



WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2013

The regular meeting of the Warrington Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order on February 28, 2013, 7:35 p.m., at the Township Building located at 852 Easton Road, Warrington, PA 18976. The members present were as follows:

ATTENDANCE:

Richard Weiss, Chairperson; Pat Smith, Vice Chairperson; Lori Halber, Robert McNulty, Ted Piotrowicz, Ruth Schemm and Carol Rice, members. Staff present were Timothy J. Tieperman, Township Manager; Jeanine Winslow, Recreation Coordinator; Barry Lubert, Chief Financial Officer; and Supervisor Liaison John Paul.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. January 24, 2012

Ms. Schemm motioned, seconded by Mr. McNulty, to approve the January 24, 2013 Meeting Minutes. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Dave Schilling inquired about PennDOT's closure of Bristol Road and its impact on travelers to and from Barnes Park. Mr. Tieperman explained that PennDOT is required to use State roads for all its official detour routes but that there are viable alternate routes use township roads. He will contact PennDOT to confirm this understanding.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Discuss roster fee and hear proposal(s) from local athletic groups

Mr. Weiss advised members that tonight's agenda was dedicated to hearing feedback and alternative proposals from the local sports groups in response to the Township's new roster fee schedule that is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2013. At 5:30 p.m., however, he received a collective email from these organizations requesting answers to a several questions justifying the imposition of the roster fee. Copies of these questions were distributed to fellow Board members. In reviewing the questions publicly, Mr. Weiss responded that the Board of Supervisors enacted this roster fee during the budget process and that these questions should be directed it.

Representatives from the following athletic organizations were in attendance:

- Warriors Lacrosse
- Warrington/Warwick Softball
- Warrington Youth Baseball
- American Legion/Connie Mack
- Warrington Warriors Football
- Warrington Soccer Club
- Warrington/Warwick Athletic Association Field Hockey

Mr. Weiss invited each of the representatives to share their opinions. While there were many back and forth comments, the following comments represented the majority of these opinions:

- Organization were not informed of the new roster fee until after the Board of Supervisors approved it;
- To where will the fees be allocated?
- The fees are too high and will harm the organization, especially groups with lower registrations.
- The non-residential fee is too high, especially for groups with extended registration boundaries outside the Township.
- Is the Township willing to reconsider these fees or consider a compromise between the resident and non-resident rates?
- What about organizations that already invest heavily in Township fields?

Supervisor liaison John Paul explained in general terms the reasons for the new fee and his intention that the fee was never intended to be absorbed by the associations themselves but passed on to the registrants. He said that several of the associations' questions such as township bank account information and other technical budget inquiries are not appropriate and will not be answered. He offered to listen to the groups and attend meetings to understand how a simple \$10 fee will put undue pressure on the club. He stated that the non-resident fee is negotiable.

He reminded the attendees that Warrington Township has expended millions of dollars on park and field improvements and that a higher non-resident fee is justified. He stated that Townships is struggling financially since the 2008 recession and no longer has the excess cash on hand to maintain the park system adequately without some form of assistance for non-taxable revenues. He noted that members at the Warrington Swim Club must now remit \$400 to the Township for the privilege of using the facility.

Another example cited by Mr. Paul was the Township's lawn maintenance contract, the cost of which doubled from \$110,000 in 2011 to over \$230,000 in 2012. Much of this contract goes to maintaining the Township's park system. Ms. Rice noted that not all of this contract was dedicated to park maintenance, to which Mr. Tieperman stated is correct.

At the close of these discussion, Mr. Weiss and Mr. Paul concurred that a followup meeting with the field organizations was necessary to try and reach a compromised arrangement regarding the roster fee. Mr. Weiss volunteered to coordinate this meeting and receive a combination proposal form all the groups. This would then be presented to John Paul and the full Board of Supervisors at its next regular meeting.

3. Discuss status on revisions to the Township's Park Ordinances (Chapter 6)

Mr. Tieperman reported that the final amendments to Chapter 16 (Parks, Recreation and Open Space) have been advertised, reflecting the new ban on hunting throughout all Warrington's parks in addition to other updates. Mr. Weiss asked if there were any additional comments regarding the amendments. There were none.

4. Discuss status on Facility Use Policy

Mr. Tieperman shared the latest version of the Facility Use Policy, which is tied to the new schedule of roster and tournament fees. He stated the policy will be modified as necessary to reflect any changes to the recreation fee schedule. Mr. Weiss asked if there were any additional comments regarding the new administrative policy. There were none.

5. Progress report on Twin Oaks Field Project

Mr. Weiss reported that the final permits have been received for the project. It was noted that now work will commence on this project until the roster fee matter is finally settled.

6. Swim Club Update

Mr. Luber reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of the member addresses from the shuttered Murphy's Warminster Swim Club for \$900. Letters to the 200 families will be mailed out shortly. He said that a 5% discount will apply for registrations received by April 15, 2013. He said that Chef Ray will be returning to manage the concession stand. The Township also renewed the contract with American Pool Management with a \$10,000 decrease in the annual fee. The company will be extending closing time by 15 minutes to allow staff to conduct closing procedures.

Kids Art from the Bux-Mont Art League has agreed to paint a couple of murals. Swim club children will be invited to paint a square, which the organization will assemble and laminate for the murals. The league agreed to supply two to three commercial and amateur artist to work on some of the painting projects.

The Tieperman stated that the Supervisors have asked Staff to reanalyze the non-resident fee structure at the Swim Club to determine whether it should be raised. Mr. Smith suggested that to boost membership the Township should consider offering incentives to families to attend the Club. After some discussion, it was recommended that a \$25 gift card be offered to any new member joining the Swim Club. Ms. Schemm made the motion, seconded by Ms. Halber. The motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded onto the Board of Supervisors for final consideration.

7. Twin Oaks Day Camp Update

Mr. Luber updated the Board on planned improvement at Twin Oaks for the upcoming summer season. Based on recent safety inspections, there will be major repairs and improvements to the main art room, including sheeting, gutters, was and some electrical work. The Public Works Department will be handling all these repairs. The roof replacement will be contracted. The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) will be working with a local Boy Scout troop to paint the bunks.

Mr. Smith asked if the Township has conducted a long term evaluation of the day camp to determine whether the operations should stay at its current location or be relocated and consolidated with the swim club. He opined that if the Township continues to have just 60 campers and similar registration results at the swim club, that some form on consolidation should be considered.

NEW BUSINESS:**8. Update on Open Space Bond Issue**

Mr. Tieperman updated members on the status of the open space bond issue. He explained that it will be combined with the refinancing of the 2008 bonds. The entire \$3 million will not be financed this year to keep the overall issue less than \$10 million, which will allow it to be classified as bank-qualified and receive favorable tax treatment.

9. Update on Free Tree Proposal

Mr. Tieperman reported that Mr. John Pileggi has offered trees from his family's nursery, which will soon be closing to make way for a new development. Township staff will be visiting the site shortly to tag trees for relocation in some of the Township's parks, most likely Lower Nike for preparation of Warrington Day and other designated locations as deemed appropriate. It was noted that the Township will be responsible for the transplanting and maintenance costs.

10. Warrington Day

Mr. Paul gave a brief update on Warrington Day preparations and the activities of the Warrington Day Organization Committee. He said that things are starting to come together nicely and that entertainment and fireworks are being secured for relocated event at Lower Nike Park. The Committee is seeking out sponsors to help offset the event costs.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith motioned, seconded by Mrs. Schemm, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Edited and Reviewed By:



Timothy J. Tieperman, Township Manager