

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
AUGUST 11, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Roll Call:

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

B. Mr. Dell Angelo was absent.

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

3. Monthly Meeting:

A. Review/Approve meeting minutes of June 9, 2009:

1. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to approve the June 9, 2009. Mr. Wurtz seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

4. Old Business:

A. Wooded Glen Field Update:

1. Mr. Tom Leahan, President of the Methacton Wolverines, was present to provide an update on the work his organization has completed on the field.
2. Mr. Leahan stated that the Wolverines have completed all but one of the projects on their punch list. The walking trail behind the field should be completed by this winter.
3. Chairman Heisner noted that there was standing water on the far side of the field. He checked the drainage basin and nothing is coming through so this will need to be checked. Mr. Heisner indicated that there were insects in the water, so it must have been there a while. He indicated that perhaps the soil was compacted from other construction work in that area.
4. Mr. Leahan commented that he was not part of the project when the drainage was installed, but he will have this looked at.
5. Mr. Dininny asked Mr. Lukens to see if Mr. Dunbar will have Public Works look into this matter.
6. Mr. Gambone commented that Mr. Leahan has completed more work on this field than his last three predecessors, and congratulated him on that accomplishment. Mr. Leahan noted that he has had a lot of help from other people, including the Board of Supervisors.
7. Mr. Wurtz commented that the parking lot was also well done. Mr. Gambone asked if that would be used for Fall Fest? Mr. Lukens indicated that it would.
8. Mr. Dininny explained that at the last Municipal Authority meeting they voted to transfer an additional \$30,000 to the Parks & Recreation Department with the intention of helping the Wolverines with this project. If there could be some coordination between the Wolverines and the Bocce league, perhaps they can complete permanent bathrooms up there. They would also need a little help from the Sewer Authority.
 - a) Mr. Leahan stated that the submitted plans have the restrooms and a concession stand. The concession stand would be about 28' x 24', made of concrete block with a corrugated roof. This will cost the Wolverines about \$50,000, including the plumbing and wiring, excavation and the block work. There will be a water supply but not sewer. He showed where this was located on the plans.

- b) Mr. Dininny commented that was the location they discussed for this project at the Municipal Authority Meeting. Previously this was proposed for location closer to the bocce courts, and Mr. Dininny explained how that plan fell through. He is hopeful that the Board will make a recommendation to use this money toward the restrooms and concession stand.
 - c) Mr. Gambone asked if they were ready to start on this once it was approved?
 - d) Mr. Leahan indicated that they are. He noted that the proposed restrooms are straight across from the bocce courts. He has equipment there now so they could start the excavation once they receive their permits. They are in the process of fundraising, with a golf outing planned for late September.
 - e) Mr. Gambone asked if this was publicized? There was a general discussion of ideas how this could be publicized when Mr. Leahan indicated the cost of mailing postcards was prohibitive. Mr. Leahan will forward information on the event to Mr. Lukens who will pass it along to the Park Board and in any other manner that is appropriate.
- B. Ms. Johnson provided information on the Car Show, to be held this Friday, August 14, from 5 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. She needs volunteers to park cars, help with registration, sell raffle tickets, and tally the judging. She left a form for people to sign up where they can assist. Ms. Johnson also needs help with the concert tomorrow evening, August 12th, asking if people could arrive around 6:30 p.m.

5. New Business:

- A. Discussion of request to extend lease for Wooded Glen Field by Methacton Wolverines:
1. Mr. Leahan explained that the Wolverines have put over \$200,000 into the field project and would like to request a long-term lease for use of the field. He noted they will only use the field for ten weeks out of the year, and it will not be a practice field. They would like to install the concession stand, and add lights at a cost of \$90,000.
 2. Mr. Gambone noted that ARA has a lot of money invested in their fields and only have a one-year lease. Mr. Lukens explained that because the ARA fields are County fields, they are prohibited from using a longer lease.
 3. Mr. Dininny thought there was already a long-term lease in place for the field. Mr. Gambone pointed out that they are in year six of a ten-year lease. Mr. Dininny stated the lease was necessary for the Wolverines to go after larger grant funding.
 4. Mr. Wurtz asked if other people could use the field beside the lessee? Mr. Gambone stated they could, but they cannot do anything to damage the field. Mr. Leahan stated that he would like to lock up the concession stand because they intend to leave things in there.
 5. There was a general discussion regarding additional groups who might use the field and the possibility of damage to the field. This involved discussion of possibly increasing the security deposit for those also using concessions.
 6. Chairman Heisner asked what specifically did the Wolverines want? Mr. Leahan would like a new ten-year lease for the field.
 7. Mr. Lukens noted they would need to see what the lease looked like prior to voting on it. He will contact the Township Solicitor, Mr. Onorato, to see if he can update the old lease for this purpose.
 8. Mrs. Eckman commented that they need to think about who will have exclusive rights to the concessions and the impact that has on the lease.
 9. Mrs. Mazza noted that this would be part restrooms and part concessions. The part that is restrooms could be paid for with public funds and the concessions could be paid for with private funds.

