

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

*November 19, 2007*

**CALL TO ORDER:** Comm. Efkwitz called a meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Moreland Township to order at 7:49 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Comm. Efkwitz, Chairperson, took roll call. Present: Commissioners Lisa Romaniello and Richard Booth.

Others: David Dodies, Township Manager, Dick Watt, Township Solicitor, Patrick Stasio, Director of Parks & Recreation Dept.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Comm. Efkwitz accepted the minutes of the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting of October 8, 2007 into the record as submitted.

**REPORTS:**

There were no questions of the Parks & Recreation Monthly Dept. Report or Parks & Recreation Advisory Minutes.

Library Board Report:

Comm. Booth reported that we had a meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>, and we discussed a vacation policy, reviewed a policy for fines for overdue returns and adjusted it according to other libraries in the area. We reviewed the policy for rental books regarding fees and discussed a conflict of interest policy, which the county made a request for that policy. We also looked at various software options for their accounting system. There was a "Friends" dinner meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> and, during that meeting, it was announced that they had book sales for three months that averaged \$750 for each month. The Finance Committee reviewed the financials for the month, which are on schedule with their budget and they have a nominating committee for new officers. They are looking for two or three more members for the Library Board. They also established Bylaws and Strategic Planning Committees to review the bylaws and create a five-year strategic plan. They are always trying to increase the number of library cards issued and went to the schools to give out applications to the elementary school students for library cards.

Comm. Efkwitz asked about the Conflict of Interest Policy.

Comm. Booth replied he will give her a copy of it to review. A conflict of interest is the appearance of a conflict between private interests and the officials responsible of a person in a position of trust.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Boileau Park Phase I Update:

Mr. Stasio reported that the soccer field has been installed with a turbo-back shell design, which water will runoff in each direction. It was seeded and fertilized and grass is growing. It will not be opened for one full year and the underground drainage is in and the irrigation pipes have been installed. We will complete the irrigation in the spring and the parking lot is about 60-70% completed. Tthe curbing is in and sidewalks are about 60% done. The swales and grading are completed around the soccer field and parking lot. The basing has been installed so we are past the halfway point on this project right now. The major work yet to be completed is the landscaping. We met with the neighbors and addressed their concerns and had a favorable response.

Comm. Romaniello asked when the lines are installed for the irrigation system, was there are there any water or sewer lines brought up to the pavilion area?

Mr. Stasio replied no, but we will connect to the pavilion in the future.

Comm. Booth asked about a sewer line for the pavilion for bathroom facilities.

Mr. Stasio replied we can do that in Phase II of the project.

Comm. Efkowitz asked for any public comments. There were none.

Friends of Boileau to provide committee with scope of work and cost estimate for structural repairs:

Comm. Efkowitz noted that the scope of work and cost estimate has not been submitted yet. This item will remain on the agenda.

Boileau Park Security Lights:

Mr. Stasio said the Historical Association requested additional security lighting at Boileau Park and they submitted plans to him. He forwarded those plans to Ron Smith, Lighting Consultant and Ron reviewed the plans and feels the plan is not acceptable because the issue is that they are flood lights and do not meet our code. Ron asked the Association to resubmit a plan for other types of lights.

Comm. Efkowitz said we will remove this item from the agenda.

Boileau Barn Repair/Catalogue Specification:

Mr. Stasio said the Board asked for specifications for dismantling the barn and cataloguing it so it can be stored and no one seems too eager to do it.

Comm. Efkowitz suggested that not too much time be spent on it and we will remove it from the agenda.

Comm. Romaniello said the scope of work is to dismantle the barn to the bare bones and to remove the shed portion and stabilize the structure.

Mr. Stasio said yes, the Friends of Boileau want to remove part of the barn and repair the roof and repair the east end siding. The Friends of Boileau are putting together a packet of information for the Board to review detailing that work. Last month, the Board asked him to get information on writing specifications to go out to bid to disassemble the barn and catalogue all pieces and store it.

Arthur Adams, Architect, gave specifications for the stabilization of the barn to the committee and Solicitor to review.

Comm. Efkowitz said the committee will review it, and we will leave this matter on the agenda to be discussed at the next Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

Comm. Booth said the item listed on the Finance & Administrative agenda item under new business regarding borrowing funds for rehabilitation of the carriage should be on the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting agenda.

Comm. Efkowitz said that is not on her committee.

Comm. Booth noted that the minutes of October 8, 2007 Finance Committee agenda said, "That the Finance Director indicated that it should be removed from the Finance agenda and placed on the Parks & Recreation agenda."

Comm. Efkowitz said she is not considering that in this committee at this time.

Comm. Booth read from the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated October 8, 2007 which state, "Until the Parks & Recreation Department decides what they want to do there; then the Board can discuss financing the project." Then, it would be appropriate for the matter to be placed on the Finance Committee agenda.

Mr. Stasio noted that usually requests of this nature go before the PRAC to be discussed and then a recommendation is made to the Board of Commissioners.

Comm. Booth agreed, that the minutes do say, "The Parks & Recreation Department." First, we need the PRAC to decide whether or not to rebuild the carriage house.

Comm. McKenna said we need to have a recommendation from the PRAC, then when it is established what it is we want there; then we can look at the leasing and costs of it.

Comm. Efkwitz said we will continue this until our February, 2008 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting agenda.

Comm. Efkwitz asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Comm. Martin said at the budget workshop this past Saturday, the Board agreed to provide the Friends of Boileau with a \$50,000 match.

Comm. Efkwitz added that the Board agreed to allow for \$50,000 in the budget to match once the Friends of Boileau have raised \$50,000; in 2008, we will match their \$50,000 to be used in order to apply for the grant from the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission.

Comm. Booth said December 10<sup>th</sup> is when the 2008 budget will be voted on.

Comm. Efkwitz asked for any public comments.

Nick Scull, President of the Friends of Boileau, said he wrote a letter to Mr. Dodies on October 11<sup>th</sup> and we propose that \$200,000 will be spent for the following purposes: we propose to do an archeological and historical survey for the existing building to determine the architectural features that are significant in the plan for their long-term restoration and preservation for the U.S. Department of Interior Guidelines. We propose to stabilize the buildings by making them weather tight and make the necessary structural repairs such as patch and stonework and making roof repairs. We would do mold abatement in the farmhouse and install adequate ventilation. We will remove the four oil tanks on the property. We will install a security system and insure it is not a fire hazard. We will have the electrical system reconfigured and serviced with an amount of wiring and temporary outlets to provide lighting and power for the security and ventilation. Funding is already in the pipeline for some of these activities. Other requirements may come to light after we have a professional survey done. The final grant application will be adjusted to reflect the state of the buildings when the grant is submitted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Lease Agreement Request from Upper Moreland Soccer Club:

Comm. Efkowitz said the PRAC made a motion to recommend that the Township and Soccer Club enter into a thirty (30) year lease agreement for the use of portions of Pileggi Park.

Mr. Stasio said the PRAC recommend that the Township enter into a lease agreement with the Soccer Club for the use of Pileggi Park. Details should be worked out with the Township professional staff, the Soccer Club, the Solicitor and the insurance carrier. The lease agreement is not a final draft.

Comm. Efkowitz said the decision for the committee tonight is to recommend moving this to the Finance & Administration Committee for lease review and possible adoption.

Comm. Romaniello asked can other youth groups use this field because she is concerned that there are not enough fields and why should the Board enter into an exclusive agreement that would exclude other groups from using this field.

Comm. Efkowitz said we are not excluding anyone and the benefit is that the soccer club will be able to get funding to install a new all-purpose field.

Comm. Booth asked is the soccer club going to pay for the entire cost of the new field?

