

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
JANUARY 13, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

A. Mr. Heisner called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

A. The following Parks & Recreation members were present: Mr. Dell Angelo, Mrs. Eckman, Mr. Gambone, Mr. Heisner, Mrs. Mandracchia, and Mr. Wurtz.

B. Mrs. Mazza was absent.

C. Additional attendees included: Mr. Matthew Jones, Student Representative, Mr. Craig Dininny, Board of Supervisors Liaison, and Mr. Karl Lukens, Parks & Recreation Director.

3. Re-Organization Meeting:

A. Appoint Temporary Chairman:

1. Mr. Heisner appointed Mr. Lukens as temporary Chairman of the Board. Mr. Lukens requested nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

B. Nominate and elect Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

1. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to nominate Mr. Heisner as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Board. Mr. Dell Angelo seconded the motion.

2. **MOTION** – Mr. Heisner made a motion to nominate Mr. Gambone as Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Board. Mr. Dell Angelo seconded the motion.

3. **MOTION** – Mr. Wurtz made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Gambone seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

4. **MOTION** – Mr. Wurtz made a motion to approve the nominations. Mr. Gambone seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

5. Mr. Lukens turned the meeting back over to Mr. Heisner.

C. 2009 Meeting Schedule:

1. **MOTION** – Mr. Wurtz made a motion to approve the 2009 meeting schedule. Mr. Gambone seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

D. Student Representative:

1. Mr. Matt Jones can remain as student representative through August 2009. He will try to find a replacement representative.

2. Mr. Lukens has not received any other input on a replacement for student representative.

3. **MOTION** – Mr. Heisner made a motion to retain Mr. Jones as student representative, and to bring aboard the new candidate when they become available. Mr. Gambone seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

E. Adjourn Re-Organization Meeting:

1. **MOTION** – Mr. Dell Angelo made a motion to adjourn the re-organization meeting. Mr. Wurtz seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

4. Monthly Meeting:

A. Review/Approve meeting minutes of November 18, 2008, and workshop meeting minutes of December 2, 2008:

1. Mr. Wurtz suggested removing the word “not” from the November 18, 2008 minutes, under Old Business, Evansburg Point Park, item 1A.

2. **MOTION** – Mr. Heisner made a motion to approve the November 18, 2008 meeting minutes as modified, and the December 2, 2008 minutes. Mr. Dell Angelo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

5. Old Business:

A. Wooded Glen Field Update:

1. Mr. Tom Leahan, Vice President of the Methacton Wolverines, was present to provide a status on the project.
2. Mr. Leahan reviewed outstanding items from Mr. Lukens' December 26, 2008 punch list. These items include:
 - a) The retaining wall
 - b) Widening the driveway from 113' to 120';
 - c) Installation of a swale adjacent to the driveway as shown on page 4 & 5 of the plan. This includes inlet 2A, requiring a grass island and berm.
3. Mr. Leahan reported that Mr. Lukens had the Township Parks crew cut the brush away to make room for the installation of a walkway at the Northwest end of the field to replace the connection that was covered over by the field improvements.
4. Mr. Leahan noted that the Wolverines are a non-profit organization. Last month alone they spent \$2,770.36 to seed the field. For safety purposes they intend to complete the retaining wall first. However, they have run out of money with the end of the year, and are awaiting receipt of grant money prior to proceeding. Mr. Leahan stated that the Wolverines would receive a \$20,000 grant from Buxmont football, which should be received by March.
5. Mr. Wurtz asked what was being done regarding stones and rocks on the field? Mr. Leahan is a detective and has access to people in the County's ARD work program for public service. He has already had two work crews removing stones from the field. They intend go over the field again once the weather breaks.
6. Mr. Gambone asked when they intend to use the field for games?
 - a) Mr. Leahan intends to use the field this year, once field conditions are approved by both Buxmont and Chambers Associates. He explained they are working on a topside irrigation system and should have playable grass by the fall.
 - b) Mr. Heisner remarked that the field would need two good growing seasons or it would be torn up and need to be replaced.
 - c) Mr. Leahan explained that this is why they are using specialists on the field. They will only play games on the field; it will not be used for practice. He is also meeting with Methacton School District to arrange for practice and possibly playing fields in the district.
7. Mr. Leahan noted that a new Board has been elected for the Wolverines. Donna McHugh is the new President. It is this Board's intent to get things done. He apologized for being in year 6 of a 10-year contract and still not having a playable field. A representative from the Wolverines will attend the Park Board meetings to provide monthly updates.
8. Mrs. Eckman asked if the retaining wall had been engineered? Mr. Lukens indicated there were plans, and Mr. Salisbury had conveyed information regarding the wall to the Wolverines.

B. Evansburg Point Park Plan:

1. Mr. Lukens provided updated cost estimates for work at the park. Chambers Associates provided the costs. The Existing Features Plan for the park, dated March 20, 2008, was used during this discussion.
2. Mr. Lukens explained that ten of the proposed additional spaces on the side of Mrs. Eckman's reconfiguration proposal were turned down by DCNR. They will need waivers from the Board of Supervisors for head-on parking without a separation, and for lack of parking islands on the

plan. The updated costs do not include the extra pavilion or playground, only the paths and parking lot extension. Mr. Lukens thought that the Warriors may have offered to purchase a pavilion, however the Township has not received any money for one. The project is already over the 2009 budget with the paths and parking lot.

3. Mr. Heisner noted that the original budget was \$115,000, and the new Chambers estimates are \$151,000. He asked how much was spent to re-do the game field? Mr. Lukens found a letter from 2005 indicating the cost was \$24,000.
4. Mrs. Eckman commented that the paving cost seems high at \$38 per yard. Mr. Dininny explained that the estimates are based on the cost of labor at rate, and would go out to bid. He noted that Chambers is usually pretty good at estimating the price.
5. Mrs. Mandracchia noted that the plan shows two pavilions. Mr. Gambone explained that there are currently no pavilions on the property, just a shed.
6. Mr. Wurtz asked if the estimates were for repaving the entire parking lot or just for the 30 additional parking spaces? Mrs. Eckman believes that this estimate is just for the expansion. Mr. Dininny commented that the estimate is not that far off, and the rates are good. He explained that this was why it is good when they can get a developer to do the work for the Township, because the developers can do the work at a lower rate.
7. Mr. Heisner stated that they need to decide on the plan tonight.
 - a) Mr. Gambone indicated that he agreed with the current plan.
 - b) Mr. Wurtz suggested leaving both pavilions on the plan so that if DCNR approves it they could always add the second pavilion at a later date if desired.
 - c) Mrs. Eckman commented that they need a place for the playground and the pavilion. She also asked how they would come up with the additional \$35,000 to complete the plan?
 - d) Mr. Heisner indicated that the Board of Supervisors would determine the funding.
 - e) Plan Changes – It was decided that a playground would be added southeast of the existing concession stand, between the trails near the 45’ diameter pavilion-
 - f) Mr. Dininny asked why two pavilions were proposed when other fields have none? He requested that the Board be cognizant of the other park’s needs prior to installing two in this location.
 - (1) Mr. Gambone thought that the Board had decided to go with one pavilion at a previous meeting. He suggested removing the smaller pavilion.
 - (2) Mrs. Eckman stated that they committed to one pavilion in the future, and that the Warriors were to pay for it.
 - (3) Mr. Heisner lives near the park, and commented that it does not get a lot of use in the summer. He does not see a demand for more than one pavilion.
 - (4) Mr. Wurtz asked if it would be harder to add a pavilion at a later date? Mr. Lukens does not think this would be difficult to add later.
 - g) Mr. Dell Angelo asked if the playground was too close to the field? Mr. Lukens indicated that it may appear that way on the plan, however there is more than enough space at the park for the playground in the proposed location. Mrs. Eckman noted that parents want to be able to have children on the playground and still be able to view the field.
 - h) **Plan Changes** – It was decided that there would be only one pavilion, with the 20’ x 30’ pavilion being removed from the plan. The other changes will include adding one playground, the parking lot expansion, and renaming the shed to restrooms on the plan.
 - i) Mr. Wurtz asked if the lights were being removed from the practice field?
 - (1) Mr. Lukens thinks that DCNR will not approve the plan with practice field lighting. Both the neighbors and Warriors Football agreed to proceed without permanent

lighting on the Multi-purpose field. Mr. Gambone thinks that the lights should remain on the plan.