10. Mr. Lukens commented that in his past experience, shared concession stands do not work well.
11. Mr. Dininny remarked that Mrs. Eckman is saying if public money goes into the project, the public has the right to use it. Perhaps the Wolverines need to take their things with them in the off-season. He asked what types of things the Wolverines would be using? Mr. Leahan listed a deep fryer, microwave oven, stove, refrigerator, etc.
12. Mr. Dininny noted that if the bocce league helps pay for the building it may be hard to keep them out of the concession area.
13. Mr. Lukens suggested raising the deposit on the snack bar area.
14. It was decided that Mr. Lukens should pursue two separate leases, one for the field and one for the concessions. This way, if the field lease is ready before the concession issue is addressed, they can move forward with it.

B. Request to place a storage unit at Wooded Glen Field by Methacton Wolverines:

1. Mr. Leahan indicated that there is a place on the far side of the top of the field at the 50-yard line where they would like to put a storage unit. He is proposing the use of a Sea Box as a permanent structure. You should not be able to see this from the front door of the Township Building, as it is located behind shrubs. The Wolverines are willing to paint it as directed by the Township, and would install additional shrubs if requested.
2. Mrs. Eckman asked how close this was to the property line? Mr. Leahan thinks there is about 40-50 yards to the property line. The unit would be about 8' high, 32' long, and 102" wide. Mrs. Eckman stated they would need to verify the position in relation to the property line.
3. Mr. Lukens wants to stand outside the building to see how this would look. He will ask Mr. Salisbury where the property line is located.
4. Mr. Heisner asked if there was existing foliage between the field and where they want to install this unit? Mr. Leahan indicated that there was.
5. Mr. Leahan commented that they are also open to the idea of installing a wooded shed if that is more aesthetically pleasing to the Board. There will not be electricity in the storage unit.
6. Mrs. Mazza asked Mr. Leahan to stake out the area that would be affected so that Mr. Lukens can further study this request.

C. Program Updates:

1. Mr. Lukens reviewed recent programs run by the Township:
 - a) In June they held a Boot Camp Workout program for women from 5:30 – 6:30 a.m. This had 8 attendees and was very popular.
 - b) 18 residents went on the Baltimore Harbor Bus Trip.
 - c) The tennis program has been running for two months. This has been well attended. Specialty camps are run for children and are also doing well.
 - d) A 3-week lacrosse camp was run for six girls at a cost of \$75 per camper. This included one, 3-hour session per week.
 - e) Mat Pilates was run out of the Level Road School House with 11 enrollees.
 - f) Science Explorers has completed 2 sessions and has one more to go. These camps run ½ day for one week and were well attended. The first session had 12 children and the second had 17. The cost for this program is \$175 per week. Mrs. Mazza asked if enrollment goes up when Camp Perkiomy is over? Mr. Lukens noted that the first two sessions were concurrent with Camp Perkiomy. There are 12 children enrolled in the last session.
 - g) 20 children are attending the UK Elite Soccer Camp.
 - h) Tennis camp was run for four weeks. There were 63 players from children to adults.

D. Parks Maintenance Updates:

1. Mr. Lukens stated that in June a lot of work was done to maintain the flowerbeds and basins. Fencing around the basins was fixed as needed, and some fences will soon require replacement.
 2. Swings have been modified to replace the “S” hook connectors with clevis connectors.
 3. Mr. Heisner asked if the water pole was working? Mr. Lukens indicated that it was.
- E. Request for temporary lights and fee waiver at Evansburg Point Park Field by Warriors:
1. Mr. Lukens received a request from the Warriors to use temporary lights and receive a waiver of the permit fee. Mr. Lukens noted there was an issue regarding lights on that field last year, and he will accompany the Township Lighting Consultant to test the angle on the field lights tomorrow. A representative from the Warriors, Jeanine Shutt, will also be present for the test.
 2. Mr. Heisner asked if there was an issue with the electrical supply for the lights? Mr. Lukens was not aware of a problem, but noted there is a new electric panel they use to power on the game field. Mr. Dininny noted there was an issue with the old system, so they upgraded their service.
 3. Mr. Gambone asked when the parking lot would be completed at this field? Mr. Lukens indicated they are still awaiting DCNR approval. They are ready to complete the project as soon as approval is granted.
 4. Mrs. Eckman asked if bids were secured for the parking lot? Mr. Lukens noted he met at the field with Mr. Chambers, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Dysard to look at breaking the project into smaller phases. Right now the cost to do this project in-house would be \$4,800 if a stone parking lot is used, and \$20,000 for macadam.
 5. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the temporary lighting of the Evansburg Point Park practice field and waiver of the corresponding permit fee. Mrs. Mazza seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.
- F. Request for temporary lights at Eagleville Elementary by Methacton Wolverines:
1. Mr. Leahan noted that he would like to submit a plan for use of temporary lights on their practice field at Eagleville Elementary School. There are three lights at the back, and three lights on the side of the school.
 2. **MOTION** – Mrs. Mazza made a motion to recommend that the Wolverines submit a formal written request on this matter to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Gambone seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

6. Comments from Board:

- A. Mr. Dininny commented that the 4th of July festivities were fantastic.
1. There was a general discussion regarding light swords and foods being sold by vendors. This was done in booths rented by the vendors, with the exception of the light swords that were being sold by someone walking around. The police requested that the person stop selling these items, as he had no permit.
 2. The Park Board decided they would sell the light swords next year, and possibly also some of the food items. This may generate some revenue for the P&R budget.
 3. Mr. Lukens noted they did not receive a lot of donations for parking. Mr. Gambone commented on the lack of communication in the parking area. This should be improved for next year.

7. Comments from Residents:

- A. None

8. Adjourn:

- A. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Eckman seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2009