

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
March 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Vice Chairman Dave Crock, Jill Ludy, Dennis Elliott and Ralph Freed. Also present were Herbert Miller, Jr., Commissioner, Russell Noll, Commissioner, Greg Churach and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Layne stated that although the Board had recommended that Mr. Miller be appointed by the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to serve as Alternate to the Open Space and Recreation Board, the BOC had decided not to support this recommendation.

Mr. Miller stated that his recommendation to merge the Parks and Recreation Board and the Open Space Committee had been approved.

Mr. Elliott stated that he and Mr. Miller had recently spoken with State Representative Thomas Quigley regarding proposed State legislation that would permit tax funding solely designated for the acquisition of open space to be also utilized for the maintenance and enhancement of open space. Mr. Miller added that they had spoken with Senator John Rafferty regarding this matter and that he stated that he would support this legislation. Mr. Elliott further stated that if this proposed legislation, which is House Bill 591, tax funds now earmarked for the acquisition of open space would be placed in what might be defined as a lock-box in that these funds could only be used for the maintenance and enhancement of open space. He added that the approval of this endeavor could also possibly provide for a decrease in taxes paid by Township residents.

Mr. Elliott stated that trails and comfort stations would conform to those who are handicapped.

Mr. Elliott moved that the January 27, 2010 meeting minutes be approved. Ms. Ludy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Reports

Ms. Ludy stated that the fences at Kulp Field looked to be fine.

4. New Business

A. Mr. Miller stated that organizations that have an agreement/contract to use Township park areas should come before this Board to discuss how they will adhere to the terms of their agreement/contract and to what extent they will provide for the care and maintenance of the fields they will be utilizing. It was noted that the maintenance should include periodic trash removal on the park area they are using by these organizations. There was a consensus that these organizations should meet with the Board in

January and July of each year. In addition, there was agreement that these organizations be required to provide a minimal security deposit of perhaps \$25 to \$50 that would cover the expense of trash removal or other basic services. Chairwoman Thompson requested that a letter be provided to each organization utilizing Township park fields requesting that they come to the Board to discuss their agreement/contract with the Township. Following additional discussion on this matter, Ms. Ludy moved that a motion be approved requiring organizations using Township parks to come before the Open Space and Recreation Board on an annual or semi-annual basis in January and July of each year. Vice Chairman Crock seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Mr. Miller stated that grading was needed at Hollenbach Field. Mr. Freed stated that at a minimum of 1 to 3 inches of top soil would be needed but that 4 to 6 inches would be preferable. Mr. Miller noted that if the proposed grading was done properly the field area might not be usable for a one year period. Ms. Ludy stated that if proper grading is done that the organizations that are permitted to use Township park areas be provided a letter explaining that they could not use their designated park area for a one year period which would allow them time to plan for utilizing another field for that one year period.

C. Mr. Miller stated that he would be attending the Pottsgrove Recreation Association meeting this week. Ms. Ludy noted that the use and maintenance of the park areas are normally not discussed at the Pottsgrove Recreation Association meetings.

D. Ms. Ludy stated that Township Commissioner Renee Spaide had requested that Pottsgrove School students be requested to help to develop the parks. Ms. Ludy stated that she would contact Ms. Spaide regarding this matter.

5. Old Business

A. Turnberry Farms

Ms. Ludy expressed her concern with the level of maintenance services provided to the open space area located near Turnberry Farms. She stated that \$80,000 had been provided to the Township to provide for the maintenance of the open space area at Turnberry Farms. She requested that maintenance be provided on a regular schedule. She added that the split rail fence that had been recently damaged was repaired.

B. Board Park Cleanup Efforts

The Board briefly discussed their endeavor to cleanup the Township's parks during the weekends on a routine basis. The Board requested that Mr. Layne contact J.P. Mascaro to obtain trash bags for them to utilize.

6. New Business (Cont.)

E. Kulp-Hoffman Field

Mr. Miller expressed his support for the placement of a drinking fountain near the baseball field. He stated that the poles needed to be put back in

place and that the field needed to be seeded. He emphasized that the Township must be vigilant in insuring that Superior reseeds this area.

F. Middle School Students Utilization of the Eagle/Pedestrian Bridge

Mr. Miller stated his disdain for the fact that Pottsgrove School officials neglected to follow-up with him after he had visited them to discuss his concern with Pottsgrove Middle School students inappropriately utilizing the Eagle/Pedestrian Bridge (Bridge) located between Mocharniuck Meadows and Hollenbach Park. Ms. Ludy stated that School District officials could not prohibit students from utilizing the Bridge but the School Resource Officer Wolf could support efforts to insure that students do not act inappropriately on or near the Bridge. Ms. Ludy requested that the Township Police Department provide a presence at this location when possible.

G. Large Ball of Dirt at Hollenbach Field

Mr. Miller stated that there was a large dirt ball covered by canvas and strapped to a tree at Hollenbach Park. It was requested that the Public Works Department be contacted regarding this matter.

H. Hollenbach Park

Mr. Miller stated that additional stone was needed at the entry area for Hollenbach Park. It was noted that the Soccer Association should be contacted regarding this matter.

I. Open Space Proposal

Mr. Elliott stated that he, Mr. Miller and Mr. Layne would be meeting with a Township resident on March 17, 2010 to discuss an open space proposal.

J. Open Space Program

Mr. Elliott added that the construction of a parking lot at 1401 N. Charlotte would be a benefit to the Township since it would be located directly to Sunset Park and Sprogels Run Pedestrian Walking Trail.

K. Utilization of Children to Upgrade the Parks

Vice Chairman Crock stated that it might be beneficial to utilize students/children to assist in park upgrade efforts in a 60-hour School comprehensive project but that we should check on the Township's liability.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Churach stated that he would volunteer to provide electric services at 1401 N. Charlotte. The Board thanked Mr. Churach for this kind gesture.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Freed moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 P.M. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 12, 2010