



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

July 27, 2022

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

VISITORS

Jim Salter- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Softball
Doug Marsico- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association
Lily Dryden- 898 Tolman Street
Tracy and Jim Waughen- 2188 Canterbury Drive

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. Dryden to approve the meeting minutes from the May 25, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sanker and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Williams mentioned that it is the national Park and Recreation month and the Professional Park and Recreation Appreciation Day falls in July as well. He added that last year the township was the host for the appreciation day but this year he wants to make sure that Chad and his team as well as the recreation department are also recognized for all that they do. Mr. Williams mentioned that he attended the Board of Commissioners meeting last week and saw the presentation for the new park. He stated that he also attended the movie night last week and said it was packed and wonderful.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. *Township Commissioners – Richard Castranio*

Commissioner Castranio mentioned that he attended the movie in the park night with his granddaughter and she loved it. He stated that the movie went until late since it had to wait until it was dark to start but it was very well attended. Mr. Williams added that he guesses there were approximately three hundred people in attendance.

2. *Assistant Township Manager – Kelly Palmer*

Ms. Palmer mentioned that she takes her children to Winding Hills Park North every Friday evening and she always notices Mr. Salter there helping in any way that he can. She added that it was a positive experience working with Dr. Alba and his staff to set up the movie night. Commissioner Castranio added that there were about eight staff from Dr. Alba's office there helping and handing out popcorn. Mr. Williams mentioned that he noticed three cars parked in the grass right at the no parking sign, but an officer was taking care of it.

3. *Parks Director – Chad Krebs*

Mr. Krebs mentioned that the next movie night is August 19th, and the recreation department is having a music night the same night at the Trails & Trees Environmental Center. He added that the misters are now turned on at Friendship Park. Mr. Krebs stated that in Mid-August the crosswalk at Winding Hills Parks will be paved and in Mid-October the dog park path will be paved.

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

Absent

5. *Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – Tonya Brown*

Absent

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Williams mentioned that Mr. Christie could not attend but Simpson Park and Center Square Park looked good.

Mr. Williams stated that Country Estates Park looked good, and the swings are being used. He added that there was a kid fishing and people swimming in the water at McCormick Park. Mr. Williams mentioned that the dog park bench dedication is being moved to November so that the path can be paved first.

Ms. Sanker stated that Grantham Park looked great, but a table was moved out close to the water.

Ms. Dryden mentioned that the misters are an awesome addition to Friendship Park and Rosegarden Park looked nice and clean.

Ms. Martini stated that Apsen Park, Spring Run Park, and Mt. Allen Park all look great.

Mr. Saposnek mentioned that Miller's Crest Park looks fine but the soap dispenser at Fisher Park is knocked down. He added that he walked the trail at Fisher Park at sunset and there were a lot of people also out walking the trail.

PUBLIC INPUT

Lily Dryden, 898 Tolman Street, addressed the board with the suggestion of installing a volleyball net at Winding Hills Park North. She stated that it is not easy to set up and take down a net when she wants to play volleyball and the closest place that has a net is Simpson Park. Ms. Dryden added that a good place for it would be between the basketball courts and the softball fields. She also mentioned that it should be a turf court as sand would need more maintenance and turf is easier to slide on. Mr. Williams congratulated her on presenting her idea and asked her how many courts she is proposing. Ms. Dryden stated two or three courts and he asked her about it being one good court with a safety perimeter and she said that would be nice. Ms. Sanker asked Mr. Krebs if he knows of a need for volleyball courts, and he stated that he was asked about adding one to Fisher Park. Ms. Palmer mentioned that the staff would look at logistics and cost.

Tracy and Jim Waughen, 2118 Canterbury Drive, introduced themselves to the board. They stated that they have a complaint about the speaker system at Fisher Park. Ms. Waughen stated that they live in Canterbury Estates and the sound during the season has become increasingly louder every night from approximately 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. with some games going past the sound ordinance. She added that she spoke with Mr. Krebs, and it was quiet for two nights and then it started up again. Mr. Waughen mentioned that they cannot sit outside their house and enjoy dinner. Ms. Waughen added that it is kids announcing the players and constantly talking over the sound system. Mr. Waughen stated that the speakers on South Field point towards them. Mr. Williams added that the first year the sound system was put in, the speakers were higher on the pole, and you could hear them half a mile away. He added that adjustments were made, and it is not near as loud now. Mr. Williams mentioned that when you give a child a microphone, they hold it up and close to their mouth and yell into it. Ms. Palmer asked when the last time they had issue with the sound system and Ms. Waughen stated it was last month, but the meeting was cancelled. Ms. Palmer mentioned that a representative from the baseball association acknowledged that the system was turned up and they did turn it down. Ms. Waughen stated that she feels it is an internal issue where something is being changed with the sound to make it louder. Mr. Williams asked if it was kids announcing every time and she added that it was all but one time. Mr. Williams stated that it would be louder with kids using the microphone. Ms. Waughen mentioned that fall ball will soon be starting up and that means the sound will be used again. Ms. Palmer stated that the township will do further review of this issue and talk to the police department regarding it.

Doug Marsico, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association, mentioned that the sound was turned down on the sound system at Fisher Park, but kids do yell into the microphone. Mr. Williams suggested presetting the sound and having the kids hold the microphone at their chin. Commissioner Castranio asked if a kid announces at every game and Mr. Marsico said that it depends on if a kid wants to announce. Mr. Marsico stated that there is only one speaker in the direction of Canterbury Estates and that speaker can be adjusted down and pointed towards the field more. He added that fall ball is more on the weekends. Mr. Marsico stated that the season just finished up and had approximately 550 kids participating. He added that for all-stars, the 8,9,10,11, and 12 age groups went to the state tournament and the 8-year-olds won the tournament and are going to the world tournament which will be held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Mr. Marsico added that the 10-year-olds were runner up and made it to regionals and

went undefeated until the last game. Mr. Marsico stated that this was a successful year, and everyone is excited about the world tournament in a few weeks.

Jim Salter, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Softball, mentioned that they had an outstanding year, and the program just keeps growing. He added that a lot of money was spent on the dugouts, but a shelter is really needed to cover the dugouts. Mr. Salter stated that the program does not have the money to finish the project and with the way the dugouts are currently, they flood out and then games have to be cancelled due to the water in the dugouts. Mr. Salter stated that they do have a few sponsors, but they would want their name somewhere and now they cannot with the new banner policy. He stated that he is asking the township for help. Mr. Salter stated that the fall season is ready to go, and they are anxious for Field 4 at Winding Hills Park North to be turned for the spring season. Mr. Williams asked if there are any comments on the dugouts and Commissioner Castranio asked what he is looking for help on. Mr. Salter explained that they are looking for the roof to be installed over two dugouts. Ms. Palmer asked him to bring some options for them to look at but also mentioned that turning Field 4 was over budget by \$40,000 but was still approved due to the current position of the field being a safety issue.

Mr. Salter mentioned that National Night Out is this coming Tuesday and there will be a large event held in the parking lot at Allen Distribution. He added that it is a free event and there will be Fire Trucks and free food.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 1340 E. Lisburn Rd. Master Plan

Ms. Palmer mentioned that a presentation was given by Derck & Edson last week during the Board of Commissioners meeting and since then, they have received a lot of great feedback. She stated the park is around sixty acres and it is mainly passive with around two miles of trails. Ms. Palmer added that trails were the highest request for the park. She stated that at this time, the park is not filled with athletic fields or playgrounds and the paving of the driveway will start the end of August.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fisher Park Playground Equipment

Mr. Krebs stated that the playground equipment at Fisher Park was installed in 1999 and 2000 and is the next to be replaced. He presented to the board the options for the tot lot. Mr. Williams mentioned that his favorite is the Burke playground as younger children like to have tunnels. Ms. Sanker stated that the Burke playground looks a lot like what is already there but has a lot going on. Ms. Dryden mentioned that she like the Burke playground for the tunnels and bridges. Mr. Krebs added that the playground will be fenced off with a gate. The next area presented was the larger main area. Ms. Sanker stated that she likes that they look more spread out. Mr. Williams mentioned that he liked all the different climbing structures on the Burke playground because when there are games going on at the park, the playground is filled with kids. Mr. Saposnek stated that he likes the Burke playground the best. Mr. Krebs presented the smaller risk area and Mr. Williams stated that he would like to see either the climbing nets or blocks. Ms. Sanker mentioned that she likes the blocks on Playworlds playground and Ms. Dryden agreed. Ms. Martini mentioned that the block one could be imagined as a small house with younger kids.

2. Painting in the Park Proposal

Ms. Palmer stated that she came up with the painting in the park idea when she saw the jersey barriers painted at Simpsom Library a few weeks ago. She asked how they run their program and stated that people sign up to paint a barrier in the libraries summer theme and then get picked to paint them. Ms. Palmer stated that since there is no need for jersey barriers currently in the parks, the idea of the dumpster closures came about. She mentioned that it would start out working with the Mechanicsburg School District Art Department and seek artists to paint the dumpster enclosures. Ms. Palmer added that it would either be a contest, or the students would work together to come up with the designs. She mentioned that the Park and Recreation Board could pick the winner or what enclosure the painting goes on. Ms. Palmer added that the paintings would most likely be either an Upper Allen Township theme, regional theme, or community theme or have a rotating theme. An idea was to have the seniors do a design each year. She stated that the timeline would be coordinating with the school art department in the fall of 2022 and accepting the winner in April, with the actual painting taking place in May. Ms. Palmer added that this would be adding a unique element to the parks along with creating a partnership with the local school district. Ms. Dryden asked if this could be open to all township residents, not just students at Mechanicsburg School District and Ms. Palmer stated that could happen eventually but she wants to meet with the art department first. Ms. Palmer mentioned that the enclosures would be painted white at first. Mr. Williams stated that he is all for this. Ms. Palmer mentioned that she drafted some guidelines and if anyone has any questions, to reach out to her.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on August 24, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary