

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2009

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board of the Township of Upper St. Clair was called to order at 7:47 PM on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 in the Library Multi-Purpose Room, Township Municipal Building, 1820 McLaughlin Run Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241.

PRESENT: Roger Hartung Chairman
Jennifer Schuler Vice-Chairman
William O. Barnard
Thomas Browand
Diane Morris
Daniel Paoly

ABSENT: Paul Besterman Director of Recreation and Leisure Services
Kelly B. Bakayza

PUBLIC: 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2009

Mr. Roger Hartung made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Schuler, to approve the Minutes of the April 28, 2009 meeting. The Minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments.

AGENDA

GILFILLAN PARK

Mr. Bill Dawson, 1220 Fox Run Road, and Ms. Rachel Heins, 335 Hollydale Circle, two members of the Gilfillin Ad-Hoc Committee were present. There was much discussion recapping the steps taken so far in reference to Gilfillan Park from the last meeting and how we should proceed moving forward. Ms. Heins again communicated that she was unsure if all members of the Ad-Hoc Committee understood that the Ad-Hoc meetings were to take place at the regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Board meetings.

Mr. Browand suggested that at this point it seems as though it is time to take the brainstorming ideas to the Board of Commissioners and get more professional help in the process. All attendees agreed that the next course of action to be taken is to summarize the “brainstorming” to the BOC and recommend moving forward with hiring an outside party with expertise in this type of park and neighboring land settings. The following motion was made by Mr. Roger Hartung, Chair, and seconded by Mr. Bill Barnard. The motion was approved unanimously by the Parks and Recreation Board and Ad-Hoc Committee members. “The Park and Recreation Board together with the Gilfillin Park Ad-Hoc Committee recommend that the Township Commissioners advertise an RFP to retain a professional organization to help study development and/or preservation of Gilfillin Park. The professional organization hired would work with the Gilfillin Ad-Hoc Committee and representatives of the Parks and Recreation Board.”

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It was discussed that the Parks and Recreation Board would have at least one member serving as a member of the Gilfillin Ad-Hoc Committee and it would remain open to other Board members to attend as well.

The Park and Recreation Board would like clarification if the Township Trust money can be used in the hiring of the consultant.

It was also noted by Ad-Hoc members that there are USC residents with expertise in this area that could also be an asset in this process such as Mr. Jeff Wagner.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Paoly asked about the status of the Board's project to provide water and electricity to the Pavilion at Boyce Mayview and requested an update. He also asked if the Parks and Recreation Board did receive the yearly money allotment. Discussion ensued about the various ways the allotment might be used.

Following were some suggestions:

- Replacing the steps removed from Johnston Park. Neighbors are still using that area as a path to the park.
- Providing a golf cage (similar to a batting cage) where residents can practice their drives. What would the cost be for something like this? Can the existing batting cages be converted for use in all type of sports?
- Discussed how this might be a good fit at Baker Park where the land fill is currently been completed because it is flat land.
- A Bocce court at Johnston Park.
- The concept of a skate park was discussed. It was questioned as to how costly or cost-effective a park of this type might be able to be built.
- Conversion from the mud volleyball court to a sand volleyball area.

Ms. Morris commented that a neighbor recently approached her about safe crossing to Tustin Park. Discussion took place about what exactly can or cannot be done to provide a safe crossing for Chartwell Drive and other Tustin Park residents. A review of what if anything the state said could be done about this area. It was also suggested by Ms. Morris that the 30 mph sign before Chartwell Drive be taken down/reduced. Even though some people are obeying this speed limit, it is too close to the bend to allow people to cross safely.

Discussion took place with regard to the Community Recreation Center. It was noted by all what a wonderful job the Recreation Department and staff have done at this first rate facility. All are enjoying it and absolutely love it! Some suggestions and comments followed:

- Can Sunday hours be increased? It was noted that the reduced time for the facility makes it very crowded on a non-working day when most residents can use it.
- Why has the outdoor pool been closed during the day when the weather was not optimal but no thunder/showers? It was noted other pools in area were still open.

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- Can the outdoor pool stay open later than 6:00 pm? Other pools in area do and it would better accommodate working parents who want to get there with their families after work.
- Can lifeguards or someone patrol locker rooms at least for awhile? It was noted by some that children are being left unattended in there while other adults are trying to shower.
- It was noted that many kids/adults are complaining of their feet being cut by the bottom of the pool. Recommend water shoes until the surface smoothens? Bleeding feet in pool could lead to some health violations/problems.
- Shelves in showers for shampoo and such.
- Benches in locker rooms.
- Benches in indoor pool area or hooks around wall to hang towels, etc.
- Concession stand. At a minimum coffee, water, and light food in common area.
- Shower in indoor pool area to rinse off before you go into hot tub area (outdoor type of shower).
- Change machine needed.
- ATM Machine in facility would mean more money spent inside.
- Stretching room in gym.
- Pinch point between outdoor and indoor pool. How is that working? With kids always running between both, it makes them have to carry their card. Where do families put them?
- It was noted both men/women showers have drainage problems with standing water.
- More rugs in the hallway exiting indoor pool. Some additional ones were added but may be better to have them up to doors to prevent slipping.
- Lifeguards need to enforce no one under age in hot tub.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 PM.