PARK & RECREATION
REGULAR MEETING

July 24, 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.

VISITORS
Doug Marsico - Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association
Jim Salter - Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Girls’ Softball
Dawn Waterman - Keystone FCU

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 June 26, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saposnek and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT
Mr. Williams mentioned that he had just come from a local eye doctor’s office who was holding a dog themed community outreach event. He stated that July is Recreation and Parks month and he encouraged everyone to take advantage of what all is out there.
CHAIRMAN’S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. **Township Commissioner–Ginnie Anderson/Paul Rigney**

Commissioner Anderson mentioned that she has been visiting the creek on the weekends and so far, it has been going well other than the 4th of July when Messiah College’s entrance was closed. She added that there has been a lot of police bike patrol and that seems to be helping. She said Messiah College will have their entrance closed again at the beginning of August and the end of August. She mentioned that people have been bringing trailers and taking up a lot of parking so she asked the members of the board to visit the parks and see if they can help come up with an answer to the parking situation.

Commissioner Rigney mentioned that for-profit companies are using the parks and Mr. Fraser stated that he is drafting up a new ordinance to present to the Board in September. Mr. Williams mentioned that he is happy the commissioners are concerned with private groups making money at the Township parks.

2. **Assistant Township Manager – Scott Fraser**

Mr. Fraser stated that the Township is starting the budget process and at the meeting in September, he will present to the Board the items that money was spent on in 2019 and what is upcoming. He added that he will also have an estimated funding and projects list for 2020 for the Board to review. Mr. Fraser asked the Board to let him know of any projects they are interested in so he can add them into the possibilities for 2020. He mentioned that representatives from a few companies would like to come and present their ideas for the Mt. Allen and Spring Run playground projects, or he could have them write something to the Board for their review. He added that Mr. Krebs will have prices for switching to rubber mulch for those parks at the next meeting.

3. **Park Maintenance Supervisor– Chad Krebs**

Mr. Krebs stated that a concern for the playground at Winding Hill South is that there is no shade. Mr. Fraser said there will be umbrellas added above the current benches and over the playground equipment like what is currently at Winding Hill North playground. He stated that if it is in the budget, more benches will be added.

4. **Mechanicsburg Recreation Department– Tonya Brown**

Ms. Brown mentioned that the fall brochure is currently being developed. She said there is also a lot of movement in the school district with all of the construction going on. Ms. Brown stated that the new athletic center will hopefully be completed by the start of basketball season but due to the construction at the other schools in the district, space is very limited. She added that the attendance numbers at the playground program are 188 registered and 39 for an average daily attendance, which is up by 15 from last year. She said the Tri-4-Kids is this coming Saturday and it requires over 50 volunteers to help run the event. She said she is looking forward to it again this year. She mentioned that she attends the Rail Trail program meetings and even though it will not run through the Township it will still provide a safe place for people to ride their bikes and will be a great asset to the residents of the Township.

PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Williams mentioned that Country Estates Park was status quo. He said there were 17 cars at McCormick Park along with tubers, kayakers, and kids playing in the water. He stated that it was neat to see all of that going on.

Ms. Sanker said there were 14 cars in the parking lot to Grantham Park; however, no one was in the park. She said the park really looked amazing though.
Mr. Brown stated that Friendship Park looked good with a lot of soccer activity going on. He said Rosegarden Park looked good and Mr. Fraser stated that they are looking into adding more benches in Rosegarden Park.

Mr. Walton mentioned that Aspen Park looked normal and Spring Run Park looked great. He added that Mt. Allen Park had a couple people on the playground, and he asked about the split rail fence that was added. Mr. Fraser said the fence was installed so that people would not park on the neighboring property.

Mr. Saposnek mentioned that at Fisher Park there were kids at the pavilions and on the playgrounds. He added that the park looked normal. He noted that at Miller’s Crest Park there were kids in the park playing basketball.

Mr. Harrison mentioned that everything looked good at the Winding Hill Parks and that he saw the construction going on at Winding Hill North.

Mr. Fraser stated that the requests that were mentioned at the last meeting regarding Simpson Park have been addressed.

**PUBLIC INPUT**
Jim Salter, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Girls’ Softball, mentioned that they have realized they have a large gap between the spring play and fall play. He said they have decided for this year to have a few games organized during the summer; however, next year they are planning on offering a camp at the beginning of July.

Dawn Waterman, Keystone FCU, gave an update on soccer. Mr. Williams said he could not find where to register on the website and asked a few questions about the structure of their program. Ms. Waterman answered his questions, but Mr. Williams stated that he was still concerned over the registration layout of the website.

Doug Marsico, Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association, gave an update on baseball. He said he would like to see the backstop at Mt. Allen Park replaced and a pavilion between the north and south fields at Fisher Park to provide shelter. He said the teener field at Fisher Park needs regraded. Mr. Fraser stated that the backstop and fencing at Mt. Allen Park is something he had for consideration from the Board for an upcoming project, and the pavilion at Fisher Park is something that he had mentioned before. He said it can be looked at again. He added that he had thought that the teener field was regraded but he will put that on his list as well.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Off-Leash Dog Park Committee Update**
   Mr. Williams mentioned that he was attending an event at a local eye doctor’s office before coming to the meeting. He said the event was dog themed with a good attendance, and they had K-9 units there. He said the dog park looks good, including the turf. He mentioned that the committee wanted to add some shade structures that would be affordable. Mr. Krebs said there will be four 6 x 6 structures with shade sails over them, and he is hoping to have them installed soon. Mr. Williams added that there are 98 people registered at the park and one thing that the committee with be discussing at their next meeting is a reduced fee.

2. **Monument Signs**
   Mr. Fraser stated that at a previous meeting the board had selected blue signs for the parks. He added that he took samples of the signs to the parks, and the blue looked more corporate
and not like a park. He asked the Board if they would be interested in changing it to green, as green looked more like a park sign. The Board agreed to change the color to green.

3. **Joint Recreation Agreement**
   Mr. Fraser mentioned that as it was last discussed, there was interest in having a meeting between the school officials, recreation staff, and all of the boards involved. He added that the summertime is not a good time to meet so they are looking into having the meeting sometime in either September or October. Discussion ensued on how many meetings should be held per year, as currently it is one per year.

4. **WHPN and Fisher Park Project Updates**
   Mr. Fraser mentioned that the work on phase two at Winding Hill Park North (WHPN) has begun. He said the plumbing is already in and they are starting electrical work now. He added that the work at Fisher Park most likely won’t start until most of the hardscape is done at Winding Hill Park North. He mentioned that the courts at Fisher Park will be dual striped for tennis and pickle ball, and all construction should be done by the end of the summer. Once he knows when it will be finished, he said he will let everyone know and will also put up new signs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Youth Sports Camp and Registration Discussion**
   The discussion for this topic took place during the chairman recognition and public input sections.

**ADJOURNMENT**
The next meeting will be held on September 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Roth
Recording Secretary