

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
JUNE 8, 2010 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: Mr. Gambone, Mr. Heisner, Mrs. Mandracchia, Mrs. Mazza, Mrs. Sorgini, Mr. Supplee, and Mr. Wurtz.

B. Additional attendees included: Board of Supervisor Liaison Mr. Rick Brown, Student Representatives Mr. Sean O'Neill and Miss Megan Stauffer, Community Relations Coordinator Denise Walsh, and Parks & Recreation Director Mr. Karl Lukens.

3. Monthly Meeting:

A. Review/Approve meeting minutes of May 11, 2010:

1. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to approve the May 11, 2010 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Supplee seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 9-0.

4. New Business:

A. Daniel Harwi Memorial Bicycle Race:

1. Mr. Lukens noted that representatives from the Daniel Harwi Memorial Bicycle Racer were present to discuss opportunities to partner with the Township on this event, which has run for over 20 years.
2. Mr. John Lennart, Mr. Keith Gerber, and Mr. Ken Walsh were present to represent the PA Bicycle Club.
3. Mr. Lennart provided an overview on the history of the race and how the Bicycle Club operates as part of a national cycling network. He noted that any proceeds go toward their selected charities, one of which provides bicycles to underprivileged youth.
 - a) Mr. Lennart indicated that they do not measure the impact of this race on the community, however it has grown from 100-200 riders ten years ago to over 500 racers this past year. He equated the race to the NASCAR of cycling.
 - b) Mr. Gerber commented that the race could get a bit physical, which racers jockeying for places in the one-mile circuit around the park.
 - c) There are eleven different races broken down by age and gender.
 - d) Mr. Lennart would like to put more of a local flavor to the race, with area restaurants and businesses serving food or running activities for spectators.
 - e) Mr. Gerber noted that this year Chief Carroll placed two patrol cars at key street intersections, which provided a significant amount of safety and assistance for controlling traffic.
4. Mr. Gerber asked what the Board would like to see done with this event?
 - a) Mrs. Mazza remarked they should increase awareness of the event. Several Board members noted they had never heard of the race even though it is close to their homes.
 - b) Mr. Lukens would like to see food sales organized, possibly having local sports organizations on board to sell food. Mr. Gambone was in favor of this idea.
 - c) Mr. Walsh noted that because many racers enter the corporate park from 422, they do not realize there are so many restaurants available further down Trooper Road, so this presents a big opportunity.

- d) Mr. Gambone suggested using the Homewood Suites as the official hotel for the event. Mrs. Mazza noted this provides a walkable location to the race, and is surrounded by restaurants and businesses.
 - e) Mr. Supplee stated that there is a good opportunity for both the cycling club and the Township, and it would not take a lot of work to make significant improvements to the race.
 - f) Mr. Lennart noted that the Township has the vehicles to create awareness through the Township newsletter and TV channel. He would need help in reaching out to the local sports organizations to sell food.
 - g) All members of the cycling club remarked what a positive improvement on-site food, and a designated local hotel would provide.
5. The group discussed various possibilities for races to draw in the local community, and how the race fits into the national cycling network.
 6. Mr. Brown offered to let the cycling club hold steering committee meetings here at the Township Building. This could include members from the Park Board. Mr. Gerber suggested that the Board forward any ideas they come up with to them, and to plan for a steering committee meeting in September.
 7. Chairman Heisner suggested that they set up a table at Fall Fest on October 2nd to help create awareness of the event.

5. Old Business:

A. Wooded Glen Field Update:

1. Mr. Tom Leahan, President of the Methacton Wolverines, was present to provide an update. Mr. Leahan noted that they have started cutting the sub-grade for the building pad. They will layout the plumbing and rebar, and pour the pad.
2. Mrs. Mazza asked how the turf was?
 - a) Mr. Lukens noted that they met with Dave Civitello, the Head Groundskeeper at the Club at Shannondell, and he saw no harm with using the field for games this year. He also provided information on weed & feed ideas for the turf.
 - b) Mr. Leahan noted that maintenance of a football field is opposite of your yard, you seed in the spring and weed later. He noted that they would have the prison crews working on the field to dress and seed the edges to the trails.
3. Chairman Heisner indicated that he needs drawings of the plumbing layout.
4. Mr. Heisner asked about the drain at the bottom of the parking lot. Mr. Leahan would prefer to address that during the off-season.
 - a) Mr. Heisner explained that the drains in the field near the 50-yard-line were not working. When they investigated, it was found that those 18" PVC pipes did not have the drainage holes in them and needed to be drilled. He thinks they could have the same problem at the bottom of the parking lot.
 - b) Mr. Leahan noted that they dug up the pipes Mr. Heisner spoke of a few months ago to put in the holes and correct the situation. They are also having the prison crews rake and seed that area of the field.
5. Mr. Leahan explained that they received permission from the Sewer Authority to run the sewer line up the edge of the property and connect at the manhole in front of the building. He needs to clarify what system should be used to set up for sewage. The plans call for two grinder pumps, which is a bit much based on the projected usage.
 - a) Mr. Supplee remarked that using two pumps in one larger well would save money.

- b) Mr. Heisner thinks that only one pump is required. They will discuss this with Chambers Associates.
6. Mr. Leahan asked what the requirements were for the scoreboard? He explained that they have a few energy drinks that would be interested in sponsoring the scoreboard, which costs around \$5,000.
 - a) Mr. Brown stated that if it were done in good taste it would be ok.
 - b) Mr. Leahan noted this would be in the corner closest to Gaugler Field. He will use a sign similar to the Gaugler Field scoreboard, but it will be for football.
 - c) Mr. Heisner suggested that Mr. Leahan present the details on a scoreboard to the Board of Supervisors because they will have to approve it.
 - d) Mr. Brown noted they would not want an overly colorful sign that would junk up the park.
 - e) Mr. Gambone suggested a sign that lights up only during the game.
 - f) Mr. Lukens requested that Mr. Leahan bring two or three reasonable options and present those to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Brown will put it the BOS agenda once the information is received.
 7. Mr. Leahan asked if the Township would put up notice for their upcoming camp from June 24th through July 1st? He will talk to Mrs. Walsh about having this put on the cable news.
 8. Mr. Leahan asked if there was anything the Board would like to see up on the field?
 - a) Mr. Heisner asked about a pile of dirt. Mr. Leahan will keep that up there for a while until they are done with it.
 9. Mr. Gambone noted he would be in touch with Mr. Leahan about the Wolverines selling something at the 4th of July celebration. All youth leagues in the Township will have this opportunity.
- B. Update on Capital Projects:
1. Mr. Lukens commented that the parking lot expansion and improvements at Evansburg Point Park are moving along. He is close to being ready for paving. The pavilion, which is the same style installed at ARA, will be delivered in mid to late July. He is holding off on the playground equipment until the other work is completed. Because they are doing a lot of work in-house, the savings can be applied toward a larger playground.
 2. Mrs. Mazza asked why two unsightly pine trees were not removed during this project? Mr. Lukens indicated that they only took trees they were permitted to remove. Mrs. Mazza suggested the installation of shade trees should any of the remaining trees fall under ill health.
 3. Mrs. Mazza asked if there would be a path from the blacktop to the restrooms? Mr. Lukens indicated this would be continued, and will provide ADA accessibility to the restrooms.
- C. Request of resident to make a donation at Brant Park:
1. Mr. Lukens sent letters to residents within 800 feet of Brant Park. The letter outlined ideas being considered, and included a response form that should be returned by June 18th. He will tabulate the feedback and disperse this to Board members prior to the August meeting.
 2. Mr. Lukens met with a playground supplier to review the area. They are considering the use of exercise stations.
 3. Chairman Heisner stated that he would like to vote on this at the August meeting.
- D. Dedication of Brant Park:
1. Mr. Wurtz suggested renaming this park in honor of Marty Dell Angelo at the last meeting, but they did not want to take action on it without everyone's input.

2. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors rename Brant Park in honor of Marty Dell Angelo, with the specific park name to be determined at a later date. Mrs. Mazza seconded the motion. The motion *passed 9-0*.

E. Superior Credit Union Dog Park:

1. Mr. Lukens thanked Mr. Supplee, Mrs. Mandracchia, and Mr. O’Neill for spearheading this project. These members visited several dog parks and potential dog park sites to evaluate them. They are meeting with Mr. Joseph Gimbell from Superior Credit Union next Thursday to discuss options. Superior Credit Union is supporting dog parks because of a new promotion they have including a dog mascot, entitled Banking with Bella.
2. Mr. Supplee provided an overview of several existing parks and potential sites using photographs displayed on his laptop.
3. Sites visited include:
 - a) The Superior Credit Union location – this consists of a long, narrow lot with existing trees to provide buffer and shading. Parking is available. The site was larger than the committee anticipated.
 - b) The lot across the street from Superior Credit Union – this could provide a useful option, but has a low area in the center that holds water. Mr. O’Neill favors using both of these lots to make a dog park for small and one for large dogs.
 - c) The St. Gabriel’s Field location – consists of a dog park on the master plan for this site. There is parking nearby.
 - (1) Mr. Gambone asked if Superior was open to moving the park away from their location? Mr. Lukens noted they are open to suggestions.
 - (2) Mr. Supplee stated that one drawback here is that it is close to the existing dog park in Oaks.
 - d) The Oaks dog park – This is a small park with no trees, benches etc. The committee was not impressed with the amenities.
 - e) The Reservoir dog park in Phoenixville – This was a large, wooded site. However, security is an issue because there are areas not visible from the road. This park is run by volunteers and did not use township funds to complete.
4. Mrs. Mandracchia commented that they need a lot of fencing for a dog park. The entrance has double fencing with a holding area prior to going into the park. There are separate gates to enter and leave.
5. The Committee recommended using the Superior Credit Union location for the dog park.
6. Mr. Lukens will send out a letter to residents prior to construction. Many people in the townhouses already walk their dogs in this area.

6. New Business:

A. Concerts in the Park:

1. Mr. Lukens stated that the concerts are scheduled to begin tomorrow. Because rain is anticipated for tomorrow, that concert will most likely move to July 7th. Detailed concert information is available on the Township web site.
2. PECO, The Club at Shannondell, Shannondell at Valley Forge, and Chadwick’s are sponsoring the concerts. As part of the sponsorship, they have provided gift cards to be used as free raffles at every concert.
3. Mr. Supplee asked what type of help was needed for the concerts? Mr. Lukens indicated they would need help with parking, announcements and raffles.

B. Independence Day – Concert / Fireworks Display (July 4):

1. Mr. Lukens stated that they would need as much help as they can get for the 4th of July festivities. Mr. Gambone is coordinating the effort to have sports organizations be vendors for items such as pizza, soft pretzels, cotton candy etc. The Optimist Club will be selling hot dogs, hamburgers, lemonade and iced tea. The Township will be selling glow swords and glow necklaces.
 2. Mr. Gambone noted ARA would sell Via Veneto water ice. Mr. Lukens will get the other contact names for Mr. Gambone. This year they are asking these groups to make a donation to the Township based on their sales.
 3. The agenda for this day will be a concert with the Special Blends at 6:30pm and fireworks at dark. People should arrive from 4:30pm on to begin setting up.
- C. On Your Marc 5-K (August 7):
1. Mr. Lukens noted that last year the Park Board assisted with this race in memory of Marc Small. If anyone wants to volunteer, he will pass his or her name along to the race committee. They have the use of the Streamlight parking lot for overflow parking.
- D. 5-Year Capital Plan Update:
1. Mr. Lukens passed out copies of an updated 5-Year Capital Plan for the parks. Items listed in blue are new, items in red were moved up from this year's plan, and items crossed through will be removed.
 2. Mr. Lukens noted that it is not likely they will have the money for new poured in place rubber playground surfacing. \$4,000 will get them enough safety wood chips to cover the play areas and be in compliance.
 3. Basins – John Gracie is prioritizing a list of fencing to be replaced. They will replace wire fencing over 20 years old. Split rail fences are replaced when they break at the basins. They replace these with the same type of fence or use a chain link fence. There is a recommendation of \$5,000 per year allocated to basin fence replacement until they can catch up on them.
 4. In Eagleville Park, the red stones from the pavilion get onto the poured in place surfacing. Mr. Lukens intends to blacktop the red stone area.
 5. In 2012, the guardrail constructed from old telephone poles at Gaugler Field need to be replaced. When these are replaced they will use pressure treated posts and boards.
 6. Redtail Park – It is recommended to install a comfort station similar to the one at Eskie Park. That was under \$30,000 to install in house. Redtail had a budget of \$150,000, which was reduced to \$50,000 based on the pricing at Eskie Park.
 7. Chairman Heisner asked everyone to review the plan and bring suggestions to the next meeting.
 8. Mr. Supplee verified that it was the Parks Department responsibility to replace basin fencing. Mr. Brown noted they have been maintained by the Parks Department for many years, so it is part of their budget.
 9. Mrs. Mazza asked about Windswept Park. Mr. Lukens noted it is open space.
 10. Mrs. Mazza questioned the need for card access to the Level Road Schoolhouse.

7. Comments from Board:

- A. Mrs. Mazza asked how the meeting with the Art teacher went? Mr. Lukens stated that they met twice. The teachers were excited, but thought the area was too small for the Art Show. They decided it could be used for a small spring show to highlight the best pieces.
- B. Mr. Heisner asked if they ever heard from the Optimist Club regarding the donations made in Marty's memory? Mr. Lukens has not heard anything. Mrs. Mazza will follow up because she is the one who sent this in.

C. Mr. Supplee commented that sometime in the future they should discuss updating the Township-wide bike & trail plan. There is a lot of opportunity to connect the trails, which will add safety to them.

1. Mr. Brown remarked they could coordinate this effort with updating the community map, which is printed for free.
2. Mr. Supplee said he would look at the master plan to see how to contribute to this system. He noted striping for bicycles could be added to Ridge Pike. There are signs to “share the road” but there is no designated area.
3. Mr. Brown noted that the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association discussed this during a recent presentation to the BOS.

D. Mr. Brown had several comments:

1. The Township is renting a mobile camera on Friday for another use, but this could also be used to look at the drainpipe by the driveway to see if there are holes in it.
2. Several residents have commented that the “naturalized” look of St. Gabriel’s Field is good. Mr. Lukens noted that they mow in approximately 30’ from the property lines and they mow the cricket field. The remainder of the field is not being mowed at this time.
3. He has received positive comments about the new poured in place rubberized playground surfacing at Eagleville Park.
4. The drain on the water fountain near the Township Building is not working.
5. Is anything being done to maintain the sandbox in this park? It should either be maintained or removed. Mr. Heisner noted it was originally a project where kids could dig out fossils, but once the fossils were all gone it became a sandbox.
6. There is a new swan residing near Hoy Park if anyone would like to see it.

8. Comments from Residents:

A. There was no public comment at this time.

9. Adjourn:

A. **MOTION** – Mr. Gambone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Mandracchia seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting ended at 9:23 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 10, 2010