



WARRINGTON PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 28, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ruth Schemm, Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the absence of Carol Rice, Chairperson. In attendance were: Mrs. Rice (arrived at 7:45), Lori Halber, Michael Richino, David Weaver, Ruth Schemm and Board of Supervisors Liaison Michael Lamond. Staff present were Carolyn Hanel, Director of Parks and Recreation and Trevor Dane, Parks and Facilities Foreman
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Schemm led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - there was no public comment offered.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 **Warrington Soccer League presentation** . Al Stretton and Jim Grisan from the Warrington Soccer League did a power-point presentation regarding their need for lighted fields. The soccer league lost the use of the fields at Millcreek and Pickertown Roads for the new fire house construction. It had been anticipated that the 2 new fields at King Park would be usable with lighting by 2009, but due to budget constraints, the lighting was not funded for 2009. The absence of lights limits practice time for teams, particularly in the fall months. Mr. Stretton opined that Warrington Soccer is losing members because of the lack of lighted fields.

As an alternative, the league presentation outlined several options;

- To install permanent lights at Twin Oaks - Create two full size fields (350x 350) for practice use only. Estimated cost of \$125,000, with some financial assistance or labor from the Township
- To install temporary lights at Twin Oaks . Estimated cost of \$18,000 to \$24,000 paid by Warrington Soccer
- To install temporary lighting at King Park . install four (4) 14x 60 poles on each of two fields. Estimated cost of \$18,000 with Warrington Soccer

Mrs. Hanel commented that the lights from the Millcreek fields were saved for possible reuse. Mr. Stretton indicated that the older lights tend to generate more glare and ambient lighting than the newer lights. He further suggested that if those lights are used at King, we should alert the neighbors that the lights are only temporary.

Mr. Stretton indicated that the creation of two new fields at Twin Oaks with permanent lighting, in combination with the temporary lighting at King Park was the league's preferred alternative.

The Park and Rec Board expressed some concern over the development of two soccer fields as well as lighting at Twin Oaks. The proposed location of the fields is in a very low, wet area that is environmentally sensitive. Staff suggested that a soils test would need to be performed before any poles could be installed. Mrs. Schemm commented that when the IPW fields were developed a substantial amount of soil had to be imported to counter-act the clay-like quality of the soil at the site. It is possible that a wetlands delineation should be done before any fields can be developed.

During the discussion that followed the presentation, the PRB members suggested that as lights were already approved for King Park that would be the preferred option over Twin Oaks where lighting has never been discussed. There was considerable concern to the development of the soccer fields at IPW, which is adjacent to Twin Oaks, and the neighbors were promised that lights would never be installed on those fields. The PRB felt that the soccer league would need to meet with the neighbors of Twin Oaks before any lighting could be approved. Mrs. Hanel also commented that she had concerns about the safety of using Twin Oaks in the dark; noting that even if the fields are lighted, access from the parking lot would not be lit.

Mrs. Stretton and Grisan indicated that the soccer league is also pursuing other options/locations for lighted fields in the area without any luck. Mr. Lamond asked if the league had ever considered developing fields on the land at the Tradesville Sewage Treatment Plant. Mr. Lamond continued that this site might be an ideal solution for a parallel track for the soccer league to develop additional lighted fields. The soccer league indicated that they would contact staff to visit this site.

On motion by Mrs. Schemm, seconded by Mrs. Halber, the Park and Recreation Board unanimously recommended that the soccer league pursue the temporary installation of lights on the fields at King Park. The Board of Supervisors must make the final decision on any permanent improvement to a Township park. Staff suggested, and the PRB agreed, that the Township lighting consultant and the Township Engineer review the lighting proposals before going to the Board of Supervisors. Staff also commented that their

might be liability insurance issues with the installation of lights by the soccer league owns on Township property.

Mr. Stretton indicated that the soccer league would return to the June 25 meeting with a formal proposal, based on the recommendations and directions of the Park and Rec Board.

4.2 Dog Park – continued discussion - Mrs. Hanel reported on a meeting she had with the Park and Recreation Director from Doylestown Township to discuss some possible cooperative ventures. One possibility discussed as a dog park to ~~at~~ ~~traddle~~ King Park in Warrington and Turk Park in Doylestown. The discussion was very preliminary in nature. Mrs. Hanel commented that a cooperative effort would also be more likely to receive grant funding. The Park and Recreation Board was very supportive of the idea and on motion by Mrs. Schemm, seconded by Mr. Weaver, unanimously agreed that staff should continue to pursue/investigate this joint effort. The PRB also suggested pursuing sponsorships from area businesses for items such as fencing, benches, etc.

Mrs. Hanel also announced that Warminster Township is developing a dog park at Warminster Community Park. The Warminster park is to be 200q x300q divided to 1/3-2/3 sections. There will be a user fee and the total cost is estimated at \$60,000+.

4.3 Open Space Inventory – Staff distributed large maps showing all the publicly-owned (Township, County, State and Federal) open space in the Township. This map should serve as a base for future discussions on open space.

5. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS)

5.1 Departmental Monthly Report – Staff briefly reviewed the activities of the Park and Rec Department in May including the annual Memorial Day event. Trevor Dane noted the parks maintenance activities for the month including the buffer plantings at King Park; preparation of the Swim Club for the May 25 opening, and preparation of the Twin Oaks site for summer camp.

Mrs. Rice reported on her attendance at the ~~o~~ ~~pening~~ of the King Park baseball field on May 16. She commented that the field is very nice, but a pathway from the parking lot to the ball field is needed. She also commented that some vehicles were parked along Noah's Circle, possibly because it is closer to the ball field than the parking lot. Mrs. Rice suggested that either the developer or the Township post signs indicating that parking for King Park is accessed from Kelly Road.

5.2 Liberty Tree . Lentz Landscaping submitted a grant application for a 3+ caliper Liberty Elm to be installed in one of the Township Parks. The Elm Research Institute notified the Township that the application was approved. Lentz is willing to pay for the shipping and planting (approximate value \$950). The PRB recommended installing the tree at King Park near the new restroom building to provide some shade. They deferred a decision on a memorial plaque that is available through the program.

5.3 Board of Supervisors Goals and Objectives . Staff distributed the Goals and Objectives, developed by the Board of Supervisors, relating to Parks, Recreation and Open Space for review and discussion. The PRB will discuss these as a work session as part of the June 25 meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

6.1 April 23, 2009 – On motion by Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Richino, the Minutes of the April 23, 2009 meeting were approved 4-0, with Mrs. Halber abstaining.

7. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- **A Taste of Warrington** . Supervisor Michael Lamond suggested investigating the feasibility of having a restaurant festival.

8. ADJOURNMENT - There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Hanel, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation