

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
DECEMBER 8, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

A. Chairman Heisner called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

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

B. Mr. Dell Angelo and Mr. Gambone were absent.

C. Additional attendees included: Mr. Sean O'Neill, Student Representative, Mr. Craig Dininny, Board of Supervisors Liaison, and Mr. Karl Lukens, Parks & Recreation Director.

3. Monthly Meeting:

A. Introduction of new Student Representative Sean O'Neill:

1. Mr. Lukens introduced the new student representative, Sean O'Neill. Mr. O'Neill indicated that he was a freshman at Methacton H.S.; played freshman football this year, has been involved with community sports, and has done a lot of community service for ARA.

2. Chairman Heisner commented that the Board is very interested in Mr. O'Neill's perspective and encouraged him to actively participate in the discussions.

B. Review/Approve meeting minutes of November 10, 2009:

1. Mrs. Eckman requested that the word "children" in item 6b of the draft minutes be changed to "youth camp counselors."

2. **MOTION** – Mrs. Eckman made a motion to approve the November 10, 2009 meeting minutes. Mrs. Mazza seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

4. Old Business:

A. Wooded Glen Field Update:

1. Mr. Dan Dougherty, the Athletic Director for the Wolverines, was present to provide input on the field.

2. Mr. Lukens commented that the Parks crew aerated the field and was seeded by the Wolverines. It should be in good shape next year.

a) The final order on the concession building was placed today.

b) The footings for the building are being dug, and they should get a pour in within the next two weeks.

c) Mr. Lukens used the building plan to show where the storage area would be located.

d) They have put the stone base in for the walking path to Wooded Glen, however they have not yet put down the macadam. Mr. Tom Leahan is hoping to have the walking path completed this year.

3. Mr. Wurtz asked what types of windows are in the structure, since it was indicated they are the same as the ones in Eskie Park. Mr. Lukens noted they are small rectangular windows, approximately 17 ½" x 24". They are located up high to reduce the risk of break-in.

4. Mrs. Eckman asked what happened to the originally proposed block building?

a) Mr. Lukens explained this changed to the now-proposed structure through a series of discussions between Mr. Leahan and the Township, and was also based on the success they had with the building at Eskie Park.

- b) Chairman Heisner noted that this was also an instant building, and Mr. Wurtz commented that it was more aesthetically pleasing.
 - c) Mrs. Eckman commented that it was still a shed building. She remarked that the doorframes on the Eskie Park structure are already rusting. Mr. Lukens explained that those doors were hung to check the fit. They will be repainted along with the doorframes.
- B. Discussion of request to extend lease for Wooded Glen Field by Methacton Wolverines:
1. Mr. Lukens noted that they were still awaiting the Township Solicitor's input on this matter. He suggested that the Board either table this matter until next year or provide their thoughts on what should be in the lease. He noted that there are still several years left on the current lease so this is not an urgent matter.
 2. Mrs. Mazza was in favor of the Board reviewing and providing input on the details of the lease.
 3. Mr. Wurtz noted that the section relating to repair and maintenance holds the landlord responsible for the expense of repairs when damage is from unauthorized users or vandalism. He questioned if this was really the Township's responsibility?
 4. There was a general discussion regarding authorized use and responsibility to pay for any damage. Where damage occurs by a secondary user, the security deposit would cover it.
 5. Mr. Wurtz noted that the tenant is responsible for payment of most utilities, and the landlord (Township) is responsible for water not used in irrigation of the fields. He questioned what about water being used for the kitchen? Mr. Dougherty noted they would need to identify uses to be covered by each party. Mr. Wurtz noted that the Township would pay for water associated with restroom use.
 6. Mrs. Eckman questioned how they coordinate other events such as bocce? Mr. Lukens indicated that he would try to obtain schedules from the various organizations using the complex.
 - a) Mr. Dougherty explained that this might be difficult because Pop Warner often adjusts schedules at the last minute because of weather issues. This is based on the competitive vs. non-competitive leagues and is often done within the last few hours of a schedule. He indicated there would need to be an open line of communication between Mr. Lukens and Mr. Leahan or the Wolverines.
 - b) Mr. Lukens can link field use and block out slots when the other leagues are playing. He noted that bocce is usually in the evening and football is typically on the weekends.
 - c) Mr. Dougherty indicated that eventually there could be playoff games in the evening during the week, but that would be the only time they should have these types of games scheduled.
 - d) There was a general discussion regarding how the two leagues will interact and parking impacts.
 7. Chairman Heisner suggested that they table this matter until January.
 8. Mr. Wurtz asked who proposed the new lease? It was noted that the Wolverines started this with the desire to obtain a 10-year lease.
 9. Mrs. Mazza commented that there were a lot of issues related to the field that could be further impacted by installation of the building. She suggested waiting until the building was up before moving on the lease.
 10. **MOTION** – Mrs. Mazza made a motion to table the lease discussion until January. Mr. Wurtz seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

5. New Business:

- A. Discussion of snow removal from walking paths in parks:

1. Mr. Lukens noted they have repaired and repaved the walking paths in Eskie and Brant Road Parks. Most damage at Eskie was from plow the paths with the same trucks we use for our roads. He would prefer to not plow the trails because you then have to salt them and ensure no ice forms. Mr. Lukens noted that most municipalities do plow their trails have smaller equipment to do it with. He would eventually like to obtain a Utility vehicle with a plow, which would place much less wear and tear on the trails.
2. Mr. Lukens has contacted the Township Solicitor and Mrs. Golas, Human Resources Coordinator to discuss the legalities of plowing vs. not plowing the trails. They would need to install signs indicating the trails were closed or that they were potentially dangerous or slippery depending on how they proceed. Mr. Lukens thinks that a total of nine signs would be needed for all of the parks.
3. Mr. Wurtz and Mrs. Mazza both questioned if the County plowed the Schuylkill trail?
4. Mr. Dininny commented that the portion of the Schuylkill trail from Norristown to Philadelphia is plowed. He further commented that when you plow ice often forms and it becomes a liability issue. If they do not make an effort to clear out the snow there is no liability.
5. Mr. Lukens stated they would definitely need signage that can be left up year-round. Mrs. Mandracchia commented they could also put some type of notice on the web site.
6. There was a general discussion regarding the types of signage available and what would work best for the Township.
7. The Board felt that they should not plow the trails and should install some type of signage.
8. **MOTION** – Mrs. Mazza made a motion to recommend that the Township does not plow the walking paths in the parks during inclement snowy weather, and that they also place the appropriate signage at park entrances as recommended by the Solicitor and / or insurance company. Mrs. Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

B. Follow-up on November Minutes:

1. Mr. Lukens noted that the Park Board had questioned if they were permitted to add a second student representative to the Board during the November meeting. He indicated that the Board could move forward with that idea if they want to, but would need to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to that effect.
2. Mr. O'Neill remarked that this is a good idea because it will bring additional opinions he may not be aware of to the Board. Mrs. Mazza and the remainder of the Board concurred.
3. **MOTION** – Mrs. Mazza made a motion to respectfully request permission from the Board of Supervisors to add a second Student Representative position to the Parks & Recreation Board, and if allowable to appoint previously interviewed candidate Megan Stauffer to that second position. Mrs. Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

6. Comments from Board:

- A. Chairman Heisner wished Mrs. Eckman good luck in her new role as a Supervisor, and noted this was her last Park Board meeting. He also wished Mr. Dininny good luck and thanked him for his support and input over the years.
- B. Mr. Dininny thanked everyone on the Park Board and previous Park Boards for all of their efforts. He noted they were an essential part of the community and does a great job.
- C. Mrs. Mazza commented on the great job and turnout for the tree lighting ceremony.
- D. Mr. Heisner noted he has only heard positive comments about that event, and also about the Santa hotline. There is also a piqued interest in bocce now that residents saw the courts during the tree lighting ceremony.
- E. Mr. Dininny also commented on the positive aspects of the tree lighting ceremony.

7. Comments from Residents:

A. None

8. Adjourn:

A. **MOTION** – Mrs. Mazza made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wurtz seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2010