

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
January 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Dennis Elliott, Greg Church and Ralph Freed Jill Ludy was absent. Also present were Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Commissioner, David Daniels and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

- Mr. Daniels stated that he was a member of the Pottsgrove Little League Board and responsible for the field and maintenance for this entity in Upper Pottsgrove, West Pottsgrove and Lower Pottsgrove. He discussed how the interest in baseball by parents and children is really strong in this area. He stated that the children in the Pottsgrove Little League are 7, 8 and 9 years old. He requested that the Township consider the possibility of allowing for the development and construction of a small baseball field on part of Hoffman Field. Chairperson Thompson stated that Hollanbach Field would be more accommodating and safe than Hoffman Field due to Hoffman Field being located adjacent to roadways. She added that the only way that even a small baseball field (e.g., 60 foot diamond) could be constructed at Hoffman Field would be to place a very high fence between the park and adjacent roadways. Mr. Freed stated that the width of a baseball field would restrict the construction of a baseball field within Hoffman Field. Commissioner Miller concurred with the comments by Chairperson Thompson. He further stated that the recently acquired Township open space land area at West Moyer Road might be more conducive for the construction of a baseball field. Following additional discussion on this matter, there was a consensus that Mr. Daniels should look at the West Moyer Road Township open space and determine if he felt that it would be feasible for providing a baseball field on this property. Commissioner Miller suggested that Chairperson Thompson provide a letter to Mr. Daniels denoting this suggestion by the Open Space and Recreation Board.

3. Reports

- Commissioner Miller recommended that orange flexible fencing be utilized at the proposed practice soccer field at Hoffman Field.
- There was a consensus that the Pottsgrove Soccer Association be contacted to determine why they did not attend tonight's meeting to discuss their November 2012 request that they be permitted to utilize Hoffman Field as a soccer practice field.

4. Old Business

- Chairperson Thompson noted that the fence that had been knocked down at Sunset Park had not been repaired. Commissioner Miller stated that this fence had been repaired several times but damaged each time by vandals. Mr. Churach suggested the utilization of Game Cameras in order to attempt to inhibit vandalism at the parks. Following a brief discussion on this matter there was a suggestion that two Game Cameras should be purchased and located at Sunset Park. Following additional discussion on this matter, Commissioner Miller stated that he would contact the District Judge regarding this matter prior to the Game Cameras being installed at Sunset Park.
- Commissioner Miller stated that Public Works Department staff and he had completed an additional 600 feet of pedestrian trail and that approximately 275 feet remained for completion.
- There was a discussion regarding the proposed pedestrian trail being located on the south side of Snyder Road. Mr. Churach strongly suggested that there were definitive advantages to have the pedestrian trail be on the south side of Snyder Road. He and Chairperson Thompson stated that the 2006 Township Open Space Plan specifies that this pedestrian trail should be located on the south side of Snyder Road. Mr. Churach and Chairperson Thompson emphasized that this was an example of how the Open Space and Recreation Board is not listened to even when they cite directives, such as the Township Open Space Plan, that are not being adhered to by the Township.
- Commissioner Miller concurred that the fencing completed at Sussell Park looked good.
- Commissioner Miller stated that the pump house concern would be handled.
- Commissioner Miller agreed with Chairperson Thompson that the entry-way to Sussell Park needed to be widened.
- Chairperson Thompson requested that another fence or gabion be placed near the gully at Sunset Park.
- Commissioner Miller did not agree with the suggestion that the picnic tables should be painted green. After a brief discussion, there was a consensus that the natural color of the tables was fine.
- Chairperson Thompson noted that a number of trees had been knocked down by Hurricane Sandy at Sunset Park.
- Commissioner Miller agreed that a pavilion could be located at Sunset Park sometime in the future but not now.
- Commissioner Miller apologized for missing the last Board meeting but emphasized that he had rarely missed meetings and that he believed that he was the better Commissioner to attend these meetings since he is intricately involved in open space and park activities on an ongoing basis. He added that no other

Commissioner had been involved on a daily basis on open space and park activities as extensively as he had been to date.

5. New Business

- Commissioner Miller explained that the new home that was being constructed at Marchnuik Park was located on land not owned by the Township.
- Commissioner Miller discussed the necessity for No Hunting signs being placed at Township parks due to the recent hunting and killing of deer in the Township's park areas.
- Mr. Churach emphasized the use of white PCV schedule 4 pipe for clearly marking off property.
- Commissioner Miller stated that there has been hunting on the Bachman property.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Freed moved that the November 14, 2012 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:38 P.M. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 13, 2013