



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

September 28, 2022

PRESENT: JEFF WILLIAMS, LAUREN SANKER, NICK CHRISTIE, CHRISTINA DRYDEN, JESSICA MARTINI, JASON SAPOSNEK, DANIEL HARRISON – 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

Sean Cochran- Keystone FC
Jim Salter- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Softball

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

There was not a quorum for the August meeting, therefore, the minutes were informational only.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Williams congratulated the Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball 8U team and added that the parade held for them was wonderful. He mentioned that he was asked to speak at the ceremony, and he thanked the parents for the successful program. Mr. Williams added that the team was very excited.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. Township Commissioners – James Cochran/Richard Castranio

Commissioner Cochran mentioned that the road has been cut into Generations Park and it is starting to feel real. Mr. Williams stated that he is really looking forward to having special events held at that park.

2. Assistant Township Manager – Kelly Palmer

None

Parks Director – Chad Krebs

Mr. Krebs mentioned that fields were being aerated and seeded and the rotation of the softball field is wrapping up with the fencing contractor lined up to install the fence. He added that forty-four trees were planted, and there are more scheduled to be planted.

3. Parks & Facilities Coordinator- Eddie Mera-Aguilar

None

4. Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – Absent

Mr. Williams mentioned that there is a joint recreation meeting coming up and Ms. Palmer stated that it will be held on October 6th.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Christie stated that the parks looked immaculate.

Mr. Williams mentioned that Country Estates Park looked fine but there was a pole bent that needs to be bent back. He added that McCormick Park looked gorgeous. Mr. Williams stated that there is a new member on the dog park committee and the quarterly meeting is coming up. He mentioned that two ramps will be purchased for the dog park with the balance left in the account.

Ms. Sanker stated that Grantham Park looked beautiful, and she noticed the broken sign was removed.

Ms. Dryden mentioned that Friendship Park looked great and a grandmother that was at the park gave a compliment stating how great the park looked. Ms. Dryden added that Rosegarden Park looked great.

Ms. Martini mentioned that Aspen Park, Spring Run Park, and Mt. Allen Park all looked great.

Mr. Saposnek stated that Fisher Park looked great and there were plenty of people out walking the path. He added that the pin on the gate at Miller's Crest Park is almost out of the hinge.

Mr. Harrison mentioned that the Winding Hills Parks looked good, and he saw them mowing and aerating while there.

PUBLIC INPUT

Sean Cochran from Keystone FC requested a pause on ordinance 175-9 for no alcoholic beverage shall be brought into, possessed, or consumed in any park. He stated that this year, Keystone FC operated a season kick off, backyard picnic style, at Carlisle Sports Emporium. Mr. Cochran added that they had food trucks and local breweries attend and the different activities around the location. He stated that overall, approximately 650-700 people attended the event. Mr. Cochran added that this is an outstanding opportunity for parents, coaches, and kids to get

together however, there was a significant cost with renting out Carlisle Sports Emporium. He stated that the club is looking for another location and they would like to use Winding Hills Parks since they would showcase the parks and be right in our backyard. Mr. Cochran mentioned that every attendee registered ahead of time and then checked in when they arrived. He added that they received a color-coded wristband for drinking age and another for under drinking age. Mr. Cochran stated that the bartenders were all RAMP certified and there was a specific section for the alcohol to stay in place. He stated that all these steps would take place at next year's event as well along with having a tent set up for the alcohol area. Mr. Cochran mentioned that Lieutenant Barnes was contacted and stated that they would support the event with having officers on foot during the event. He added that they are not looking for this to turn into a crazy all-night event, but it would be food trucks, alcohol trucks, and events for players and families. Mr. Cochran added that he was happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Williams stated that he has experience with this and if it is not done right, it can be a disaster. He added that what helps is this is a group that the township has experience with, and they have done it before, so they have had practice. Mr. Williams stated that one of the necessary elements to this is to have a defined boundary for the alcohol and it sounds like they will have that along with police patrolling since it is a lot of acreage. Mr. Cochran stated that Winding Hills Park South would probably just be used for parking and most of the event would take place at Winding Hills Park North. He added that the event would be a year from now, so they are just starting to put the pieces together. Mr. Harrison asked what would control the amount of beer allowed per person and Mr. Cochran added that part of the RAMP certification is to make sure there is a safe distribution of alcohol. Mr. Harrison asked about someone walking into the park that is not a part of their club and Mr. Cochran stated that registration would be ahead of time, and they would receive a wristband when they check in. He added that the park would still be open to the public but only those registered would be served. Mr. Saposnek asked if there would be people not drinking so that they can keep an eye on things and Mr. Cochran stated that him along with others just like the last event will not be drinking and will be walking around checking on things. Ms. Dryden asked what the intent is for offering alcohol at the event and Mr. Cochran stated that they have events throughout the year, but this is more of an enticement to get parents to attend. Ms. Dryden stated that she does not like mixing sports with alcohol. Mr. Cochran added that he looks at this as going out to dinner and enjoying a beverage, and this would be done in a responsible way. Mr. Williams stated that it can work, and it can work well but this is attached to youth sports where we are promoting health in the parks. He added that alcohol funds a lot of money and asked where that money goes. Mr. Cochran stated that they lost money this year and had to do an online auction to make up for it, but the goal is to break even next year. It was asked if this has been done before and Commissioner Cochran mentioned that it was asked to serve wine during a movie in the park as part of a fundraiser and they were given the exception.

Jim Salter, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg asked he be informed as to when it will take place and what time it would start. He added that he will work with the club and asked who would be responsible if a beverage is left sitting around. He also added that the park is normally busy with a lot of cars and kids, and this will make it even busier. Mr. Williams stated that he helped with Germantown Octoberfest, and they had six to eight thousand people attend and cups did not wander out of the designated area. Mr. Cochran added that the set up would start at 3pm and the event time would be from 6pm until the park is closed.

Commissioner Cochran mentioned that as Generations Park is developed, it will have an amphitheater and a seating area for 250 people with a possibility of having weddings in the park so things are changing. Mr. Saposnek stated that sports groups should be promoting health and welfare of the children and he doesn't feel adding alcohol to this event is doing that.

A motion was made by Mr. Christie to allow a pause on ordinance 175-9 for no alcoholic beverage shall be brought into, possessed, or consumed in any park for next year's Keystone FC event. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sanker. The motion passed 4-2. Mr. Williams did not vote as the chairman on votes in case of a tie. Ms. Palmer stated this will go to the Board of Commissioners for review.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Trick or Treat Night at Fisher Park

Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that he reached out to several sports groups and all but one group will be joining in for the Trick or Treat Night and the group that can not attend will be providing candy to hand out. Ms. Palmer added that this event will take place on the same night as Trick or Treat and is meant as an event to go along with it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fall 2022 Supplemental DCNR Grant

Ms. Palmer mentioned that over the summer the Township applied for a grant for the trails at Generations Park. She stated that this is an out of the box idea, but the grant was submitted asking for the engineering work for the park. Ms. Palmer mentioned that this grant was made possible through ARPA distributions, and it would be for the engineering for water, stormwater, electric, and all necessities and a great planning tool for the park. She stated that she has not heard back yet and if it is not looked at favorably then there are other ideas to use as well. Mr. Williams mentioned that the Park and Recreation Comp Plan should be updated in the next few years and that might be an idea since it could help with the planning for that park as well.

2. 2023 Field Permit Application

Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that over the past few months, he has been comparing and updating the field permit application. He added that there are charges for the tournaments/large events, traffic control, trash cans, and porta potties and now have guidelines for insurance. Mr. Christie mentioned that he is concerned about splitting time between sports groups and Mr. Williams added that they felt it was best for the groups to work that out themselves and applauded them for doing that. Mr. Saposnek asked if the fees and requirements are per sports season and Mr. Krebs stated it is per field per year. Mr. Krebs added that if a sports group purchases an item for the fields such as diamond-tex or seeds then some of the fees would be waived. Commissioner Cochran stated this is due to the amount of infrastructure including light and dugouts that would need replaced eventually. He added that it would be putting the money aside like a savings account for when those repairs/replacements need to be made. Mr. Cochran mentioned that to reach the amount of insurance asked would be an additional cost from what they have now. Mr. Marsico stated that the insurance is either one million or five million which is a big difference in cost. Ms. Palmer added that the number listed is what the township solicitor came up with, but it can be looked into. Mr. Marsico and Mr. Salter both agreed that their groups would not be able to have tournaments with the cost of having police present. Mr. Marsico mentioned that he could see it for the large tournaments that bring in people from out of state but not for the local tournaments. Mr. Krebs stated that he is open to switching it to fire police over township police if it is only needed for parking. Ms. Palmer added that the

purpose of going over this tonight is just for open discussion and to get a better idea of what would work for everyone. Mr. Saposnek stated that it seems excessive to charge that amount for tournaments and Mr. Salter added that his group does not charge for tournaments so they would not be able to hold tournaments if charged for them. Mr. Krebs mentioned that traffic and parking is the biggest complaint when tournaments are held. Mr. Salter added that this past Sunday Winding Hills Park North was filled with people parking on the grass due to a birthday party, softball, and soccer all taking place on a normal day. Mr. Marsico added that this past Saturday was just a normal day of games at Fisher Park and the parking was overflowing into the streets of neighboring developments. Commissioner Cochran stated that the largest concern is walking across the street at Fisher Park. He added that there is a crosswalk going in between the Winding Hills Parks. Mr. Williams asked when Mr. Krebs is looking for a recommendation from the board for the new permit application and Mr. Krebs added that he will bring it back to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on October 26, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary