the first soccer tournament of the season was last weekend with another one this coming weekend. He added that baseball opening day is April 15th and softball is April 22nd. Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that both open day events will have food vendors. He stated that two movie nights have been finalized with Alba Orthodontics. They will be on July 14th and August 18th and held at Friendship Park. Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that lights will be rented to light the area during the events.

5. ***Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – absent***

None

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Christie stated that Center Square Park and Simpson Park looked great.

Mr. Williams mentioned that Country Estates Park is the same as usual. He added that there wasn't much activity at McCormick Park, but people were stopping by to see the scenery. Mr. Williams mentioned that a lot of the straw from grass seeding has blown inside the kiosk cage but the park is getting continuous use.

Ms. Sanker stated that Grantham Park looked great, there are just a lot of branches down.

Ms. Dryden mentioned that Friendship Park looked good. She added that she noticed the mulch was there ready to be spread. Ms. Dryden stated that Rosegarden Park was clean and looking like spring.

Ms. Martini mentioned that Aspen Park looked great and there was not much going on at Spring Run Park and Mt. Allen Park.

Mr. Harrison stated that he saw the parking lot project going on today at Winding Hill Park North. He added that one of the yellow swings is tight and needs attention.

Mr. Williams mentioned that Mr. Saposnek reported that both Fisher Park and Miller's Crest Park looked fine.

Commissioner Castranio stated that he walked the trails from Pennington to Winding Hills and he noticed that part of the trail was closed off for construction nearby. He mentioned that should be looked into and a post made for residents to be aware.

PUBLIC INPUT

Doug Marsico, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Area Baseball Association, mentioned that registration for the season has closed. He added that 575 players have registered which is a record. Mr. Marsico stated that April 15th is opening day and there will be a lot of food and baseball games to watch.

Kyley Stazewski and Kirsten Smith introduced themselves as local college students looking to implement a project at Simpson Park. They mentioned that they would like to implement beehives at the park and that they are beekeepers themselves through the Capital Area Beekeepers Association. Ms. Stazewski added that they would also like to plant flowers in the three triangles along the path and install bat boxes. Mr. Harrison asked if a bee box that was put up last year was still there and Mr. Krebs stated that bee box was only for a limited time. Mr. Harrison added that he thinks this would be a great addition to the park and asked what the timeline would be. Ms. Stazewski mentioned that it would be late spring. Ms. Palmer asked what the upkeep on the beehives would be and Ms. Stazewski stated that it would be assigned to someone from the association to take care of it.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Koser Park

Mr. Krebs mentioned that the Township is working with Mechanicsburg Borough on a maintenance program for Koser Park to create a mutually shared location. He added that things are going great, and they are working out the details now.

2. 2023 Park Events

Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that he is planning the first annual fall fest. He stated that last year's trick or treat event was a test run and this year it will be ramped up and become a fall fest at Winding Hills Park with music, games, hayrides, craft and food vendors, and a long list of activities. Mr. Mera-Aguilar added that he is looking into dates and trying to make sure it does not contradict with any other large ones in the area. He also mentioned that he is looking for volunteers and sponsors for the event.

Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that there will be a reading event held with Simpson Library on June 17th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. He added that there will be a musician, food truck, ice cream truck, and authors doing story time. Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that the library will also offer games and activities during the event. Ms. Palmer stated that advertising will start in mid-April. Mr. Williams added that these would be great events for the Park and Recreation Board members to volunteer at.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on April 26, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary

