

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
JANUARY 12, 2010 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. Gambone, Mr. Heisner, Mrs. Mandracchia, Mrs. Sorgini, and Mr. Wurtz.

B. Mrs. Mazza arrived late. Mr. Dell Angelo was absent.

C. Additional attendees included: Mr. Rick Brown, Board of Supervisor Liaison, Mr. Sean O'Neill, Student Representative, Ms. Angela Johnson, Parks & Recreation Program Coordinator, 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. Mrs. Mandracchia seconded the motion. Mr. Wurtz moved that the nominations be closed. The motion *passed* 5-0.

2. **MOTION** – Mr. Heisner made a motion to nominate Mr. Gambone as Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Board. Mrs. Mandracchia seconded the motion. Mr. Wurtz moved that the nominations be closed. The motion *passed* 5-0.

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

C. 2010 Meeting Schedule:

1. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to accept the 2010 meeting schedule. Mrs. Mandracchia seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

D. Student Representative:

1. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to have Sean O'Neill be the student representative. Mr. Wurtz seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

E. Adjourn Re-Organization Meeting:

1. **MOTION** – Mrs. Mandracchia made a motion to adjourn the re-organization meeting. Mr. Gambone seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

4. Monthly Meeting:

A. Review/Approve meeting minutes of December 8, 2009:

1. **MOTION** – Mrs. Mandracchia made a motion to approve the December 8, 2009 meeting minutes. Mr. Gambone seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

5. Old Business:

A. Wooded Glen Field Update:

1. Mr. Lukens explained that he has spoke with Mr. Tom Leahan, President of the Methacton Wolverines, who was unable to attend the meeting. There is no change on the project status since December. They anticipate pouring the cement pad next week if the weather cooperates. Once the pad is ready, the building is ready for installation.

2. Mrs. Mazza arrived at this point in the meeting.

- B. Discussion of request to extend lease for Wooded Glen Field by Methacton Wolverines:
1. Mr. Lukens noted that the Township has a new solicitor. He will forward the lease to the new solicitor when Mr. Dunbar thinks it is appropriate.
 2. Mr. Gambone asked if the Wolverines submitted a proposal for the lease? Mr. Lukens indicated that they had done so a while ago, however there is a lot of time left on the lease so this was not a rush item.
 3. Mrs. Mazza remarked that their biggest concern was with the comfort station, snack bar area etc.
 4. Mr. Heisner asked if Mr. Leahan was still the President for the Wolverines after their recent election? Mrs. Mazza indicated that he was.

C. Update on Capital Projects:

1. Mr. Lukens noted that the Eskie Park bathrooms had progressed and were ready for the plumber. These will be ready for operation in the spring.
2. Mr. Lukens remarked that the ARA pavilion would be complete by Thursday when the concrete pad is poured. They will also grade and seed the area around the pavilion.

D. Snow removal from walking paths in parks:

1. The Board of Supervisors approved the Park & Recreation Board's recommendation to not plow or salt the paths in the parks. Signs have been placed at all of the major entrances indicating that the trails are not plowed or salted and may be slippery. After two snow storms this year, Mr. Lukens reported that there were no calls regarding the new procedure.
2. Mrs. Mandracchia asked if this information was listed on the web site? Mr. Lukens indicated that it was not, but that he would put it there.
3. Mr. Wurtz remarked that the County does not plow the Schuylkill River Trail and they do not have signs at the park entrances.

6. New Business:

A. Camp Perkiomy Hours of Operation:

1. Mr. Lukens explained that the school district would no longer allow the Township to use the schools for Camp Perkiomy on Fridays. This is a cost-cutting measure on the school districts part.
2. Mr. Lukens suggested the following ideas as a way to address this schedule change:
 - a) Shorten the camp schedule to four days and reduce the price;
 - b) Run off-site field trips on Fridays;
 - c) Hold camp at an alternate site on Fridays such as at the Township parks;
 - d) Hold camp at one central location on Fridays.
3. Mr. Gambone remarked that they would lose people by not having camp on Friday.
4. Mr. Lukens noted that the Township paid for the janitors to work from 8-8:30 a.m. and 3:30 –4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 11:30-4:00 p.m. on Fridays during camp.
5. Ms. Johnson noted that even when they only had camp for half a day on Fridays they still filled up four of the camp locations.
6. Mrs. Mazza suggested holding different activities on Fridays such as Olympic Day, or if they run field trips to call it Field Trip Friday. While moving to a different location on Friday will be an inconvenience, they will be better off with a five-day program. Most people work and want a five-day program.
7. Ms. Johnson asked if people would complain about having to go to an alternative site on Fridays? Mrs. Mazza remarked that they would satisfy 80% and 20% would be unhappy, but this is still easier than finding alternative child care on Fridays.

