

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

**May 24, 2023**

**PRESENT:** JEFF WILLIAMS, NICK CHRISTIE, LAUREN SANKER, DANIEL HARRISON, JESSICA MARTINI, JASON SAPOSNEK – MEMBERS; James Cochran, Township Commissioner; Ken Martin, Township Commissioner; Kelly Palmer, Assistant Township Manager; Chad Krebs, Parks Director; Julie Roth, Recording Secretary

**VISITORS**

Eric Fairchild- 1224 McCormick Rd  
Elizabeth Leslie- 760 Allenvue Drive  
Chris Metz- C.S. Davidson

**Note: Due to a malfunction in the recording system the meeting was not recorded. The minutes are based off of limited notes taken during the meeting.**

**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 March 22, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. Williams mentioned that the meeting last month was cancelled due to not having a quorum, therefore no action could be voted on. He added that no one can attend tonight from Mechanicsburg Recreation Department due to the passing of a long-term employee.

**CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

***1. Township Commissioners – James Cochran/Ken Martin***

Commissioner Cochran mentioned that the board and the Mechanicsburg Borough came to an agreement on Koser Park. He added that the township has so far replaced the trash cans, power washed the equipment, and put tanbark down on the playground. Commissioner Cochran stated that it has been slow to begin with, but the changes are already noticeable. Mr. Saposnek asked about the fields adjacent to the park that are on the school property and Commissioner Cochran stated that they will be discussed at a future date.

**2. Assistant Township Manager – Kelly Palmer**

Ms. Palmer stated that there is a lot of misinformation out there, therefore the township is working on a #knowyourmunicipality campaign, to inform the public of what all is involved in the township. She added that one area will be on what it is like to volunteer on a board. Ms. Palmer mentioned that the township website is still being rebuilt but it has a go live date at the end of August.

**3. Parks Director – Chad Krebs**

Mr. Krebs stated that at the end of April, a Certified Playground Safety Inspector course was held at the township building with fifty people in attendance. He added that the parks department employees attended the training. Mr. Williams stated that the course is a national certification course for inspecting equipment and how frequently it needs to be completed. Mr. Krebs mentioned that the playground at Fisher Park is completed and the parking lot at Winding Hill Park North is complete as well. He added that the metal umbrellas and volleyball courts are ordered, and the park paving will take place between the middle and end of the summer.

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

Absent

**5. Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – Tonya Brown**

Absent

**PARK ASSIGNMENTS**

Mr. Christie stated that Center Square Park and Simpson Park looked great.

Mr. Williams mentioned that Country Estates is now paved with a nice area to turn around on. He added that the portapotty was moved so it is not the first thing you see going into the park. Mr. Williams mentioned that McCormick Park is always a pleasure to drive by and he saw people fishing in the water. He added that the dog park had an open house over Easter and people tried out the park for the first time before registering their dogs. Mr. Williams mentioned that there are three gold dog bone sponsors and their dog bone plates being created now and a sign was just installed at the river burch tree in remembrance of John Burch. He added that the end of June will be the sixth-year anniversary of the dog park. There will be a table set up for a couple of hours in the evening where the committee will be giving away magnets with the logo on them and selling t-shirts. Mr. Williams added that attendance at the park was down while the dog flu was going around.

Ms. Sanker stated that Grantham Park looked amazing and nothing was wrong with the park.

Ms. Martini mentioned that there is nothing new to report on Aspen Park, Spring Run Park, and Mt. Allen Park but that her daughter is very grateful for the misters at Friendship Park.

Mr. Saposnek stated that it was quiet but looked great at Miller's Crest Park and it was great as well at Fisher Park.

Mr. Harrison mentioned that there was a lot of action at Winding Hills Parks and they looked great but there were a lot of kids playing on the huge dirt pile.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Elizabeth Leslie, 760 Allenvue Drive, asked about the surface on the walking paths at Simpson Park. She added that the area from the parking lot to the pavilion is hard to walk on and you cannot push a stroller or wheelchair across them. Mr. Krebs mentioned that he would have it rolled so that it will make it tight and easier to walk on. Ms. Leslie asked why the bird boxes were removed and Mr. Krebs stated that they are back and that the Blue Bird Association is who maintains them. Ms. Leslie mentioned that

there used to be markers at the trees throughout the park, but they have been removed. Ms. Palmer stated that she would look into it and contact her with what is found.

Phil Walsh, 443 McCormick Road, asked if this board is involved in the discussion over making McCormick Road one way. Ms. Palmer stated that it was brought up at a Board of Commissioners meeting as an idea, but they are not looking to move forward with that right now.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Park Events Update**

Ms. Palmer stated that on Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>, the township will be hosting a reading day in the park in partnership with the Simpson Library. There will be local children's authors, games, crafts, children's musician, and food trucks. The event will take place at Winding Hill South Park from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. She added that in partnership with Alba Orthodontics, there will be two movie nights at Friendship Park this year. The first one is on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and the second one is on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Mr. Krebs mentioned that the township will be hosting a Fall Fest on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Winding Hill Park North. He added that there will be food trucks, games, live music, craft vendors, and hayrides. Mr. Krebs mentioned that starting in June, there will be Treat Tuesdays held at Friendship Park and Winding Hills Park North. Ms. Palmer added that all details and event flyers are on the website and social media.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Generations Engineering Report**

Chris Metz from C. S. Davidson gave an engineering report on Generations Park. He mentioned that not much has changed at the entrance from Lisburn Road. He stated that coming into the site, they wanted to maximize the trails as far as length, so some additional areas of trails have been added. He added that in the area of the quiet meadow, the trail was maximized with the potential of adding in a gazebo. Mr. Metz stated that while visiting that area, they spotted deer nearby. He mentioned that the pickle ball courts now have parking right near them and the bocce ball area is now at the pickleball area with a small pavilion. He added that towards McCormick Road there is a pavilion, shade pavilion, restrooms, and a nice open area. Mr. Metz mentioned that there is a small pavilion near the butterfly area. He stated that with overflow parking areas, there is now about five hundred and fifty parking spaces in the park. He added that there are now updated sidewalks and grass areas to create a buffer from the parking areas. Mr. Metz stated that there are no trails along McCormick Road so they are proposing a connection that will tie into the existing drive that is out there now making everything inner connected. He stated that the amphitheater was moved due to the sun glare and now has a more natural funnel. He mentioned that behind it is now a small parking lot for performers to unload their equipment. Mr. Metz stated that the large pavilion can hold 350 people so there was more parking added near that. He added that the woodland pavilion was moved due to the grading in the area and the senior park now has closer parking to it and the walking trail around it was maximized.

Mr. Christie stated that the park looks incredible, and it is great to start picturing what the park is going to look like. Mr. Walsh asked when this report will be on the website, and Ms. Palmer stated that it will be added once the minutes are approved. Ms. Leslie asked what the timeline for the park will be and Ms. Palmer stated that the park will be created in phases and will probably be a decade-long project. She mentioned that the update tonight was just to talk about the engineering details since the master plan. Ms. Palmer added that all underground costs will be upfront, however she did just apply for a grant

for trails, and if awarded, it will bring in close to one million dollars for the park. Ms. Leslie mentioned that the Ned Smith Center in Millersburg has an amphitheater that the township could get ideas from. Mr. Walsh asked if the trails will be available for use once they are installed and Ms. Palmer stated that once they are in, they will be accessible and usable. Mr. Cochran mentioned that the large-sized field should stay open for activities such as flying kits and throwing football. Mr. Williams stated that he appreciates the small parking area behind the amphitheater.

Eric Fairchild, 1224 McCormick Road, mentioned that he lives right across from the park. He stated that he has advocated for a passive park for three years and that this plan has substantial change from the original plan. Mr. Williams stated that this park is still within the original plan. Ms. Palmer added that most of the amenities are the same, but they had to make some considerations on the location of the amenities.

Mr. Fairchild asked how many restrooms are on the plan now and Mr. Metz stated that it is still seven, the same as the master plan. Mr. Fairchild asked how many parking spaces are on this plan and Mr. Metz stated there are 350 with 190 overflow spots. Mr. Metz also stated that this plan has .6 miles of additional unapproved trails. Mr. Fairchild asked if the engineers did this plan on their own and Ms. Palmer stated that it was the township's contracted engineer that planned this to inform us of where items should be located from an engineering standpoint.

Commissioner Cochran mentioned that at this meeting is the first time that the commissioners are seeing this plan. He added that the engineers bring the ideas to the board to be discussed and this is the next step in the process of making the park work. Commissioner Cochran also mentioned that more trails were added, and he feels that is a positive thing. Commissioner Martin asked Mr. Fairchild what specifically he does not like about the design and Mr. Fairchild said it has way too much parking and looks like an abomination. Mr. Fairchild asked what the priority is and stated that it seems like it is the amphitheater. Ms. Palmer stated that walking trails are the priority and DCNR's number one for parks. Mr. Fairchild asked if there was an acorn for an amphitheater and Ms. Palmer stated that she would go back and look. Mr. Fairchild added that things shouldn't be moved around from the original plan. Commissioner Martin stated that he disagrees and that this is the next step in the process. Mr. Fairchild asked if Derck and Edson would be back, and Commissioner Martin added that they finished their part but he cannot say if they will not have a part in it later. Mr. Fairchild stated that he will research master plans and Commissioner Martin added that master plans are a fluid process. Ms. Leslie stated that the square footing of parking looks significantly different, and she asked why not maintain the grass areas for parking for events. Commissioner Martin mentioned that some of the parking along the roadway was consolidated into larger areas so that people would not back out into the roadway, but he said that could be revisited. He also added that when you have a lot of cars in a field then it starts to tear them up and will take mud down Lisburn Road. Mr. Fairchild stated that it is now an engineering project and not a park anymore. Ms. Sanker replied that she thinks it is a beautiful park. Mr. Fairchild stated that a lot of miss information comes from this room and Ms. Palmer asked him to explain. He said that there is no leadership and an influx in what we gain. Mr. Fairchild said that the park is in the corner of the township near Lower Allen Park and why are they expecting all the people to come out to this park? He added that Lower Allen Park does not have near this many parking spots. Mr. Williams asked where the people park at Lower Allen Park when they have events because they do not have enough parking. Commissioner Cochran stated that he remembers saying at a public setting that this is a direction to get us started and it does not become specific until it is

built. Mr. Fairchild mentioned that the township is now putting engineering ahead of park design.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on June 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth  
Recording Secretary