

MAIDENCREEK TOWNSHIP
Park and Recreation Board Meeting
Regular Meeting on January 26, 2023

Attending: Eric Bauman, Brad Congelio, Stephanie Davenport, Aaron Rodgers, Anthony Spero, and Hunter Ahrens (Township Manager).

Guests: Keith Shuman (Road Foreman), Josh Meck (Township Supervisor), Eric Luckenbill, Chris Malinowski, and several other members of the public.

Anthony Spero opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 PM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Anthony Spero, seconded by Brad Congelio to amend the agenda to feature the reorganization of the Board. Adopted unanimously without discussion.

Motion by Brad Congelio, seconded by Stephanie Davenport, to appoint Eric Bauman Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. Adopted with four ayes, an abstention by Eric Bauman, and without discussion.

Motion by Stephanie Davenport, seconded by Aaron Rodgers, to appoint Brad Congelio as Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. Adopted with four ayes, an abstention by Brad Congelio, and without discussion.

PRESENTATION BY GWYNN BOLLINGER ON INCLUSIVE PLAY EQUIPMENT

Gwynn Bollinger, Director of Special Education for the Fleetwood Area School District, shared her perspective on an inclusive playground that would feature equipment that would be suitable for use by children with special needs. Ms. Bollinger shared that the primary special education caseload currently featured children with Autism but shared that that population may change and shared previous history to suggest that the population of the district has changed.

Ms. Bollinger's focused on the student population's need to have sensory equipment that includes touch or sound stimuli. She also shared that playgrounds should seek to integrate same-age children, regardless of special or common needs together.

The Board asked questions about child needs in the area and shared that they would integrate Ms. Bollinger's comments into their thinking and planning as they investigate an all-inclusive playground at Ontelaunee Heights park. Ms. Bollinger shared a publication with the Board that focuses on the construction of all-inclusive playgrounds.

DISCUSSION OF FIELD USE BY FLEETWOOD AREA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Ron Humor, Owner of Surge Volleyball, shared about their interest in renting the fields at the Community Park fields. The program is a paid program looking to operate several competitive volleyball fields and games throughout entire afternoons in the middle of May through July or August. During the previous year, they featured 21 nets or courts at one time.

Wednesdays would be the primary days, but they would be flexible to accept Tuesdays or Thursdays. Their first preference would be to have multiple days each week. Mr. Humor shared that foot traffic could feature upwards of 200 people in an evening. Mr. Humor shared that the games would end at dusk.

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Mr. Humor was seeking approval to use the park from the Parks and Recreation Board because their reservation was for repeated scheduling over the Summer. Mr. Ahrens shared that the current fee schedule required maintenance, and he needed to get guidance from the Parks and Recreation Board about what that maintenance would entail or what fee in lieu of maintenance would be charged. Board members asked questions for clarification about the request and took no action at the meeting, tabling a decision until the February meeting.

A member of the public asked what the status of the Pickleball Courts was. Eric Bauman responded that they were looking forward to having the courts, but there was more planning to do but work is not yet scheduled. Mr. Bauman shared that funds were allocated for the project in the Township Budget and would be investigated for phased construction.

Conversations with members of the public and the Board revolved around the next steps for the project. Mr. Bauman asked if a corporate sponsorship request letter could be developed and mailed out. Mr. Bauman volunteered to work on a letter.

Chris Malinowski shared that Fleetwood Girls Softball would like to set up a semi-permanent batting cage at the Blandon Fire Company ballfield. Mr. Malinowski was asking that they be permitted to construct the cage and clarified that Fleetwood Girls Softball would pay for the entire price. Mr. Bauman requested the staff to clarify the site construction with the Fire Company.

Mr. Malinowski also requested that a new row of lights be constructed at the field to be able to play more effectively in the evening. Mr. Malinowski asked whether the Township could take on the prices of the light bulbs and their installation if the pole and its installation would be paid for by the Township. Mr. Ahrens responded that the concept would not be a problem, but a cost estimate would need to be clarified and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Davenport suggested that the relationship of night games called into question the fee schedule's construction and that it needed review.

DISCUSSION OF FIELD USE BY SURGE VOLLEYBALL

Eric Luckenbill presented on the Fleetwood Area Baseball Association's field use request at Community Park. Mr. Luckenbill shared the dates they were requesting for practice, games, and tournament use in 2023. Mr. Luckenbill identified that the request had fewer days than in previous years, and shared information about how they worked to create better boundaries between field use and pavilion use so as not to reserve the pavilions over residents.

Mr. Luckenbill shared about some maintenance and improvement requests, as well as previous improvements, including pitching mound improvements, drainage improvements, line-painting, and weed-whacking similar maintenance.

Mrs. Davenport asked to review each of the association's requests and asked questions consistent with the preface letter that Mr. Luckenbill provided to the board before the meeting. The Board discussed with FABA about having a clear sign indicating whether FABA had a reservation of the Concession Stand to keep boundaries if there were multiple reservations at Community Park on the same day.

The Board consensus was to approve the requests from the Fleetwood Area Baseball Association for practices, games, and tournaments.

The Board engaged in a discussion about the reservation request by Surge Volleyball and discussed concerns related to the previous year's cooperation and the fees that would be levied on the organization for field use.

Mr. Luckenbill shared another request to install a 4' x 8' Scoreboard for the Upper Ballfield. Mr. Ahrens responded that this could be an item for the March Supervisors' agenda meeting. Mr. Ahrens responded that Mr. Luckenbill and he meet before the next meeting to get all pertinent information before the next Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Luckenbill also requested permission to include a semi-permanent sign featuring FABA's name on the field while the field was in use.

DISCUSSION OF CONCERN RELATED TO VEHICLES TRESPASSING AT COMMUNITY PARK

Mr. Bauman shared that vehicles recently had been trespassing Community Park and that more permanent barriers should be installed to disable drivers from being able to traverse the park. Keith Shuman shared that they had reviewed costs and presented the bollard system to the Board. Mr. Ahrens shared that they would be approved internally by the staff.

DISCUSSION OF SIGNAGE FOR "ON-CAMERA" NOTICE AT COMMUNITY PARK

Mr. Bauman requested that staff install signs at Community Park that featured a warning sign of "on-camera" since the installation of the recent security cameras. Mr. Ahrens agreed that they would be installed by Staff.

REVIEW OF GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

Mr. Ahrens shared three grants that are available for the Township from the State for recreation purposes. He added that his recommendation was to use the grants to seek a Comprehensive Open Space Plan that would assist the Township with prioritizing recreation and parks in a comprehensive study. He added that the applications did not need to be a comprehensive plan as he shared; instead, he shared that the Parks and Recreation Board needed to guide the projects that the staff should apply for grant funding.

Mr. Congelio shared that he saw long-term value in that plan. Anthony Spero shared that prioritization could focus on Ontelaunee Heights Park and the budget did include money for the walking trails at Ontelaunee Heights Park. Mr. Shuman presented the map of the parcels where the Ontelaunee Heights park is in an attempt to outline the connection between the two Township owned parcels. Mr. Spero suggested that Board Members walk with Keith to outline the area to prepare the walking path. The Board agreed to go out in groups with Keith.

There was an additional discussion between the Board and Staff about how to build a fee for the Surge Volleyball reservation request. The Board agreed to table the discussion until the February meeting. Mr. Ahrens shared that the staff would have a broad fee schedule.

APPROVAL OF FABA REQUESTS

Approval of FABA items by Brad Congelio, seconded by Aaron Rodgers, was approved unanimously without discussion. Those items were:

1. Approval of Weekday Practice Events
2. Approval of Weekend Practice Events

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3. Approval of Weekend Game Events
4. Approval of Two Tournaments
5. Approval of Pavilion and Concession Stand Use when not otherwise Occupied
6. Approval to rebuild the Pitcher's Mound
7. Support to the Board of Supervisors for FABA's Permission to Install a Scoreboard
8. Approval of Signage that Included Reference to Fleetwood Baseball Home Fields during their Season.

A motion was made by Brad Congelio to adjourn, seconded by Aaron Rodgers, and approved unanimously without discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM by Eric Bauman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hunter L. Ahrens

Township Manager