

UPPER UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

July 19, 2018

Minutes

Board members Patrick Dennin, Christopher Foster, Lou Lanzalotto, John McManus, Sushila Subramanian and Cathy Tomlinson were present. Also present was Assistant Township Manager Shanna Lodge.

Call to Order

Ms. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. .

Minutes

Ms. Tomlinson called for a motion to approve the minutes of May 17. Mr. McManus moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Subramanian seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without comment.

Old Business

Block Party – Ms. Tomlinson saluted the efforts of the Park and Recreation Board at the June Block Party. She suggested that the table have a more crowd-pleasing giveaway for next year. Suggestions included items highlighting the Board's efforts, e.g. maps of the parks, lists of upcoming events, and treasure hunt guides for kids to take to the parks; as well as fun items such as koozies, flashlights, and glowsticks.

Playground – Ms. Lodge was pleased to announce that the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of the Kompan playground equipment. An October installation is expected. Mr. Lanzalotto requested that the installation overlap as little as possible with fall baseball. Mr. Foster suggested that the Township announce the playground project online and on social media.

A brief discussion of Hickory Park lighting followed. Mr. Lanzalotto noted that the effort to light the baseball fields at Hickory has been tabled. Mr. Dennin noted that if the ordinance requires sports lighting to be extinguished at 9:30, lighting the baseball fields may not be cost effective. Ms. Subramanian advocated for lighting the basketball courts. Ms. Lodge will explore small scale sports lighting for the tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts.

New Business

Pocket Park – The Board discussed the new park recently constructed adjacent to the Township building. The group lamented that the park lacks a focal point. Ms. Lodge noted that additional features, like a relocated Veterans' memorial and chess tables, are still to be added. Further she noted that the trees, which failed to thrive, will be replaced.

The group discussed the name ideas which had been submitted by the members of the public. Mr. Dennin contended that given the park's location, a name that includes "Eagle" is ideal. Ms. Tomlinson suggested that the name "Crossroads" could highlight the diversity of the community. A whimsical signpost indicating the direction and distance to various international cities could emphasize this.

As the group requested, Ms. Lodge ordered trail maps to display at the Block Party. These will include the master plan pedestrian trail map and an updated "Trails on the Ground" map.

Hickory Park Field 2— Ms. Lodge advised that additional fencing has been added at Hickory Park Field 2. Mr. Lanzalotto noted that the fencing was insufficient; foul balls can clear the fence and enter the Turnpike. Ms. Lodge responded that she believed the Township was following up with the Turnpike about replacing the higher netting. She will follow up and report back to the Board.

Upland Park Amenities — Ms. Subramanian requested that additional trash cans be placed at Upland Farms and the far side of the trail. Ms. Lodge will follow up.

Ms. Subramanian expressed that it would be nice if there was a pavilion space in a quieter location than the one at Hickory Park. She noted that it could be used by community youth organizations, like the one with which she volunteers. She proposed that Upland Farms could be a location for such a pavilion. Mr. Lanzalotto noted that the pavilion at Fellowship Fields might fit this need. Mr. Dennin inquired whether non-profit groups could use the Barn at Upland Farms at no cost. Ms. Tomlinson noted that the master plan for the Upland Farms barn includes classroom space for this purpose on the lower level.

Dog Park Discussion — Ms. Lodge noted that some misinformation has been circulating regarding a planned dog park. She clarified for the Board and the members of the public in attendance that while the Jankowski development plan does include a dog park, this would not be a public amenity, but rather designated for the use of HOA members.

Mr. McManus suggested that a dog park would be a nice feature to add to one of the municipal parks. He noted that an area for dog owners to let their dogs off leash allows for exercise, as well as a social opportunity for dog owners.

Two members of the public provided comments. Ms. Jennifer Bulger of 455 Shelmire Road, Uwchlan Township, noted that in a community where she previously lived, paying a small registration fee helped dog park users feel a sense of ownership of the space, which encouraged them to keep it clean. She noted that a dog park is of particular use to those who live on busy roads. Ms. Liz Stanaitis of 670 Little Conestoga Road, Upper Uwchlan Township, also expressed support for a dog park. She noted that fencing at a dog park is crucial; one nearby dog park is not completely fenced in.

In a discussion of possible locations, Hickory Park and Upland Farms were considered. Concerns about this location included parking limits, consistency with Upland Farms master planning, and the large portions of the area dedicated to drip irrigation. Parking is more abundant at Hickory Park, and the park does include some open spaces which could be repurposed for this use. Concerns included the primary use of the park by children. Overall concerns included safety and liability.

The Board supported the idea of having users register for the dog park. This would provide funding to offset the maintenance costs, encourage user care of the facility, and allow the Township to offer Upper Uwchlan residents priority. The group decided that they would consolidate their research and position in a memo to be delivered to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Lodge advised that an upcoming Park and Recreation survey will be released in the fall; residents can express their opinions regarding various park features through that survey.

Committee Reports

Facilities – Mr. Lanzalotto requested that the Township provide him with a list of preferred emergency electrical and plumbing contractors. Mr. Lanzalotto expressed concerns about the conditions of the baseball fields at Hickory Park. He suggested that the issues may be alleviated by additional irrigation and cutting the grass at a higher height. Ms. Lodge will follow up on these concerns.

Upland Farms – No further update.

Trails – No further update.

Events – No further update.

Regional Connections – Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Lodge met with personnel from MCSP on June 14 to explore a possible trail connection from the east to west sides of the lake.

DARC – No update.

Open Session

No comments.

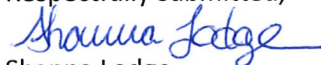
Next Meeting

The group plans to meet at the Hickory Park pavilion for their August meeting. The next meeting of the Park and Recreation Board is scheduled for August 16. Due to member availability, the group may choose to meet on August 9 instead. Any changes to the Board's next meeting will be posted on the Township website.

Adjournment

Mr. Dennin moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Subramanian seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna Lodge

Park and Recreation Board Secretary