



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

January 26, 2022

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

VISITORS

Amy Cook- 2012 Braeburn Drive, Mechanicsburg
Janna Bulus- Mechanicsburg Lacrosse Youth Association
Carmen Williams- 334 E. Meadow Drive, Mechanicsburg
Doug Marsico- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association
Jim Salter- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Girls 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

A motion was made by Ms. Dryden to approve the meeting minutes from the November 23, 2021, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Williams thanked John Walton for serving on the board for many years and added that due to two vacancies Nick Christie and Jessica Martini have joined the board. He added that a member of the board, John Burch, passed away suddenly last year and that he was a member for

many years. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Burch along with Amy Cook were the primary leads on creating the dog park for the Township. He added that when Mr. Burch talked, everyone listened and had a voice of reason. Mr. Williams added that Mr. Burch held the vice-chair position and was previously the chairman where he encouraged the public to express their views and opinions.

Amy Cook, 2012 Braeburn Drive, thanked Mr. Williams for the humbling words and thanked him for the time he has contributed to the dog park as well. She stated that Mr. Burch's contributions were vital to the dog park and its events, and she was as shocked as anyone else to hear of his passing. Ms. Cook stated that she is sad to be here and say these words about him and how much he is missed.

Mr. Williams mentioned that he is planning on attending the Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Convention for a day and will be seeing what ideas he can bring back to the board. He added that he will also be attending Maryland's convention in early April.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

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

Commissioner Cochran mentioned that at the first Board of Commissioners meeting in February, there will be a discussion on the farmhouse and the plans for the park.

Commissioner Castranio stated that the entire length of the trail from Pennington to the Winding Hills Parks is now complete. Ms. Dryden mentioned that she was on the trail and thought it was great but would love for it to connect with Arcona in Lower Allen Township. Commissioner Cochran mentioned that a representative from Lower Allen Township asked for the township's approval on a Federal Government grant for a bridge to go over the railroad tracks and connect Winding Hills Park to Arcona and the Township agreed but the commissioners have not heard anything since.

2. *Assistant Township Manager- Palmer*

Absent

3. *Park Maintenance Supervisor – Chad Krebs*

Mr. Krebs stated that they have been busy working on the additional office space and bathroom being installed at the pole building at Winding Hills Park North. He added that he is also working with Ms. Palmer on a concession stand draft and will bring that to the February meeting to discuss.

4. *Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – Sue Canniff*

Ms. Canniff stated that on December 9th, the joint board meeting was held, and it was successful. She added that program information was discussed along with summer and fall participation from 2021. Ms. Canniff mentioned that the MAPS program was discussed along with Summer Adventure Camp numbers. She stated that there are a lot of new programs coming up along with a joint program with the soccer club. Ms. Canniff mentioned that trips will be offered again this year and the first one is in April to New York City. She added that the summer brochure is currently being worked on and if there is anything that needs to be added in, to let them know. Mr. Williams stated that when the township was looking at revisions for the joint agreement, one of them was to include each other on their websites and in their brochures, and he noticed that has been happening.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Williams mentioned that Country Estates Park was white with snow and no traffic or footprints could be seen. He added that McCormick Park has several cars parked along the side with people watching the water. Mr. Williams stated that it was twelve degrees outside when he visited the dog park and there were eight dogs there. He added that people use the park even when it is snow covered. Mr. Williams mentioned that the January quarterly meeting for the dog park committee was cancelled but the annual meeting will be held at the Township Building on March 9th at 6:30pm. He stated that there is a vacancy on the board and that position will be solicited from someone in attendance at the meeting that would like to join. Mr. Williams mentioned that the current chairperson is stepping down and that position will be filled by Amy Cook.

Ms. Dryden mentioned that both Friendship Park and Rosegarden park were all white but she did see footprints at the parks and there were kids using the incline at Rosegarden Park for sledding. Mr. Saposnek said the parks looked in great shape even though they were covered in snow. Mr. Harrison welcomed Nick Christie to the board and congratulated Chad on his new position. He added that he saw at least five people using the paths at the Winding Hills Parks and the parks looked good and plowed.

Mr. Williams assigned the parks of Aspen Park, Spring Run Park, and Mt. Allen Park to Ms. Martini and Center Square Park and Simpson Park to Mr. Christie.

PUBLIC INPUT

Doug Marsico, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association, first gave his condolences for John Burch. He mentioned that the estimate for the dug outs on west field at Fisher Park are \$22,000. Mr. Marsico stated that these will not be the same as the dug outs at north and south field, but these will provide a shelter from the weather. He added that the association is having a meeting tomorrow to discuss fundraising and hopefully they will be able to construct them this summer. Mr. Marsico added that by next summer, they are hoping to have west field a complete field like the others. He added that opening day this year will be on April 9th.

OLD BUSINESS

No items

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduction of New Board Members

Mr. Williams stated that an introduction will take place next month since Jessica Martini could not attend this meeting.

2. Verbal Update- New Parks Department

Mr. Williams read a letter from Scott Fraser, Township Manager, stating that an independent Park Department was created, and Mr. Krebs has been reclassified as Parks Director. Mr. Williams congratulated Mr. Krebs and applauded the board for creating the parks department. Mr. Krebs thanked Mr. Fraser, Ms. Palmer, and the Commissioners for providing this opportunity.

3. 2022 Field Schedule Approvals

Mr. Williams asked if there were any questions on the field schedule Mr. Salter stated that he had a question on the additional fee for tournaments. He asked if the tournament is held by the association, but it is not a money maker, then should it still be charged or not. Mr. Krebs stated that he will look into what the fees are for and see if this would be a part of that or not. Mr. Saposnek mentioned that travel tournaments are usually the ones charged and Mr. Krebs agreed. Commissioner Cochran asked if a representative from Soccer Shots has been in contact and Mr. Krebs stated that they will be paying for the usage of the parks and will be using an area that will not interfere with any sports fields.

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison to approve the 2022 Field Schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saposnek and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on February 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary