



## WARRINGTON PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 30, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Carol Rice called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. In addition to Mrs. Rice other Park and Recreation Board members present were: Robert McNulty, Vice-Chair, Lori Halber, Michael Richino and Ruth Schemm. Staff present were Trevor Dane, Parks and Facilities Foreman and Carolyn Hanel, Director of Parks and Recreation.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

### 3. **OLD BUSINESS**

3.1 Warrington Soccer League: Al Stretton, Jim Grisan and Rick Weiss were present to discuss their concerns over the lack of fields for the fall soccer program. Mr. Stretton noted that with over 2000 players registered for this league, they are in desperate need of fields. The soccer league is investigating several options including the use of the new multi-purpose fields at King Park; development of new fields at Twin Oaks; use of the old Millcreek field for the fall; use of the open field at Barnes Park and development of fields at the Tradesville Treatment Plan site.

The PRB re-affirmed their continued desire to work with the soccer league to secure additional playing fields as well as lit fields. However, budgetary constraints limit what the Township is able to do. For the immediate need of fall 2009, a lit field does not appear feasible.

- ✓ Twin Oaks: Staff provided the PRB with a master plan for Twin Oaks that was prepared when the land was acquired in 2004. The plan was not dated, but did indicate the intention of the PRB at that time to limit any future development of active recreation facilities at the site. There were also several letters in the file from area residents in 2004 expressing their opposition to the installation of lights at Twin Oaks. Staff also spoke with 2 former Township Supervisors who were serving at the time of the Twin Oaks acquisition; both of whom confirmed the intent to limit development of active recreation facilities at that site. Mr. Stretton replied that the league was looking for alternatives and Twin Oaks was the quick fix and had the potential to provide a permanent solution. Based on this information and other concerns about the

impact of additional fields at the Twin Oaks site on the existing habitat, the Park and Rec Board advised the Warrington Soccer League that the use of Twin Oaks was no longer viable.

- ✓ Millcreek Fields: Staff investigated the possibility of using a field at Millcreek and Pickertown until the planned construction of a salt shed at that location. The Township Engineer indicated to staff that this was not viable as construction should begin in early November.
- ✓ Camp America: Staff also suggested that Warrington Soccer contact Camp America regarding the use of their fields.
- ✓ Tradesville: Regarding the Tradesville site, the soccer league feels that this might be a viable alternative, but not before 2010, as the land is currently a corn field.
- ✓ King Park Fields: The soccer league commented that they did not feel that the upper field would be playable by October. Mr. Stretton noted that the league does not feel that either of the multi-use fields at King Park are playable. Mrs. Hanel replied that the Township has not issued permits for the use of either of the two fields until they are determined as playable. Mr. Stretton commented that the %lower+field is probably playable, or will be by October 1, but the %upper+field is not. Bottom line, the league is still short at least 2 fields

Rick Weiss specifically commented on the prevalence of rocks and the lack of top soil on the upper field. The soccer league agreed to mark the rocks with spray paint. The Township will solicit proposals from area landscapers to repair/upgrade this field.

- ✓ Barness Park: The PRB suggested investigating the use of the %ear field+at Barness Park. Staff was directed to investigate the settlement agreement with the Koobs regarding lighting at this park and/or this field.
- ✓ Lower Nike: Staff was directed to research any limitations on the development of soccer fields at this park.

Those present agreed that the short-term goal was to see what is needed for both fields at King Park to be playable for the fall. The soccer league will look at the cost of temporary lights for use at King. The league will also approach Camp America about the use of their fields. It was also suggested that the league contact the Elbow Lane Day Camp.

Long term solutions would include the installation of permanent lights at King Park and the potential development of fields at the Tradesville site.

**3.2 Warrington Day:** Staff updated the PRB on the plans for Warrington Day.

**4. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS)**

**4.1 Departmental Monthly Report:** Mrs. Hanel briefly reviewed the activities of the Park and Recreation Department in July. Trevor Dane reviewed the parks maintenance activities.

**4.2 Program Proposal: Action Boot Camp:** Mrs. Hanel presented a proposal to conduct an adult boot camp in the fall. Two classes will be offered; one lower impact and one high impact. On motion by Mrs. Halber, seconded by Mr. Richino, the PRB unanimously endorsed the program.

**4.3 2010 Budget Priorities:** The PRB reviewed and prioritized the proposed 2010 capital projects and the 2008 Bond projects.

**2010 Capital Projects**

**1. King Park Field Lighting (\$610,000)**

The PRB strongly suggests phasing this project and installing lights on one of the three fields each year over a three year period. While the phasing may result in some increased cost, the PRB did not feel comfortable to do all three fields in one year at the expense of projects in other Township parks

**2. Replace Tot Lot Equipment (\$50,000)**

The PRB suggests that this project include the relocation of the Shank Tot Lot. The cost includes purchase and installation of new playground equipment in the area on Philadelphia Avenue purchased in 2007.

**3. Phase 3 of Bradford Reservoir Trail (\$182,000)**

The PRB suggested pursuing grant funding for this project, as we have been successful obtaining grants for the other phases.

**4. Twin Oaks Park Trail (\$110,000)**

With the improvements to the Twin Oaks Pond, the PRB thought this was a great project but suggested that the cost may be much higher as there is quite a bit of stream bank stabilization needed.

**5. IPW Park Improvements (\$220,000)**

The PRB suggests that addressing the drainage issues on Field #2 might open up an additional soccer field. They also liked the idea of installing some play equipment, particularly for ages 2-5. The PRB did not feel it was necessary to purchase bleachers as most spectators bring their own chairs and the bleachers we have in other parks, such as Barness, are rarely used.

## **6. Modifications to Phase 1 of Bradford Reservoir Trail (\$42,000)**

The PRB questioned the need for the boardwalk crossings for two reasons; (1) As this trail runs along a creek, large puddles and washouts are to be expected; (2) The boardwalks made of recycled lumber tend to be slippery, while boardwalks constructed from wood may require considerable maintenance.

## **7. Lower Nike Improvement Project (\$173,000)**

The PRB would like to limit Lower Nike Park to passive recreation and avoid any organized uses. They are also wary of using the existing bandstand area for concerts as it does not meet ADA accessibility standards. The PRB also feels that this is a bad location for concerts because of the long driveway that would force vehicles leaving a concert (presumably at the same time) to queue up and create a traffic problem exiting the park. We experienced some of this with the fireworks at Warrington Day last year, and people sat for 15-20 minutes waiting to exit the park

## **2008 Bond Issue Park Improvement Projects**

### **Twin Oaks Park Building/Facilities Improvements**

The PRB agreed with staff that the scope of this project needs to be expanded and as a result the cost may increase. Ideally, we would like to demolish the existing lunch room at Twin Oaks and replace it with a building that will include

- ✓ 4 garage bays and storage needed for Parks Dept. vehicles and equipment;
- ✓ Offices and an infirmary for the summer camp; and
- ✓ A new, large, dividable space that could be used year round for recreation programming as well as during the summer camp. This space should be able to accommodate 200 children for rainy day activities at the summer camp.
- ✓ Public restrooms

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**5.1 June 25, 2009:** Action on the June 25 Minutes was tabled until a quorum of those present at that meeting could vote.

**6. WORK SESSION** - Inventory and evaluation of open space; northeast quadrant

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** On motion by Mr. McNulty, seconded by Mr. Richino, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The PRB held a brief Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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