PARK & RECREATION
REGULAR MEETING

June 26, 2019

PRESENT: JEFF WILLIAMS, LAUREN SANKER, JOHN WALTON, DANIEL HARRISON, RYAN BROWN, JASON SAPOSNEK – MEMBERS; Paul Rigney, Township Commissioner; Ginnie Anderson, Township Commissioner; Scott Fraser, Assistant Township Manager; Chad Krebs, Parks Maintenance Supervisor; Julie Roth, Recording Secretary.

VISITORS
Bob Melphis - Township Resident
Dawn Waterman - Keystone FC

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL
All present introduced themselves.

MINUTES
A motion was made by Ms. Sanker to approve the meeting minutes from the May 22, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saposnek and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT
Mr. Williams mentioned that July is Parks and Recreation month. He said the legislature is in the process of moving money out of a fund that helps fund parks and he asked for people to contact the legislators about it. He said the grass is starting to come in at the Meadowview rain garden and that it is now holding water. Mr. Fraser said since it is holding water it is working properly. Mr. Williams said in his opinion, once all the grass grows in, it will look very nice.
CHAIRMAN’S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. Township Commissioner–Ginnie Anderson/Paul Rigney
   Commissioner Anderson mentioned that she was away over the weekend, so she could not see how crowded the creek was. Commissioner Rigney said adventure parks are becoming very popular. He added that they intentionally introduce some sort of risk to children by building and destroying things, and it would be neat to test out but could also cause a liability issue. He also asked why there are porta potties at parks that have built-in restrooms and the response was that they are paid for by the organized sports at those parks, as the restrooms are far from some of the fields.

2. Assistant Township Manager – Scott Fraser
   None

3. Park Maintenance Supervisor– Chad Krebs
   Mr. Krebs noted that the playground at Mt. Allen Park is completed. Ms. Sanker stated that the kids love it and Mr. Williams added that it looks great.

4. Mechanicsburg Recreation Department– Josh Green
   Mr. Green said this is a very busy time for the Recreation Department. He said it is Park and Recreation month and that the staff is excited to get recognition from the community. He noted that July 19th is Park and Recreation Professionals day and they are treating the staff to ice cream. He said volunteers are needed to help with the annual tri4kids on July 27th. Mr. Green mentioned that the kids start by doing laps in the pool, followed by riding their bikes around the park, and finishing by running in the stadium. He said there is more info on the website, as well a link to sign up to volunteer. Mr. Green noted that the Playground Program at Fisher Park is continuing to grow. He said there are 225 kids registered, with an average of 42 attending per day. He said the kids are having a great time and they are always doing a different activity. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Green and asked him to thank the staff, as they always have long hours and it is a lot of time away from their families.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS
Mr. Williams said the playground equipment at Country Estates Park is starting to look poor. He added that people were walking dogs at McCormick Park along with two ladies with beach chairs sitting in the middle of the water.

Ms. Sanker said Grantham Park looks great and the trees have been removed, making the park look nice and neat.

Mr. Brown mentioned that there were tons of kids playing soccer at Friendship Park and the park looked really good. Mr. Williams said the turf looks very nice at all of the parks in the Township. Mr. Brown said Rosegarden Park looked very nice.

Mr. Walton said the playground at Spring Run Park looked really nice and there were a lot of kids playing on it. He said he saw a father and child playing at Mt. Allen Park.

Mr. Saposnek said while he was at Fisher Park, all playgrounds were being used and the pavilions were full of kids; however, there were some weeds that needed taken care of.

Mr. Harrison mentioned that there was a large pile of tanbark at Winding Hill South but everything else looked good. Mr. Williams said he took his grandchildren to the playground at Winding Hill North and the children used every single piece of play equipment there.
PUBLIC INPUT
Bob Melphis, of 430 Diehl Road, thanked the board members for coming to the meetings. He said he does a lot of dog walking at Simpson Park and he has a few things he would like to mention about the park. He said he would really like to see new sand put in the volleyball court along with keeping the court weeded. He also mentioned that there are a few bad areas along the trail where it is elevated that are pretty washed out. He said weeding the trails would be nice so that people could walk them better. He added that there are no trash cans at the pavilions and it would be nice to have at least one trash can there.

Jim Salter, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Softball, asked permission to have a score board installed at Winding Hill North field 2. He said they are also looking at pricing for dugouts at Winding Hill North Park, as the water currently just stands there. He said they would start with field 2 and it would be a half concrete wall with a wooden roof. Mr. Fraser mentioned that it would make sense to install the same style as is at the baseball fields so that it stays uniform. He also asked Mr. Salter to turn in all proper paperwork to Community Development Department.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Off-Leash Dog Park Committee Update
   Mr. Williams mentioned that the quarterly meeting is coming up in a few weeks and the biggest concern currently is shade at the park. He said tarps can be put up over the pergolas; however, he saw a structure that would work, and he is planning to talk to the committee regarding it as there is still funding left for the park. He also mentioned that three gold bone recognition plaques have been sold so far.

2. Multi-tier fee Schedule fee level discussion
   Mr. Williams asked if anyone had any concerns as the schedule needs to go to the Board of Commissioners by August. Mr. Salter from Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Softball asked if there are provisions for trash at tournaments. Mr. Fraser said the fee is now higher for tournaments and there is a deposit that is not returned if the parks are not kept up. Mr. Salter mentioned that they were running the concession stand as a fundraiser and were taking care of the restrooms and the trash. Mr. Williams added that the groups in the Township take care of the fields and help when groups come in from out of town, and that’s what makes the parks so nice and why people like coming to them. Mr. Fraser said he will add something that says groups need to keep their area clean and dispose of trash properly or they will lose their deposit.

   Commissioner Rigney mentioned that he has a problem with section three on the fee schedule stating that organizations with greater than 100 participants consisting of over 40% residents are eligible for the resident rate. He said he does not agree that under 100 participants need to be at 50% and he feels that it should be the same across the board. Mr. Saposnek said that Keystone FC has a lot more kids than groups of 100 or less, so the 40% for them compared to 40% in a group less than 100 is a big difference. Mr. Salter noted that to join Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Softball, participants did not have to pay an entrance fee, and they are instead doing fundraisers and events to keep it that way. He added that if the tournament fee would be raised then it would be harder to not charge a fee to the players. Mr. Williams asked the board if they want to change the percentage or keep it as it is written and see what the feedback is from the Board of Commissioners, and no one wanted to change it. Mr. Fraser said it will be discussed at the second Board of Commissioners meeting in August.

3. Monument Signs
   Mr. Krebs presented the board with options for the monuments. Mr. Fraser said the mason work would be completed first and then the sign would be completed by a separate contractor. Mr. Krebs added that he is looking to have the signs at Winding Hill Park North
and South done this year since the names of the park changed. Mr. Williams mentioned that he likes the fact that the address is on the signs. Commissioner Anderson said she likes the simplicity of the sign. Mr. Fraser asked what color would look best and the board agreed that they liked blue the most.

4. **Joint Recreation Agreement**
   Mr. Fraser stated that even though the Park and Recreation board voted last month to support the agreement, a member of Mechanicsburg Borough Council asked the Board of Commissioners to table their decision until a meeting has been set up for later in the summer with the School District over some concerns with the agreement. Commissioner Rigney asked Mr. Williams if he knew of any recreation programs that are strictly run by the school and Mr. Williams said if the school ran the program then they wouldn’t have all the funding and would have all the say. Commissioner Rigney mentioned that as the agreement is now, the Township has one vote while the school district has three votes. Commissioner Anderson said the school’s facilities are used for a lot of the activities.

5. **WHPN and Fisher Park Project Updates**
   Mr. Fraser stated that the contract has been awarded for both projects and that signage and fencing, along with barriers, will be up while the construction is taking place. He added that the construction should not affect any of the organized sports. Mr. Williams asked if a contractor was found for the tennis courts and Mr. Fraser said it is the same contractor for both projects, and that he is hoping they will be done by the end of August. Commissioner Rigney mentioned that the bids came in over budget, but the Oakwood Hills project is bringing in enough money to fund the overage.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Simpson Park raingarden restoration project update**
   Mr. Fraser stated that most of the planting has been done and he is in the process of corresponding with the Eagle Scout candidate to do an overview of the project.

2. **August Meeting**
   Mr. Williams asked if anyone had any issue with cancelling the August Park and Recreation Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Sanker to cancel the August 28, 2019 Park and Recreation meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saposnek and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**
The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary