

Minutes of the Park and Recreation Board held on June 23, 2009
held in the Commissioner's meeting Room at 7:30 pm

In attendance – Wilbur, Rich, Pete, Jack, Mike, Tony, Commissioner Mario Oliva,
Staff- Eric Gillard, Tim Denny, Twp. Engineer Chuck Faulkner

Public Forum – John Di Orio – 617 Ashurst Rd. – Pres. Havertown Baseball League - had questions regarding the status of the new multi-use combination synthetic turf field at Community Park in Haverford Reserve. Mr. DiOrio asked about dugouts, pitcher's mound, spectators, dimensions of field, backstop, right center field pole, warning track, storage, bathrooms, parking and water fountains. Mr. Faulkner, the twp. engineer, explained that most of the items mentioned by Mr. Di Orio were planned but that construction was far from complete and was moving forward in stages. Mr. Faulkner addressed the field dimensions by showing the constraints the site imposed in terms of actual usable space, steep slopes, storm water management and multiple user groups. He also showed where the road, parking areas and Playground were located relative to the field and the restraints they created.

Keith Hensil – 332 Kathmere Rd. – requested the township build a roller hockey rink with real boards, fences, surfacing and netting. He stated why he felt the courts at Westgate, Hilltop and grange were not satisfactory. He mentioned the new rink at Belmont as a model. He suggested Paddock or Guest tract as possible locations. Several board members recalled the controversy with neighbors and crowds and noise when the court at Paddock was installed 8 years ago. The sense of the board was to ask Mr. Hensil to come back with cost estimates and possible locations that would not cause neighborhood problems since the court would probably attract many players from outside the township.

Steve D'Emilio – 200 Westgate -1st Ward Commissioner – mentioned the storm water issues at Westgate ball field and the conditions of the tennis courts. Mr. D'Emilio asked what plans there were to address them. He also told Mr. Hensil (above) that he would like to work with Mr. Hensil to get a roller hockey rink built in the township. He asked if the Park Board knew of the plans for the fields at Haverford Reserve. Tim Denny responded that the storm water issue at Westgate ball field and the tennis courts are both included in the Capital Program for 2008 which has not yet been funded. He also reiterated that the engineered plans for the fields at Haverford Reserve are the same as were approved by the Planning Commission in 2006 and had been publicly presented at a Park Board meeting in October, 2007 by Mr. Dave Pennoni.

Approval of Minutes from May 2009 - unanimous

Park Maintenance Report – Eric mentioned some key maintenance points including meeting with a Penn State extension service rep regarding proper maintenance of grass fields, especially the new grass fields at Community Park. Eric plans to implement year round – maintenance as part of a 3-5 year plan to improve all the fields in the township.

Committee Report on HSH-

Chuck Faulkner – Twp. Engineered reviewed engineered plans and explained steep slope, storm water, grading and other constraints imposed by the site.

Jim Davie Facilities Coordinator – Jim mentioned the positive response from the informal groups who have used the synthetic field, including the Haverford High baseball team.

Tim Denny updated the board on the RFP process and timeline for the Recreation/Environmental facility.

Director's Report-

Tim relayed that the Summer Playground program has gotten a huge positive response. Jack asked why numbers are limited at playground programs. Tim explained that for liability and child safety reasons the township needs to have a safe staff/child ratio and be aware of the children in attendance. Tim explained that interviews are held in February, March and early April for new staff because registration begins in early May. Returning staff are notified in February.

Tim again thanked Jack and Tony for their work on the volunteer improvements at township parks policy. He has not finalized refining the policies but is using the draft for the time being.

Old Business

Tim mentioned that the Relay for Life at Haverford Reserve – June 5 -6 – was a great event for the community to see the new facilities. Over 200 people participated in the pouring rain and \$35,000 was raised for Cancer Research.

New Business

Pete asked Tony, as Chairman, to appoint a committee to help facilitate communication with the board and the intended user groups at Haverford Reserve. Mike offered to serve on the committee with Pete. Tony accepted their offer of assistance.

Tony asked the board members, especially those who did not attend the road trips to the various community facilities, to read the material that had been provided to them, so as to better understand the difference between a YMCA and a community recreation facility.

Meeting adjourned 10:35.