8. Ms. Johnson has researched various full-day field trip opportunities, and will go such places as the Franklin Institute, Camden Aquarium, Camel Beach, and have a day where they go to Arnolds and Bounce U. Mr. O'Neill suggested possibly going to the movies on the day they are in that area of the Township.
9. There was a discussion regarding logistics of various locations if Field Trip Friday is implemented. Mr. Lukens noted they could not get into the schools if a child needed to use the restroom prior to leaving on the trip, therefore a park location may be better. Some places such as ARA have pavilions too.
 - a) Mrs. Mazza noted that several parks do have restroom facilities, however parents can just have their children use the restroom prior to leaving home.
 - b) Mrs. Sorgini asked about logistics with the alternative sites? Mr. Lukens noted they would need to keep another set of supplies at the park, and that the use of an alternative site may be confusing.
 - c) Mr. Heisner remarked that people were getting a very good price on the camp, and asked how the field trips affect the cost of camp? Mr. Lukens noted they are already built in to the budget for camp.
10. The Park Board decided that holding field trips on Fridays would be good, and they could meet at their regular school sites prior to departure.
11. The possible offering of four-day camp sessions and five-day camp sessions was discussed. Mr. Brown remarked that having a 4-day camp option would be too confusing for staff, which everyone concurred with.
12. Mrs. Mazza asked how old you have to be to be a counselor? Ms. Johnson indicated that you just have to have working papers and then you can apply for a job.
13. Mr. Lukens asked that if anyone had other ideas on camp in the coming week to let him know.

7. Comments from Board:

- A. Mr. Lukens noted that former Supervisor Sassu entered the Township building in the Holiday Home Decorating contest held by the Library, and they received an honorable mention.
- B. Ms. Johnson reviewed the programs running in January and February. All of the programs are listed on the Township web site or on-line newsletter.
 1. Ms. Johnson note that she will need help with the following upcoming events:
 - a) March 7th – Oldies Dance at Chadwicks from 6-9 p.m.
 - b) March 20th – Easter Egg Hunt – the rain date is March 27th.
 - c) April 18th – Earth Day events.
- C. Mr. Lukens indicated that ski tickets were in and for sale. There is an updated on-line form with pricing for all of the sites. There is also a link to the various venues. Camelback has a coupon that you print and take for a discount. They will then make a donation back to the Township.
- D. Mr. Lukens noted that they would try to have more links on the web site to provide information on the various sponsors of Park & Recreation events.
- E. Mrs. Mazza commented that she likes the emails being sent out on new programs.
- F. Mr. Heisner asked Mr. Lukens to provide a packet of information containing background documents such as the 5-year plan to Mrs. Sorgini.
- G. Mr. Heisner asked if Mr. Lukens had requested approval for a second student representative from the Board of Supervisors? Mr. Lukens is hoping this will be on the January 21st agenda for approval of the second position and for Megan Stauffer to fill that position. She would then be at the February meeting. Mr. Brown commented that this was a good idea.

- H. Mrs. Mazza noted that Upper Dublin received an award for their teen X-Zone camping program for children 13-15. She previously discussed the need to provide a summer camp for this age group, as there is a market for it. Mr. Lukens indicated they might be able to do this for 2011.
- I. Mr. Brown welcomed Mrs. Sorgini and thanked her for volunteering for the Board.
- J. Mr. O'Neill asked how he could get information on the ski tickets out to the students in his school? Mr. Lukens said that he would email the link to Mr. O'Neill. Mr. O'Neill will give this to the principle and also to the Ski Club.

8. Comments from Residents:

- A. None

9. Adjourn:

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

Next Meeting: February 9, 2010