

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
FEBRUARY 10, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

A. Mr. Heisner called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

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

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

3. Monthly Meeting:

A. Review/Approve meeting minutes of January 13, 2009:

1. **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.

4. Old Business:

A. Evansburg Point Park Plan:

1. Mr. Lukens has submitted changes to Chambers Associates. Once the changes have been incorporated into the plan it will go to DCNR, the Board of Supervisors and then out to bid. Mr. Lukens is hopeful this will be on the March 5, 2009 Board of Supervisors (BOS) agenda for discussion.

B. Wooded Glen Field Update:

1. Mr. Lukens was hoping that Mr. Tom Leahan, President of the Methacton Wolverines, would be present to provide a status on the project. He has forwarded an outstanding invoice for approximately \$800 to the Wolverines. A payment plan will need to be set up so this can be paid by the end of the first quarter.
2. Chairman Heisner attended the Wolverine's Board meeting last Sunday. He relayed the information that the Wolverines intend to use the field this coming season, and think that it will only cost \$20,000 to complete the outstanding items on their punch list. Mr. Heisner noted that per their January financial statement, the Wolverines had \$1,992 in their financial report.
3. Mr. Lukens noted that Mr. Leahan has access to heavy equipment that can be used for free.
4. Mr. Gambone remarked that there are no grants available right now because of the economy. Organizations have to find alternative ways of making money.
5. There was a general discussion of the \$20,000 grant that the Wolverines anticipated from Buxmont. This may still be forthcoming.
6. Mr. Heisner noted that the retaining wall and parking lot need to be completed, and a berm still must be installed. Mrs. Mazza commented that the Wolverines anticipated using a lot of sweat equity to complete the project.
7. Mr. Dell Angelo commented that in the future they need to make sure the organization has sufficient funds prior to allowing them to proceed on a project.
8. Mr. Heisner noted that the Wolverines intend to attend an upcoming BOS meeting in force with a lot of children dressed in uniforms. They say that the Township gave a lot of money to the Warriors last year and are looking for some funding.

9. Mr. Dininny noted that within the past five years they added drainage to the field at a cost of approximately \$35,000, however the Warriors destroyed the field by playing on it prior to its being mature. He commented that the Wolverines would need to find a new field to use this year and have already been told that.

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

1. Mr. Lukens noted that over 70 people attended the last Oldies Dance. They distributed evaluation forms to attendees in an effort to obtain feedback on these events. Some of the information being collected includes the night of the week, the cover charge, Chadwick's service, attendee age, residence etc. Mr. Lukens intends to meet with Chadwick's to see if they can obtain a better price. The next dance will be held February 22nd and will be the last dance this year.
2. Mr. Heisner heard positive feedback; with people indicating the dances should be held more frequently. There were many different people in attendance that he hadn't seen previously.
3. Mr. Dininny indicated that he would also be willing to sit in on the discussion with Chadwick's provided it was not during his work hours.

D. 5-Year Capital Plan:

1. Mr. Lukens noted this would be on the March 5, 2009 BOS agenda for discussion. Mr. Dininny clarified that the first BOS meeting each month is a workshop to discuss items, and the second meeting is a business meeting where they vote on items.

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

1. Mr. Lukens has discussed the Park Board's desire to retain the same vendor as was used for last year's firework displays with Mr. Dunbar and Mr. Dysard. Mr. Dunbar was not adverse to this decision, provided the show is a good one. Mr. Lukens and Mr. Dysard will meet with the vendor to discuss their expectations for the fireworks.
2. There is a possibility that the fall fireworks will be held for Fall Fest again in 2009, however this will depend on the economy.
3. Mr. Wurtz noted there had been some discussion regarding moving the fireworks to July 3rd to obtain a better price. It was the Board's consensus that the fireworks should remain on July 4th as this is a tradition.

5. New Business:

A. Program Updates:

1. Mr. Lukens reviewed a list of programs being held by the Township including:
 - a) Yoga, is being offered at \$85 per 6-week session, and Mat Pilates for \$130 per 9-week session. These classes are held at Level Road Schoolhouse during the evening.
 - b) There is a men's pick-up basketball program at Arcola School.
 - c) The last session of guitar lessons at Level Road are currently in session. Moving forward the lessons will be held in the Shoemaker House meeting room to free up space at Level Road for other activities. There are 6, ½ hour guitar lessons per session, and the Township makes \$10-15 per registrant.
 - d) An SAT Workshop was held January 31st in the Township meeting room. There were five students at the workshop, however other workshops have included up to 20 students. The Huntington Learning Center sponsors these workshops.
 - e) Mr. Heisner asked if line dance lessons were done? He noted that some of the Oldies Dance attendees commented they should have the lessons just prior to the dance. Mr. Lukens also received this feedback. He remarked that if it fits the budget and improves the program they would be willing to do this, however it would need to be arranged with Chadwick's, the DJ etc.