- (2) Mrs. Eckman thinks the lights have to be removed from the plan because the neighbors wanted them off of the plan. This was discussed in November.
- (3) Mr. William Donovan asked if there was only one family against the lights or if more residents were opposed to them? Mr. Heisner noted that only one family has attended the meetings to oppose the lights.
- (4) Mrs. Mandracchia asked who paid to run the lights, and if the residents were able to put the lights on at other times? Mr. Heisner noted that the organizations pay to run the lights. The lights are only on for games and practice, not other times of the year.
- (5) Mr. Wurtz, Mrs. Eckman, and Mr. Dell Angelo wanted to see the lights removed from the plan. Mr. Heisner and Mr. Gambone wanted the lights to stay on the plan. Mrs. Mandracchia abstained because she did not know enough about the situation.
- (6) **Plan Changes** – It was decided that the lights would be removed from the practice field.

8. **MOTION** – Mr. Heisner made a motion to accept the plan with changes as stated. Mr. Wurtz seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-2-1. Mr. Wurtz, Mrs. Eckman, and Mr. Dell Angelo voted in favor of the motion, Mr. Heisner and Mr. Gambone opposed the motion, and Mrs. Mandracchia abstained.

C. Oldies Dance, 11/30 & Holiday Festival 12/5 re-cap:

1. Mr. Lukens noted that only 45 people attended the November dance, which at best broke even. He has discussed the dances with Ms. Johnson, and they will increase advertising in January in an attempt to increase attendance. If the dances continue to receive low turnout, they will be modified or eliminated.
2. Mr. Lukens noted that the Holiday Festival also needed more or better advertising, and also perhaps a better date. Mr. Wurtz noted that this was not advertised in the schools and it should have been.

6. New Business:

A. Oldies Dance, Sunday, January 25, 2009:

1. Ms. Johnson will need help for this dance, and also the last dance scheduled for February 22nd. Mr. Lukens will ask her to send an email to the Park Board to see who can help. Mr. Heisner requested that everyone respond to the email so that Ms. Johnson knows who is helping.
2. Mr. Lukens commented that they have also added water aerobics programs as a class for residents. These sessions will be held at the Variety Club, who will provide a donation back to the Township for every resident who enrolls in the program. Additional details are on the Township website.

B. 5-Year Capital Plan:

1. Mr. Lukens distributed the revised Capital Plan via email. He inserted estimate numbers for missing costs. The only missing cost at this point is an estimate for lighting along Parklane Drive for 2014.
2. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to approve the 5-year capital plan. Mr. Dell Angelo seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

C. Fireworks – 4th of July / Fall Fest:

1. Mr. Lukens explained that Mr. Dunbar wanted the Park Board's input regarding this year's proposed fireworks. With the economy as it is, how extravagant do they want the shows, and do they still want two shows? He noted that Mr. Dysard has proposed a new vendor for this year's fireworks, with a cost of \$10,000 for the 4th of July.

2. Mr. Gambone and Mr. Heisner commented that they have used the same vendor for the past few years because they have received a lot of compliments for the show. They asked why Mr. Dysard is proposing a vendor change?
3. Mr. Lukens will research the rationale for the change and also find out which vendor was used last year.
4. Mr. Heisner asked him to find out the cost of last year's show as compared to what is proposed for 2009.
5. Mr. Lukens asked if the Board wanted to have firework at Fall Fest? Mr. Heisner asked if other surrounding Townships were canceling their fireworks? Mr. Dininny thinks that everyone except for Norristown is still doing previously held fall fireworks.
6. The Board decided they would like to have both fireworks shows unless there is no funding for them.

7. Comments from Board:

- A. Mr. Gambone noted that ARA would begin "Buddy Baseball" this year for disabled children. This is a Cal Ripken program and is for children from 5 through 16 or 18 years of age. The children in the regular league help out. Mr. Gambone asked people to help spread the word about this program.
 1. Mr. Lukens remarked that there is also something called the Miracle League that uses wheelchair accessible fields. He will pass along the information to ARA.
 2. Mr. Dell Angelo asked if this was mentioned to the representatives from the PA chapter of Cal Ripken? They will be able to help with advertising.

8. Comments from Residents:

- A. Mr. William Donovan suggested the Township consider looking at prices for holding the fireworks on the 3rd of July. There are often significant price breaks for holding a show that day instead of the 4th.
- B. Mr. Wurtz noted they need to make sure to purchase a good supply of glow necklaces for the fireworks because they sold out last year.

9. Adjourn:

- A. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dell Angelo seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2009