



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

February 22, 2023

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

Eric Fairchild- 1224 McCormick Rd
Scott Steffan- 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 January 25, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saposnek and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Williams mentioned that he will be attending the Pennsylvania Recreation Parks Society Conference next month. He will be visiting the exhibit hall along with attending the awards banquet. Mr. Williams thanked the commissioners and management for sending Mr. Krebs and

Mr. Mera-Aguilar to the NRPA Park and Recreation Maintenance Management School. Mr. Williams added that he will be visiting a skate park in Maryland tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

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

None.

2. *Assistant Township Manager – Kelly Palmer*

None.

3. *Parks Director – Chad Krebs*

Mr. Krebs stated that the old playground equipment at Fisher Park has been removed and the new equipment is on site to be installed. He added that the next project will be installing the lights at the parking lot at Winding Hills Park North. Mr. Krebs mentioned that the paving and engineering will go in front of the Board of Commissioners at the second meeting next month. The paving will consist of two hundred parking spaces in the back parking lot of Winding Hills Park North with an additional one hundred spaces added on, twenty-four new spaces at Friendship Park and four spaces at Country Estates Park. Commissioner Cochran added that money was borrowed over a year ago and this paving alone will cost a half million along with the paving at Generations Park being another half million. He stated that the cost of asphalt has gone down from last year so that is helping. Commissioner Castranio added that there will be speed tables in the parking area where the two hundred parking spaces are being paved. Mr. Krebs stated that the seasonal employees will be starting back in the next few weeks and mulching will begin soon.

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

Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that all field permits have been sent to the sports organizations. He mentioned that he is currently creating a vendor calendar. Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that the week at NRPA Park and Recreation Maintenance Management School was a very long week with a lot of information, but he is excited to go back again next year for year two.

5. *Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – Tonya Brown*

Ms. Brown mentioned that there is one week of elementary school basketball left and approximately six hundred children are in the program. She added that the next brochure should be out in the next week or two and it will go on the website as soon as it is back from the printer. Ms. Brown stated that they are in the process of hiring for the summer playground and summer adventure camp. She mentioned that the Middle School Maps program starts in two weeks and usually there are approximately seventy-five children in the program, but this time there are two hundred and seventy-five children in the program. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Brown is in her second year as President of the Pennsylvania Recreation Parks Society, and he admires her for doing that. He also added that she is retiring as of June 30th but will still be involved by doing volunteer work.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Christie mentioned that Center Square Park looked great but asked if the two stumps would be removed. Mr. Krebs stated that they will be replaced with new trees along with that park having the basketball court replaced this year.

Mr. Williams mentioned that Country Estates Park is the same as always and there were three fishermen at McCormick Park. He added that the Dog Park annual meeting will be held at the Township building on March 29th at 6:30 pm and it will be advertised ahead of time. Mr. Williams

stated that there were two cases of cars broken into within a week of each other along with a dog nipped by another dog. He added that with the trees down along Gettysburg Pike, more people can see the dog park so more people are aware of it. Mr. Williams mentioned that there were at least seventy-five people at Friendship Park when he went past.

Ms. Sanker stated that Grantham Park could use some cleanup from trash laying around.

Ms. Dryden mentioned that both Friendship Park and Rosegarden Park looked good. She asked if there will be fencing added at Rosegarden Park to hide the pumping station and Mr. Krebs stated that it will first be paved and then a fence will go around it.

Mr. Saposnek mentioned that Miller's Crest Park looked good, and Fisher did as well and even had people walking on the path on a gloomy day.

PUBLIC INPUT

Eric Fairchild, 1224 McCormick Road, stated that he noticed the fence posts at Generations Park were being taken down by Amish and he was wondering why. Mr. Krebs mentioned that the fencing at the park was posted on Municibid and part of the sale was that whoever bought the fence, had to remove it as well. Mr. Fairchild asked what the goals are for this year and Mr. Krebs stated that as of right now, the plans are with the engineer who does not have an update yet. Commissioner Cochran added that there are some permitting processes that need done first before any work can be done. Commissioner Castranio stated that the permitting process can have a 3 to 6 month wait time.

Scott Steffan, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association, mentioned that the outfield fence at Fisher Park West Field was just completed and he thanked Mr. Krebs and stated it looked fantastic. He added that field can now be used for multiple age groups making it more versatile. Mr. Steffan stated that UAMBA is requesting to add a scoreboard onto west field, and they would use the old scoreboard that was at north field. He added that they would have to dig a trench from south field, but it would be in a low traffic area. Mr. Steffan added that they would then run electric from the scoreboard to the field shed so that the batteries to operate the scoreboard could charge in the shed. Commissioner Cochran asked if the scoreboard meets the standards set and Mr. Krebs stated that it does. Commissioner Castranio mentioned that the small area trenched that will run over the field area won't be the same and Mr. Steffan stated that they have done this in the past and have not had any issue of it not leveling off afterwards.

Mr. Steffan stated that the scoreboard on south field has come to the end of its life as it is at least twelve years old and UAMBA is requesting to be able to replace it with the same size and colors as the new scoreboard on fisher north. He added that they would not be immediately pursuing this but would like to if the funds are available later this year.

Mr. Steffan stated that opening day for baseball is quickly coming up and they are having a challenge with some of their vendors. He mentioned that some of their vendors are tabletop vendors that do not serve food but hand out trinkets or sell t shirts with a total revenue under \$100 per day. He added that the fee for a vendor permit is \$50. Mr. Steffan stated that the permit cost is affecting 3-4 vendors and is asking for a waiver for those that do not sell food and are only table vendors. Mr. Krebs stated that if they would waive for them then where would they draw the line and Ms. Palmer stated that they are still private entities making money off public property. She added that by granting them an exception, it would create a slippery slope. Mr. Saposnek stated that the \$50 fee is a cost of doing business and does not think that the township should start doing waivers. Mr. Christie asked if they could create swag bags to give out and the businesses put their names in the bags to get their businesses out there. Mr. Williams stated that he has an issue with people using public property to make money and the more changes you make to a policy will eventually make the policy unusable. He added that the board is not in favor of creating a waiver.

A motion was made by Ms. Dryden to recommend to the Board of Commissioners the scoreboard addition to Fisher Park west field along with running electric to the field shed and replacing the

scoreboard at Fisher Park south field. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mechanicsburg Recreation Award

Mr. Williams announced that the Mechanicsburg Recreation Department has won the Agency of the year award and will be awarded at the Pennsylvania Recreation Parks Society banquet. He added that only one award is given each year and it is not easy to get. Mr. Williams congratulated Ms. Brown and her staff on a job well done.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on March 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary