

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
November 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Jill Ludy, Greg Churach and Dennis Elliott. Ralph Freed was absent. Also present were Rebecca Moussa, Ahmad Moussa, Greg Biagini, Peter Eisenbrown, LTL Consultants, Elwood Taylor, President of the Board of Commissioners 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

Ms. Ludy moved that the September 14, 2011 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Taylor commented on possible opponents to Township open space preservation efforts that the Board should be cognizant of. He emphasized that the Board of Commissioners was very committed to the preservation and protection of open space in the Township. Mr. Elliott emphasized how the preservation of open space financially benefits and enhances the community. He noted that studies have documented that open space preservation helps increase property value. He stated that Molly Morrison with Natural Lands Trust provided him with information showing the economic benefits for preserving open space.

Mr. Biagini of the Pottsgrove Little League stated that there was a need for another baseball field to be built in the Township due to the demand for another facility. Chairwoman Thompson asked whether Mr. Biagini would help to pay for this facility and he responded that they would pay for the fencing, the skimming of the field and for the dirt. Mr. Layne suggested that the relatively flat open space area purchased by the Township from the Bealers and consisting of 8.1 acres might be a good location for another proposed baseball field.

Ms. Moussa proposed that a Concession Stand (Stand) be provided at the baseball field. She distributed a written proposal to the Board that the Stand would not exceed 10 by 20 feet, to be constructed as a shed or a more permanent cinderblock building, requested electricity and that the Pottsgrove Little League (PGLL) would cover ongoing usage costs, that the Stand would be placed parallel to the left field fence and that the PGLL had use of a hot dog concession cart that they would like to use during the baseball season. Mr. Elliott suggested that Ms. Moussa contact the Board of Health regarding health and liability requirements regarding the proposed Stand. He further stated that an RV could be utilized as well. Ms. Moussa responded that sometimes the games are simultaneous. Ms. Moussa added that she had spoken with Ms. Fritz with Hillside Aquatic regarding this matter.

4. Reports

A. Mr. Eisenbrown distributed an outline for the Board to discuss the proposed Snyder Road Trail Head and the proposed improvements to Sunset Park. Chairwoman Thompson stated that she would like to see the Township focus first on Sunset Park as opposed to the Snyder Road Trail Head.

Mr. Eisenbrown provided a brief overview of the Snyder Road Trail Head. It was noted that the Trail would cross onto Ms. Kelly's property and that Mr. Dallas was receptive to this design. The Trail would be setback 15 feet from the edge of the road. Chairwoman Thompson liked the proposed design and there was a general consensus that the new proposed plan was preferred. Mr. Eisenbrown stated that the proposed Trail design could provide for ADA accommodations. Mr. Churach expressed his concern with the parking being adequate in this area and that he did not desire a large parking area for this Trail.

Mr. Eisenbrown next discussed proposed Sunset Park improvements. He stated that there had been a proposal to focus on a fishing platform. He noted that ADA requirements must be adhered to. He stated that there was enough fill to do what was needed. He stated that emergency access would be required once a fishing platform was constructed. It was noted that the trail area was six feet in width. He stated that he would consult with the Township Solicitor to determine if a designated area for fishing should be provided. He added that an Eagle Scout was going to provide a bench as a project for this area and that multiple Eagle Scout projects could be done in this area.

Mr. Eisenbrown stated that the Township Public Works Department could probably construct the bulk of these proposed projects. Chairwoman Thompson added that the bench should be placed along the trail. Mr. Eisenbrown stated that Mr. Fagioli's property and commercial area in the Township may be a source for obtaining needed crushed concrete.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

A. There was a consensus that the 2012 Community Day should be held on the first Saturday in October, which is October 6, 2012. Proposed activities for Community Day included a Moon Bounce and a Portable Climbing Wall.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 P.M. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 11, 2012