B. Report of Park & Recreation Director:

1. Mr. Lukens listed several maintenance issues that have occurred this winter:
 - a) During the month of January, residents are able to drop off live, un-adorned Christmas trees that are being discarded. The trees are chipped and used as mulch.
 - b) Mr. Lukens is trying to improve marketing and advertising of the department's activities.
 - c) Dead bolts have been added to the doors on the first floor of the Shoemaker House to secure offices after house when the meeting room may be used for programs. They have also changed the handles on the front door to be more accessible.
 - d) There were 25 loads of fill dirt that have been removed from St. Gabe's Field.
 - e) An old split-rail fence on the Breckenridge Basin has had three sections replaced.
 - f) The Parks crew has been busing clearing park paths of snow and then maintaining their vehicles once back at the garage.
2. Mr. Lukens had a meeting with the USTA Middle States representative to discuss expanding the tennis program. They have forwarded a workshop opportunity to the Township to be held in May.
 - a) Lower Providence will host a Quickstart Tennis Workshop at \$10 per person. USTA will provide portable nets, foam balls, and \$500 for Quickstart tennis lines. This is an \$800 value for the Township.
 - b) Mr. Lukens will be sending some of the camp counselors to this workshop to learn how to play Quickstart Tennis. He explained that the Quickstart lines allow them to section off the tennis courts and have more than four people per court. They can be used inside or outside.
 - c) Mrs. Mazza questioned if this was affiliated with Kinetix? Mr. Lukens indicated that it is not. He will also be meeting with Frog Hollow in Worcester to see if they can arrange anything with them.
3. Mr. Gambone asked if the Township would be using the same contractor for lawn service this year? Mr. Lukens will check to see when the contract expires.
4. Mr. Lukens will be providing an overview of the Parks Department's 2008 year in review at the March 5th BOS meeting. He will send out copies of the presentation to the Park Board.
5. The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy will partner with the Township for Earth Day projects working on Rock Run and Mine Run watersheds. Mr. Lukens suggested that some of the Park Board members might want to join in this effort as a team. This will be held April 18, 2009 from 9 a.m. to noon. On Sunday, April 19th, the Township will hold their Earth Day celebration.
6. Mr. Heisner noted that last year the Township sponsored a race which was popular, and asked if they would do this again?
 - a) Mr. Wurtz noted it was in the fall. He knows the organizer, and will get in touch with Mr. Lukens next week to discuss the details.

C. Discussion on firearms in parks ordinance:

1. Mr. Lukens will have a meeting with Chief Carroll to discuss the issue of people carrying visible firearms in Township parks.
2. Mr. Dininny noted that in Evansburg Park people could hunt, so there could be an issue near that Park. He suggested checking with DCNR to see if they can restrict this in any way. Mr. Heisner noted that the hunters park on Lewis Road and enter Evansburg Park from there.
3. Mr. Lukens noted that the Township's ordinance prohibits shooting, trapping or carrying of firearms in parks, however they cannot limit carrying of firearms.
4. Mr. Wurtz thought it was illegal to hunt in Lower Providence.

5. Mr. Gambone noted Valley Forge Park just had a deer hunt.
6. Mr. Lukens suggested they might not have to take any action at this time.

6. Comments from Board:

- A. Mr. Gambone noted that ARA would hold opening day ceremonies on April 18th. From July 17-21st, they will host the 10-year-old Eastern Regionals for softball.
- B. Mrs. Mazza asked why the Township no longer had Counselors in Training (CIT)? There is an audience of 14-15 year-olds who basically have no programs.
 1. Mr. Lukens noted that next year they are looking to have a feeder camp for 3 & 4 year-olds. They are also looking into adding a teen camp that runs 3-4 days per week and is field trip based.
 2. Mr. Lukens explained that to have a good CIT program you need very qualified leaders. Perhaps the proper structure was not in place for this program to run successfully in the past. You need strong Camp Directors and Supervisors or CIT is just baby-sitting.
- C. Mr. Gambone asked how on-line registering was going? Mr. Lukens explained it is difficult to tell because once the data is in the system they do not know if it was entered on-line or by staff. However, this keeps registration open 24/7, so that is good.

7. Comments from Residents:

- A. There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

8. Adjourn:

- A. **MOTION** – Mrs. Mazza made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gambone seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2009