Mr. Stasio replied he does not know at time. The soccer club could not get a grant because they don't own or have a long term lease of the property. They want to obtain this piece, get the grant and build another field at Pileggi Park. If that is accomplished; that will free up other fields for other groups to use.

Comm. Romaniello said the Willow Grove United Soccer Club said they do not have a field to practice on because they do not meet our policy, which is that 75% of residents have to be on a team in order to get a permit to play on Township property. The CYO organizations should be entitled to play at Pileggi.

Mr. Stasio replied no, not at Pileggi Park.

Comm. Efkowitz said the mission is to decide whether or not to enter into a lease agreement.

Comm. Booth said this lease will cover both fields at Pileggi.

Mr. Stasio replied that is correct, both fields and any new field built in that area.

Comm. Booth asked if we give the soccer club exclusive use for all three fields; it seems other groups should have some time on it.

Mr. Stasio said in the past, the soccer club has given \$60,000 or \$70,000 for field improvements; however, our parks are open to all groups in Upper Moreland Township.

Comm. Efkowitz asked the committee for their decision on whether to move this item to the Finance & Administrative Committee meeting agenda for the creation of the lease agreement.

The Committee decided to move it to Finance & Administrative Committee meeting agenda for the creation of the lease agreement.

Comm. Efkowitz asked for any public comments.

Rick Mitchell, President of the Upper Moreland Soccer Club, 177 Campian Road, said it benefits the soccer club to have the same kids playing soccer and these kids need to play on full sized fields. However, personally, he is not opposed to having other groups play on the field, but we have to work on the specifics of it in the lease.

Mr. Caldo said he has coached CYO and the Willow Grove United Soccer teams. Soccer is huge and is getting bigger. CYO generally does not practice and a lot of the CYO kids play on the Upper Moreland Soccer Club too. As of last year, we did not need Pileggi Park, but any lease cannot exclude CYO soccer.

Comm. McKenna asked is this a natural or synthetic field?

Comm. Efkowitz replied natural field.

Comm. McKenna said a synthetic field should be an option in the lease.

Comm. Efkowitz said we will move this forward to the Finance & Administrative Committee meeting agenda.

Friends of Boileau request to remove electrical service to farmhouse interior:

Comm. Efkowitz said we had a gentleman come to a cleanup that's also a licensed electrical engineer and offered to unwire the electrical system and make the building safer as a volunteer service to the community. Is he a licensed electrician or electrical engineer as there is a difference?

Mr. Scull replied engineer.

Mr. Stasio added that disconnecting all electrical service to the building is a benefit as there is potential danger, and he is in favor of it.

Comm. Efkowitz asked do we have a liability issue with DIVIT?

Comm. Romaniello said this is a code enforcement issue.

Mr. Stasio said staff of the Code Enforcement Dept. needs to make sure that he is licensed and capable of doing the work.

Comm. Efkowitz said we also have a liability lease for volunteers.

Mr. Stasio said this will be for the farmhouse, the barn and the springhouse.

Comm. Romaniello said she is in favor of this being worked on with Paul Purtell.

Comm. Efkowitz said we will move this for action at our next Regular Board meeting, and this item should be removed from the agenda as well as the lease agreement.

Dogs on Leashes in Upper Moreland Parks:

Comm. Efkowitz said the PRAC recommend that we not make any changes to our current ordinance so dogs will not be permitted in any Township parks. In 2008, we will see the beginning of a dog park.

**OTHER PARKS & RECREATION ITEMS:**

UMPR “Fowl” Shooting contest:

Mr. Stasio said we held our 10<sup>th</sup> annual “Fowl” Shoot contest and 250 people participated.

Comm. Efkowitz thanked the volunteers for their help with the event.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was none.

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

There were none.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Comm. Martin commented that he is in favor of the lease with the soccer club as it would be a win for the Township.

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

November 19, 2007

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Elizabeth Vile