



**WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
MARCH 26, 2009**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Rice called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Carol Rice, Chair; Ruth Schemm, Secretary; Bill Waterbury, Lori Halber, David Weaver and Michael Richino. Also present was Township Supervisor Michael Lamond. Staff present were Carolyn Hanel, Director of Parks and Recreation and Trevor Dane, Parks and Facilities Foreman.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Rice led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - Warrington Soccer League . Al Stretton, President of Warrington Soccer, asked to address the Park and Rec Board (PRB) regarding their need for lighted fields. Mr. Stretton noted that the Warrington Soccer League has over 2,000 participants and in order to provide adequate practice as well as game time, they count on the use of lighted fields. The league formerly used the fields at Millcreek and Pickertown Roads, but these fields have been eliminated for the construction of a new fire house. It was anticipated that the two new fields at King Park would have lighting in 2009, but budgetary constraints precluded this expense. Warrington Soccer is asking for permission to install lights on the fields used by the league at Twin Oaks Park. Mr. Stretton commented that the soccer league previously used the lighted fields at King Park that are now exclusively used by the Warrington Warriors Football Association.

The PRB commented that there are neighbors in close proximity to the Twin Oaks fields that might object to the installation of lights and the increased use of Twin Oaks. Mrs. Schemm also commented that there are natural habitats at Twin Oaks, particularly around the pond and in the wooded area that borders the park. This habitat must be protected as well as dealing with the concerns of the youth athletic leagues. The PRB questioned if the addition of two lighted fields at King could solve the problem. Mr. Stretton stressed that the need for additional field

space will continue. Mr. Stretton also noted that the crunch-time would be September, when daylight savings time ends.

The Soccer League also questioned the quality of the turf on the new soccer fields in the King Park expansion area. Staff replied that there is no question that the fields are not playable at this time. The Park Department will be working over the spring and summer to upgrade the quality of the turf for fall play. Mr. Stretton commented that unless something is done quickly they will not be playable in the fall.

The PRB asked the Soccer League to return with a proposal for installing lights at Twin Oaks. The PRB also suggested that the league consider using temporary lights on the King Park fields for a more immediate solution.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 King Park residents petition . Mrs. Hanel reported that the Board of Supervisors discussed the petition at the March 24 meeting and concurred with the recommendations of the Park and Rec Board.

4.2 Dog Park (continued discussion) . Staff distributed some background information on dog parks. Mrs. Hanel noted that the site would be staked out and she would notify the PRB when this is done so that they could inspect the site at their convenience. Mrs. Halber had two comments, based on the discussion from the February 26 meeting; (1) Horsham's dog park is very muddy and a wood chip or surface other than turf might prevent this. (2) That a chain link or similar fence should be used to mark the perimeter of the park and contain the pets. A simple split rail fence would not be suitable, but split rail with wire fencing on the inside would work. The PRB suggested black powder-coated chain link, similar to what was installed on the ball field at King Park. Mrs. Rice asked if water was available at the site. Staff responded that there is water service at the Special Equestrians which would be extended to the park for installation of a yard hydrant.

Staff also noted that there will be a sign-up sheet at the May 2 event for people interested in the development of a dog park. These people could serve as a focus group to make recommendations on the layout, etc of a dog park

Mr. Weaver questioned if there were any funding sources for this project rather than using all Township funds. Staff indicated that once a conceptual plan and budget were developed, grant funding could be pursued. Mr. Lamond suggested soliciting sponsorship from area pet stores.

Andrew Velas a resident of 727 Hondra Street commented that he wanted the PRB to focus on the existing parks and trails used by humans before

worrying about facilities for dogs. Mr. Velas continued that the Bradford Trail at Lower Nike, in his opinion, was one of the worst trails in the area. He noted that he has been complaining about the trail for years. Mr. Velas also noted that you don't need a dog park. Residents already walk their dogs in Lower Nike Park everyday. Mrs. Rice replied that in a dog park, the dogs would be allowed off-leash. The PRB also commented that the Township is attempting to upgrade the quality of maintenance in all the Township parks. Mrs. Hanel noted that the Parks Dept. staff is working with CKS Engineers to address some of the erosion problems along the Bradford Trail that result in the muddy conditions. Trevor Dane asked to meet with Mr. Velas at the trail to make sure his particular maintenance concerns and complaints are addressed. The PRB also suggested that Mr. Velas attend a Bike and Hike Committee to present his concerns.

4.3 Compensatory Tree Ordinance . Mrs.. Hanel advised the PRB that there have been some concerns with residents encroaching into dedicated open space areas with picnic tables, play equipment, etc. Some residents have also removed plantings and trees to extend their own yards. A compensatory tree ordinance, such as the one under discussion, would provide the Township with an avenue to replace any plantings or trees (at the property owner's expense).

5. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS)

5.1 Departmental Monthly Report . Mrs. Hanel and Mr. Dane briefly reviewed their activities for March, 2009. Mrs. Hanel provided a summary of the facility uses that had been approved for 2009. She commented that the request from CB South high school to use the soccer fields at IPW Park was denied because of the intense use of these fields by the Warrington Soccer League.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

6.1 February 26, 2009 . On motion by Mrs. Schemm, seconded by Mr. Waterbury, the Minutes of February 26, 2009 were approved by a 4-2 vote, with Mrs. Halber and Mr. Richino abstaining.

7. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

7.1 Relocation of Shank Tot Lot - Mr. Lamond asked about the status of this project. Mrs. Hanel responded that the project was not funded in the 2009 budget, but should be included in the 2010 budget.

8. ADJOURNMENT . There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Hanel