

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
February 15, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Greg Churach, Dennis Elliott and Ralph Freed. Jill Ludy was absent. Also present were Diane Updegrove, Jim Magyar, Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Commissioner and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Elliott moved that the January 11, 2012 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Reports

A. Commissioner Miller stated that along with Mr. Churach, Elwood Taylor, Pete Eisenbrown and Mr. Layne they had recently walked the trail traversing through Sunset Park in order to identify and recommend improvements and maintenance that is needed for the Sprogels Run Trail. He reported that they had identified a number of concerns that would be addressed by Mr. Eisenbrown.

4. Old Business

A. Improvements at Sunset Park

Commissioner Miller stated that piles of dirt had been moved into Sunset Park and had been smoothed out. He added that limbs, sticks and other debris had been removed as well. He further stated that 10 to 15 loads of woodchips could be used at Sunset Park. He also suggested that grass could be planted where the dirt had been leveled.

B. Proposed Concession Stand

Mr. Layne stated that Ms. Moussa had recently contacted him regarding a proposed concession stand at Kulp Field. He stated that he had contacted Superior Water who had stated that a water connection might be possible. He added that a proposed public sewer connection would be cost prohibitive, however.

5. New Business

A. Discussion regarding a request to use parks for baseball

Mr. Magyar, representing the Montgomery County Patriots (Patriots) baseball team, provided a brief presentation on the Patriots. He stated that the team was comprised by those who were 9 years old and under. He added that most of their players are members of the Pottsgrove Little League. He stated that they play from summer into the fall. He requested that the Patriots be permitted to use Kulp Field as long as their playing time is coordinated with the Pottsgrove Little League. Mr. Magyar stated that he would provide a copy of the Patriots' approved insurance policy to the Township tomorrow. He further stated that they would like to place lights at the field. He emphasized that he is the contact person, e.g., Manager and Head Coach. Commissioner Miller stated that Mr. Magyar would be responsible for insuring that his players were

responsible, i.e., retrieved debris left on the field, etc. Mr. Magyar responded that his players are taught to show respect and to be responsible. He added that the parents of the Patriot players pay between \$450 and \$500 for their children to play on this team. He stated that their season is scheduled to begin on March 18th, which would be coordinated with the Pottsgrove Little League. There was a general consensus that this proposed endeavor could move forward as long as Mr. Magyar provided the Patriots' insurance information to the Township, assisted in maintaining Kulp Field and coordinated play times with the Pottsgrove Little League.

B. Sunset Park

Mr. Churach reiterated that he, Commissioner Miller, Mr. Taylor and LTL's Mr. Eisenbrown had recently walked the Sunset Park area. He emphasized that there was a strong desire to have the pedestrian trail improved and completed. He added that volunteers were needed to get rid of invasive vegetation. It was suggested that Eagle Scouts could assist with this process. It was further noted that volunteers could be asked to assist in specific areas that need improvements. There was an inquiry as to whether the school's cross country team might need an insurance policy if they would be utilizing the trail. Commissioner Miller recommended that the Township follow-up with the Eagle Scout that had stated that he would be providing improvements at Sunset Park. Commissioner Miller suggested that the Township contact Mr. Faggioli to request if his facility could be a source for disposing of debris found along the trail.

C. Update by Mr. Elliott

Mr. Elliott recommended that a chain be provided across the entrance to Sunset Park along Mangers Mill Road. He stated that this chain is needed to inhibit illegal dumping into the Park.

Mr. Elliott stated that he and Commissioner Miller had met with a number of Stated Legislators (e.g., Senators Erickson, Rafferty and Mensch and Representative Quigley) in Harrisburg on February 6th. He stated that they had spoken to the Legislators about the proposed legislation that would allow for open space acquisition funding to be also used for open space improvements. Mr. Elliott stated that he would contact the Pottsgrove School District regarding the SAVE (Students Against Violating the Earth) program. He emphasized the dignity and professionalism shown by the SAVE students who attend Souderton High School.

D. Chairwoman Proposal

Chairwoman Thompson recommended that the Open Space and Recreation Board meetings open with a pledge of allegiance. Mr. Elliott moved that this proposal be implemented. Mr. Churach seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

E. Pine Ford Road open space access

Commissioner Miller stated that there was better access to the open space area off of Pine Ford Road through the Goose Run Creek area.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Churach moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:57 P.M. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 14, 2012