

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

March 17, 2008

CALL TO ORDER – Comm. Spearing called a meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Moreland Township to order at 7:05 p.m.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS HELD FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – Comm. Spearing, Chairman took roll call. Present: Commissioners Samuel Valenza and Lisa Romaniello.

Others: John Crawford, Assistant Township Manager, Josh S. Ganz, Attorney, and Patrick Stasio, Director of Parks & Recreation Dept.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Spearing accepted the minutes of the February 25, 2008 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting into the record as submitted.

REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation Monthly Department Report:

Mr. Stasio reported that Katie Kohler, Recreation Coordinator started a new summer camp for teens, ages 13-16. It will be 6 weeks with adventure trips included.

Commissioner Spearing asked whether we had any significant loss of trees during crew work of the grounds.

Mr. Stasio replied no, but over the last few years, we lost a dozen or more trees during storms.

Commissioner Spearing asked what age group is the hockey league geared towards?

Mr. Stasio replied it is open to all ages, but the adult hockey league is catching on right now.

Commissioner Spearing said the labor for the picnic pavilion is going to be contracted out, and he thought the work was going to be done in-house.

Mr. Stasio replied the new pavilion construction will need to be contracted out.

Commissioner Valenza asked about skateboarding.

Mr. Stasio replied we had inquiries over the years about a skateboard park, but the Township never moved forward in that regard.

Commissioner Romaniello asked about the adult education classes.

Mr. Stasio replied we ran nine adult classes this spring and they were successful.

Library Board Report:

Commissioner Spearing noted the library is trying to expand their membership, and the community can reach out to our legislators to support our library.

OLD BUSINESS:

Boileau Barn Repair Bid Specification:

Mr. Stasio said he received a bid packet from Arthur Adams, but he has not reviewed it yet. He will forward a copy to the Solicitor before going out to bid.

Rehabilitation of Friends Carriage House:

Nick Scull, President of the Friends of Boileau, reported that Glen Brown spoke with two realtors and discussed the carriage house with them. The realtors will provide a written statement of how much rent a two bedroom carriage house would be. The lighting for the carriage house will be going out to bid, and we will receive \$12,000 from Senator Greenleaf to put fire and motion detectors alarms in the cottage, house and barn.

Mr. Stasio added that our electrical consultant will draw up the bid specs for security lighting.

Dog Park Project:

Mr. Stasio said the War Memorial Association emailed a letter to the Board stating their position for a dog park.

Commissioner Spearing asked is the funds for the dog park allocated from last year's budget?

Mr. Crawford replied yes.

Commissioner Spearing asked for an update on whether the play equipment will be moved from Mill Park to Bonnet Lane.

Mr. Stasio replied no progress has been made on that issue. The Bonnet Lane plan shows a location for play equipment if and when it is moved and also shows closing of a section of Bonnet Lane, which could impact where the play equipment goes.

Commissioner Romaniello asked is the Parks & Recreation Department able to handle this matter?

Mr. Stasio replied no because we do not have a certified playground safety inspector on staff. The project cost is \$25,000 to tear down the play equipment, move it and reinstall it and that is not in the budget this year.

PRAC attendance and recommendation:

The committee continued this item until April 28, 2008.

Additional Parking Lot at Masons Mill Park – Consideration of pervious surface:

Mr. Stasio asked the Board to allow him to move forward with this project and develop plans for the parking lot improvement. He provided a memo to the Board outlining the benefits. He recommends considering using porous paving for this project.

Commissioner Spearing asked has McCloskey & Faber ever done a design that incorporated porous paving.

Mr. Stasio replied yes, but not in Upper Moreland.

Commissioner Romaniello commented that PERT has a parking lot made of porous pavement.

Commissioner Spearing asked for any public comments.

Richard Booth commented that PERT has porous paving in their second parking lot.

Jonathan deJonge commented that the Board should move ahead with it.

Commissioner Spearing said we will move this item for action at our next Regular Board meeting.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Council Restructuring:

The committee continued this item until April 28, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS:

Picnic Pavilion Replacement:

Mr. Stasio said the cost for the picnic pavilion replacement is \$16,964.00, and he has to get quotes for the labor costs.

Commissioner Spearing said we will move this item for action at our next Regular Board meeting.

OTHER PARKS & RECREATION ITEMS:

List of Proposed Trails for Township Parks:

Mr. Stasio said he provided a memo to the Board of the trails in our park system and proposed trails, and we have not developed a plan for connecting all trails in Upper Moreland Township. During our resident survey for our 2007 Comprehensive Plan, trails and a walking community was the number one priority of the residents. One of the five short-term goals of that plan was to develop a comprehensive master trails plan in Upper Moreland. There is funding that may be available through DCNR to do this study and he recommends moving forward with it.

Commissioner Spearing asked will we get a Planner from the National Park Service?

Mr. Stasio replied he will know by the next committee meeting.

Commissioner Spearing asked for an explanation about the trail in War Memorial Park not being opened to the public.

Mr. Stasio replied it will be open to the public, but not for vehicles. This trail will be gated at each end so police, park maintenance and emergency vehicles can go through to each end.

Commissioner Valenza asked about lighting for the trail.

Commissioner Romaniello asked Mr. Stasio to see whether there is funding for the conduit.

Commissioner Spearing noted that the Veterans Association has supported the plan for the trail through War Memorial Park.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Charlie Acker, Grant Avenue, said he is a member of the War Memorial Association for the original 12 acres and not the Hankin tract, and the WMA would like to be advised on anything that will be happening in the park such as the dog park, parking lot, etc.

Commissioner Spearing agreed, and said no one is trying to misrepresent War Memorial Park, and nothing will happen in that park without consulting with the War Memorial Park Association.

Commissioner Efkwitz said it in November when we went through the budget process, we discussed that, in 2008, we would begin the dog park and move the playground equipment across the street so the children can use it without crossing Mill Road. Will the equipment be moved in 2008?

Mr. Stasio replied it can be done at anytime, but the cost to move it is \$20,000-\$25,000.

Commissioner Efkwitz said the dog park and moving the playground equipment was budgeted as one item and, if we move the dog park to the alternate location where more work is required, that takes money away from moving the playground equipment across the street.

Mr. Stasio replied that is correct.

Commissioner Spearing said we will discuss that at the PRAC meeting tomorrow night.

Commissioner Hotchkiss said that playground equipment needs to be moved this year.

Commissioner Spearing said we will place this item on the agenda for next month.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Efkwitz announced that Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 2 p.m. will be our Annual Spring Cleaning at Boileau Park with a rain date of Sunday, March 30, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Elizabeth Vile

