



WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES 4-17-18 7PM

Present: Andrew Vaskas, Bryan Grimm, Ken Lehr, Denise VanValkenburg, Christian Arena, Brad DeHart Absent: Nick Boccella Staff: Mary Hundt, Director of Parks and Recreation

Administration

Approval of January 16 & February 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes (March 20 meeting cancelled due to weather) Ken motion, Bryan second, all in favor.

Ongoing Business

P&R Board Park Ambassador Program & Project Spreadsheet

Various Board members gave updates on their parks and activities.

Parks

Greentree Park Addition: Mary gave an update. If the Township were to purchase an easement or fee simple acquisition of the field, the Supervisors would not permit the field to be used in any Greentree Office Plaza yield calculations going forward as proposed by the Office Plaza attorney. Mary will propose the possibility of leasing the field or having a use license on the field and will find out if the parcel could still be used in yield studies as such.

Greentree Park Best Management Practices Project: Mary is waiting on a restructured proposal from AKRF Environmental and Planning Consultants based upon the findings of the Site Assessment and Conceptual Plan phase of the project.

Greentree Park Grubb Road Entrance: This project is still on the shelf pending the proposal of AKRF on the remainder of the property and other logistical matters.

Programs

Willistown Township Summer Camp & Patriot Camp Subcommittee: Mary reported that the Subcommittee was formed to meet with Patriot Camp directors Todd Riddle and Louis Levine over their concerns about our camps conflicting with theirs. Both camps will be held at Sugartown Elementary School. A lengthy discussion addressed the history of the Willistown camps and the concerns of the Patriot Camp directors including that the Willistown camps would take campers from their program and impact their business.

The Willistown camps offer half day (morning) and the new full day programs Monday through Friday for four weeks. The Patriot Camps are in the afternoons from 1-4 PM four days per week for three weeks. The period in which the camps overlap is two weeks. Mary reported that the issue of conflict did not cross her mind due to the different timing and offerings of the two camps.

The Willistown Spring and Summer Camps were held in the field adjacent to Greentree Park under an agreement with the owners, and the Greentree Park restrooms, etc. were utilized. Mary reported that the future of that field use agreement was in jeopardy. Additionally, in response to the need and requests to offer full day camps, indoor facilities would be needed. She inquired with General Wayne Elementary School, where the Summer Camps used to be held, and found out that they are only open four days per week in the summer. She contacted Sugartown Elementary School as an alternative location and worked with the school district to make the necessary arrangements. The camps were established based upon this Board's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, which was approved.

The Subcommittee asked Patriot Camp leaders to let them know if any issues arise. The Committee expressed that it was not the intent of the Township to compete with the Patriot Camp, but to offer complimentary service. The group discussed safety concerns, keeping the campers separated, and other logistical concerns. Mary informed the group

that she had already planned to request a site visit and meeting with the Patriot Camp leaders and the Sugartown School head custodian to go over the logistics. All agreed this was a good idea.

The Board agreed with the Subcommittee that the Willistown Summer Camps had been advertised and the arrangements made, so all that was left to do was to see what happens this year.

2018 Event and Program Schedule

Mary distributed the schedule to the Board.

Parks on Tap

Andrew and Nick are gathering information from model parks on tap programs to send to Mary.

Kindness Rocks

Mary reported that there would be a Kindness Rocks Willistown station at the Pizza and Puppets in the Park Party in May.

Okehocking Trail Corps

The program is on hold at the moment. Mary is trying to enroll volunteers for a fall workshop.

Park Management

Okehocking Dog Management Program

Leash Free Field Fence Recommendation to Supervisors:

Mary presented follow up questions/comments to the Board's request from the Supervisors. One comment related to the fencing in of the Leash Free Field and it being referred to as a "dog park."

A discussion ensued that included the following points: When Mary negotiated the conservation easement with Willistown Conservation Trust on the 12 acre field across Delchester Road, she made sure that it could be a natural "dog park." Off leash dogs could go across the street to many acres of run area, should that be developed as such. If demand and interest for dog park there were evident, and the constituents were willing to raise the funds for the parking and fencing, etc., then the Parks & Recreation Board would consider recommending it to the Supervisors. Let those desiring off leash in the main part of Okehocking know about the availability of this improvement to help to protect Okehocking from off leash abuse.

Unfortunately this is not going to solve the off leash problem at Okehocking as illustrated by the recent dog attack. There was lengthy discussion about 1) the identification of a place as a "dog park" and the amount of users it would bring from miles around, and 2) that Okehocking was protected and funded based upon its ecological value and for mainly passive recreation to occur within this special environment. The Board concluded that having a dog park is a great thing, but that ping Okehocking was a Preserve not a "dog park." The Board asked Mary to rescind the request. Mary will let Dave Burman, Township Manager, know.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Denise motioned, Ken seconded, all in favor.

Next meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7PM

All meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hundt, Recording Secretary