

**WARRINGTON PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
JULY 24, 2008**

Present: Carol Rice, Chair; David A. Weaver Vice-Chairman; Ruth Levine-Schemm, Secretary, Robert McNulty, Lori Halber, , Michael Richino and Township Supervisor Michael Lamond. Staff present was Carolyn Hanel, CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation. Also present was Tammy Wesley, Al Streton, Brian Andrews, and Jim Grisan.

Mrs. Rice called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comment – There were no public comments

2. Old Business –

2.1 Summer Concerts: Mrs. Hanel suggested moving concerts to Mondays so C.B. south can be used as a venue. It costs \$125 for a custodian at the church. Mr. McNulty added that we are charged \$30 a day per permit. Mrs. Rice inquired whether or not the concerts throw the Township budget off, and Mrs. Hanel responded that we should come within budget.

2.2 Warrington Day: Mrs. Hanel explained the plan to take alternative ideas to the Board of Supervisors that would keep us within the same budget. Changes would be inflatables and rides instead of fireworks, holding it at Twin Oaks, maybe having a classic car show, and using straw to avoid damage to the fields. Radio Disney will be the opening act and serve as MCs. Elbow Lane will bring their climbing wall. Overall the publicity for the event is good. Mr. Weaver asked why there is a problem with fireworks. Mrs. Hanel explained there is a liability and it adds to the overtime costs. Dr. Levine-Schemm recommended no fireworks because of noise, however Mr. Weaver and Mr. McNulty said fireworks are a tradition and we should have them. Mrs. Rice volunteered to be on the committee for Warrington Day and encouraged others to volunteer as well. Mr. Lamond asked how we are doing with sponsorships. Mrs. Hanel replied that we have three so far but we need more. Mr. Grisan added that there could be a timely e-mail promoting Warrington Day soliciting volunteers from the Warrington Soccer Club to their list serve. He said he would have no problem going to his board meeting and asking for a donation. The soccer club will publicize Warrington Day on their website. Mrs. Hanel said that we quote a minimum of \$1000 for sponsorships.

3. New Business –

3.1 Park and Recreation Monthly Report: Mrs. Hanel reviewed the monthly departmental report.

- **King Park Expansion:** Staff is suggesting fencing around the storm water basin near the new soccer fields. The basin is 11ft deep. Warrington has no policy on fencing basins. We could put in a recommendation that basins of a specified depth should be fenced in Township parks.. We need to get a price for fencing and invest in water tolerant plants. Mr. Lamond explained that nothing should be done with this basin due to the Culter issue with the Army Corps of Engineers, which has prevented dedication of the park land. Mr. Lamond suggested that the Park and Rec Board wait until that issue is resolved. Mr. Streton, representing Warrington Soccer, said that safety is an issue and we need some

type of barrier construction fencing. Mrs. Rice said if we don't own that land, we shouldn't put money into permanent fencing, and the owner of the property is responsible. Mrs. Halber suggested installing the temporary orange snow fencing immediately.

- Twin Oaks Pond: Mrs. Hanel explained that the bids for aeration at Twin Oaks pond were 100% higher than budgeted. Staff is looking at alternative energy sources and reexamining the project. Regarding the possible use of wind-powered generators, Mrs. Rice said that people complain about the noise of these generators and that they should not be near people's homes. Mr. Lamond said the new air generators have less noise, people complain only because it is new.
- 2008 Budget: Mrs. Hanel commented that there are no issues with the finances in Twin Oaks camp. We changed from nine weeks to seven weeks because there is a limited availability among college and high school students to staff the camp. While the reduction in the length of the session may have impacted registration, the reduction in payroll costs offset the reduced revenues. Also, discount ticket sales are going great,

3.2 Special Equestrians: Tammy Wesley, Executive Director, spoke about the Special Equestrians programs. She commented that they have wonderful volunteers and staff and that the Special Equestrians won the Forbes Award in 2006. They now collaborate with three shelters and provide services for seniors with age related disabilities as well as youth with disabilities. The Special Equestrians program is almost entirely funded by the community, even though she writes between eight to fifteen grant applications per year. In the fall, they are starting a program for children with autism. They revamped an indoor and outdoor arena. They also had a spring festival for the first time and it was a lovely day.

Mr. Lamond commented that grants are out there specifically for handicapped accessible playgrounds. The Penna. Fish and Boat Commission could provide funding to give access from the Special Equestrians site right down to the lake. Mrs. Wesley said that Special Equestrians now serves more at risk youth, and that 60% of the clients are on the Autism spectrum. They want to expand and meet the changing needs of the community.

5.3 Warrington Soccer: Al Streton, President of the Warrington Soccer Club, first commented that he supported Special Equestrians. Then he said he had a few proposals regarding the soccer club and their field needs. The Township lets them use Pickertown to practice, but the new firehouse is now being built there and soccer will lose those fields this fall. They proposed installing temporary lighting with a generator at Twin Oaks, near the old football field. They want lights there from October to December this fall, 6PM to 10PM. The second proposal was the possibility of installing permanent lights in the same area. The Park and Rec Board expressed concern about disturbing the nearby residential properties. Mr. Streton replied that the current technology with lighting limits ambient lighting and minimizes any disruption to neighboring areas.

Mr. Lamond said the Township won't have money for lights; Mr. Streton replied that the soccer club would pick up the cost of temporary lighting. Mr. Andrews added that the use of Twin Oaks and the temporary lights would be for ten weeks out of twelve months. Mrs. Halber agreed that soccer is very popular but there is not enough field space and something needs to be done about it. Dr. Levine-Schemm reminded everyone that Twin Oaks was purchased for passive recreation. She thought that it would be disruptive, noisy, and annoying. Mrs. Halber commented that she supports the soccer club proposal because there are no lit fields and it gives

the Township an opportunity to assess how lighting would impact the neighbors. Mr. Richino said he does not have a problem with lights powered by a diesel generator. Mr. Weaver added that you can buy a silencer for a generator. Mrs. Hanel reminded everyone that the Township has a noise ordinance and any generators cannot go past a certain decibel level. Mrs. Rice asked the representatives from the soccer club to map out a plan and bring it back. Mrs. Halber asked for the height of the lights, decibel levels of the generators and spread of lights. Mr. Lamond suggested that the neighbors on Bradley Avenue are notified about this proposal. Mrs. Rice suggested setting up a demonstration with a generator and a description of the light, and a plan of where to put everything. Then, if the Park and Rec Board agrees with the proposal, the neighbors need to be notified ahead of time that temporary lights will be installed for the fall. Dr. Levine-Schemm asked if we could start scouring around to see if there is another option in the Township. Mrs. Rice asked Mrs. Hanel to coordinate seeing if there is another place. Permanent lighting is not being considered right now.

6. Approval of Minutes -

6.1 April 24, 2008: Mrs. Halber moved to approve the April minutes and Mr. Weaver seconded.

6.2 June 26, 2008: Mr. Richino moved to approve the June minutes and Mrs. Rice seconded.

7. Future Agenda Topics – Mrs. Halber suggested a meeting with Central Bucks School District regarding facility use.

8. Adjournment – Dr. Levine-Schemm motioned for adjournment at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hanel, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation