



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

January 25, 2023

PRESENT: JEFF WILLIAMS, JASON SAPOSNEK, NICK CHRISTIE, 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

Jim Salter- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Girl's 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 Mr. Harrison to approve the meeting minutes from the October 26, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saposnek and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

None

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. Township Commissioners – James Cochran/Richard Castranio

None

2. Assistant Township Manager – Kelly Palmer

Ms. Palmer stated that a grant was submitted to Cumberland County Land partnerships to fund half of the lights in the parking lot at Winding Hill Park North and the grant was just awarded in the amount of \$20,000. She added that she met with representatives of the Simpson Library to plan a Reading Day Festival at Winding Hill Park South. Ms. Palmer stated that it would collaborate with the story walk with an all together theme. There would be a children's author, children's musician, and food trucks. Ms. Palmer mentioned that the township website is being overhauled and will now be through a government based vendor instead of a boutique vendor. She added that it will have more front-end functionality with new pictures of the parks and drone footage.

3. Parks Director – Chad Krebs

Mr. Krebs stated that the parks department is getting the mowers prepped for the season and the playground equipment at Fisher Park will be removed in the next week or two. He added that himself and Mr. Mera-Aguilar are attending training all next week.

4. Parks & Facilities Coordinator- Eddie Mera-Aguilar

None

5. Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – Tonya Brown

None

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Christie mentioned that Center Square Park and Simpson Park looked phenomenal as always.

Mr. Williams stated that Country Estates Park looked fine but McCormick Park will need stone as there are potholes along it. He added that there were two incidents where cars were broken into at the dog park. Mr. Williams stated that a church representative was present with the police and luckily no one was hurt. He added that on November 11th a bench dedication for John Burch was held and approximately thirty people attended. Mr. Williams stated that it was a simple ceremony and he thanked everyone that attended. He mentioned that a river burch tree was purchased and a stake will be placed at the tree saying it is dedicated in John Burch's memory. Mr. Williams added that they received a \$1,000 donation from the Burch estate and also thanked Commissioner Cochran and Commissioner Castranio for their donations. He stated that the annual dog park committee meeting will be held on March 29th at the township building.

Mr. Saposnek mentioned that Fisher Park looks good and same with Miller's Crest Park.

Mr Harrison stated that everything looks great at Winding Hills Park North and South and despite the cold and the wind, there are always a lot of people at the park.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jim Salter, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Girl's Softball, announced a sponsorship program for adding lights to field 1 at Winding Hills Park North. He stated that they have prices out the overall cost of the lighting project with different scenarios and they would like to see some help with the cost from the Township. Mr. Christie asked if he reached out to Upper Allen

Mechanicsburg Baseball Association as they have done lighting projects in the past. Mr. Salter stated that he has reached out to them and they are planning on mirroring their project. He added that they will also have volunteers to help with the work. Mr. Harrison asked what the projected total cost would be and Mr. Salter stated that with Musco lights it would be \$200,000-\$225,000 and then the infrastructure after that. Mr. Christie asked if the Township helped with the cost when the baseball association added lights. Mrs. Palmer stated that she would need to go back and look at the numbers, but she is pretty sure that it was a zero cost to the Township. Mr. Salter added that the soccer field right next to field 1 could be lit with the same lights but the entire project will be a major undertaking and the cost has gone up a lot since the baseball association completed their project. Mr. Saposnek added that by lighting the field, it could bring in more teams to the Township by renting it out to travel teams. He added that he thinks it's a great idea.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chair & Vice Chair Elections

A motion was made by Mr. Christie to re-elect Mr. Williams as the Chairman of the Park and Recreation Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison to re-elect Ms. Sanker as the Vice Chairman of the Park and Recreation Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie passed unanimously.

2. 2023 Field Schedule Approval

Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that all the sports groups worked together to help create the field schedule. He added that he would like to push the date later for next year since most groups do not know exactly what they need yet this early in the year.

A motion was made by Mr. Christie to accept the 2023 Field Schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

3. 2023 Budget/Project Outlook

Ms. Palmer explained the differences between the general fund, capital fund, fund 38, and fund 39. She stated that in the general fund for 2023 there is approximately \$696,000 budgeted for the parks department. Ms. Palmer added that in that fund, there is money budgeted every year for community services along with the payment for the joint recreation agreement. She stated that in the capital fund, approximately \$185,000 goes towards the large purchases for the parks department. Ms. Palmer added that in Fund 38 which is capital projects and parks improvements, approximately \$680,000 is budgeted. That amount includes a grant for the trails at Generations Park which is projected to cost \$650,650. Ms. Palmer mentioned that Fund 39 which is money from developers towards parks development, differs every year. She stated that this year it is projected to have \$35,000 added and \$150,000 from the fund balance reserves will be used to cover the expenses.

Mr. Krebs mentioned that one of the large projects this year will be installing over one mile of trails at Generations Park thanks to a grant that was received. He added that there will be new cameras at Winding Hill South and Simpson Park. The bathrooms at Winding Hill North will be heated and hand dryers and LED lighting will be installed at Fisher Park and Friendship Park bathrooms. Mr. Krebs mentioned that the new playground will be installed at Fisher Park and along with a misting pad and possibly a splash pad. He added that there will be permanent metal umbrellas added on the picnic tables and grass volleyball courts added to

Winding Hill North Park and Fisher Park. Mr. Krebs mentioned that the parking lot at Fisher Park will be sealed and 10-20 parking spaces are being added on at Friendship Park. He added that the additional parking at Winding Hill North Park will be paved and parking lot lighting will be added in to the front parking lot along with the basketball court. Mr. Krebs stated that the water fountains at the parks are going to start to be replaced. He mentioned that he is working with Messiah University on adding a water source in for the Grantham pond. Mr. Harrison stated that a splash pad is a great idea and Mr. Williams asked what type of water fountains will be installed. Mr. Krebs replied that the water fountains will have a regular water fountain, an ADA fountain, a water bottle filling fountain, and a dog fountain.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on February 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary