

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

June 28, 2023

PRESENT: JEFF WILLIAMS, NICK CHRISTIE, CHRISTINA DRYDEN, JASON SAPOSNEK – MEMBERS; James Cochran, Township Commissioner; Richard Castranio, Township Commissioner; Chad Krebs, Parks Director; Eddie Mera-Aguilar, Parks and Facilities Coordinator; Julie Roth, Recording Secretary

VISITORS

Jim Salter- Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Girl's Softball
Evelyn Dryden- 848 Tolman Street

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 May 24, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Williams mentioned that this would be the last meeting for Ms. Brown after forty years of service. He added that the recreation department must stay with the trends and Ms. Brown and her team have done that along with offering a great variety. Mr. Williams thanked her personally. He stated that July is National Parks and Recreation Month and Friday July 21st is Park and Recreation Professionals Day. Mr. Williams added that an event will be held this year in Carlisle, but he does not have the details or times yet.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- 1. Township Commissioners – James Cochran/Rick Castranio*
None
- 2. Assistant Township Manager – Kelly Palmer*
Abesnt
- 3. Parks Director – Chad Krebs*

Mr. Krebs mentioned that fifty trees are being planted in the parks along with some landscape areas. He added that the prework for the paving is starting on July 10th. Mr. Krebs mentioned that

the restrooms at Winding Hills Parks are now insulated, and the HVAC will be installed towards the fall. He stated that the seasonal crew has been busy pressure washing, painting, and staining areas in the parks.

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

Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that they are currently reviewing the field applications and looking to revise them after receiving feedback from the sports groups. Mr. Williams asked if the board would be receiving the participation numbers from the spring sports and Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that he would send them out to the board.

5. *Mechanicsburg Recreation Department – Tonya Brown/ Tiffany Herron*

Ms. Brown mentioned that she has lived almost her entire life in this community she is very blessed for that. She stated that the programs and everything done by the recreation department is because of the wonderful community and cooperation of the three municipalities within the school district. Mr. Brown added that the department is blessed to move on with Tiffany Herron and she has lived most of her life in Upper Allen Township. Ms. Herron stated that she is super excited to be here. Mr. Williams welcomed Ms. Herron.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Christie mentioned that Center Square Park and Simpson Park look great.

Mr. Williams stated that Country Estates was fine as normal, and McCormick Park had a group of kayakers going down the water. He added that the dog park new gold bone sponsor plaques have been hung up and the park looks great. Mr. Williams added that the attendance is up and down, but new people are constantly joining. He added that there will be a small 5th anniversary celebration on July 12th from 7 pm to 8 pm and will include an open house for people to try out the park.

Ms. Dryden stated that there is nothing to report for Friendship Park and Rosegarden Park.

Mr. Saposnek mentioned that the gate at Miller's Crest Park playground is not closing properly, and that Fisher Park looked great.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jim Salter, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Softball, presented their capital campaign. He stated that the softball group has been in existence for more that twenty-five years and this campaign is to help light field 1 at Winding Hill Park North. Mr. Salter mentioned that he has been engaging with local businesses in the area to help with funding and he has flyers that list donation amounts for corporate and individual sponsorships. He stated that he is coming to the board with this to see what can be offered in return for the donations. Mr. Williams mentioned that it will need some creative thought and staff discussion. Commissioner Castranio stated that there are ordinances and policies in place so Mr. Salter will need to meet with Mr. Krebs and Ms. Palmer to go over them. Mr. Krebs added that the current policy does not allow separated signs on the fence lines or above. Ms. Dryden mentioned asking some of the potential sponsors if there is something they would like to see that does fit within the ordinances. Mr. Williams stated that the direction from the Commissioners is to get together with staff. Mr. Christie asked if flags on the light poles would be possible, and Mr. Krebs added that could be evaluated. Mr. Salter mentioned that he does not want to over promise and under deliver. Mr. Williams suggested mentioning it in the township newsletter and through social media to raise funds. Mr. Salter stated that he is willing to do whatever needs to be done to secure this. Mr. Williams mentioned that he thinks it is exciting because it opens the door for other sports and amenities at that park.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Park Events Update

Mr. Mera-Aguilar mentioned that there were roughly 300 participants in the reading day event. He thanked the Simpson Library for their partnership in the event. Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that Tuesdays are Treat Tuesdays, and it is taking off with good feedback from it. He mentioned that the first movie night in the park is coming up on July 14th with Super Mario Bros. as the movie chosen for the event. Mr. Mera-Aguilar stated that the Fall Fest is still in the planning process, and they are looking for volunteers and if anyone wants to volunteer, let him know. He mentioned that the fire department, police department, public works department, and sewer department will all have trucks there as a showcase piece. Commissioner Cochran mentioned that there have been comments as to why we need a space for 600 people and movie in the park events are why. He stated that the first year it brought in around 350 people in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Premeeting Site Visits/ Meeting Times

Mr. Williams mentioned that during the months it is possible, there will be pre meetings before the actual meeting each month at a different park. Mr. Krebs added that they thought it would be a good idea for a half hour premeeting at a park to see the projects and talk about that park. He added that along with this there is a chance to change the time of the regular meetings. Mr. Williams stated that he would like to keep the 6:30 pm time for the actual meeting and then 5:30 for the premeeting. Mr. Krebs handed out a proposed site visit list. Mr. Williams asked if anyone wanted to make any changes and there were none.

2. Park Assignments

Mr. Williams mentioned that each board member visits assigned parks to see if anything needs done in the parks. He asked if anyone wanted to trade their parks and Mr. Christie asked if he could trade with Ms. Dryden and she agreed. Mr. Williams asked if anyone wanted to take Koser Park and Mr. Saposnek agreed to take Koser park. Mr. Williams added that he would send out an email to the few board members that are not in attendance to see if they would like to make any changes.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on July 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary