

MECHANICSBURG RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER The June 11, 2019 meeting of the Mechanicsburg Recreation Board was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairwoman Ellen Wilson.

MEMBERS PRESENT Chairwoman Ellen Wilson, Bart Miller, Diane Nace, Kathleen Snyder, Lorrie Weber and Kathryn Johnston.

MEMBERS ABSENT Vice Chairwoman Deeg Meck.

OTHERS PRESENT Council Liaison Mark Stoner, Councilman Gary Weber, Borough Manager Ciecierski, Administrative Assistant Sara Martin.

GUESTS None.

MAY MINUTES Diane Nace noted that her name at the start of the minutes is listed as Wilkens but at other parts is listed as Nace. Administrative Assistant Martin stated she would update appropriately.

DISCUSSION

ACTION A **MOTION** was made by Lorrie Weber and seconded Bart Miller by to approve the May 14, 2019 meeting minutes. **MOTION** approved.

REPORTS

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

- Pool Manager Canniff reported that summer is here, and the Recreation Department is in the height of their busy season with 4-5 camps going on in the parks right now.
- Pool Manager Canniff stated that the 8 days (out of 9 so far this season) the pool has been open have been very busy. The Dive-In Movie event on Friday June 7th had 427 people participate, the majority of which stayed for the movie and boosted concession stand sales. She confirmed that the event was free to the community.
- Pool Manager Canniff noted that she is currently working on the fall brochure and any items that the Board wishes to be in the brochure she will need by next Friday.
- Pool Manager Canniff asked where Borough Council is regarding the Joint Recreation Board Agreement and if there are any questions or concerns with it. *Manager Ciecierski answered that he spoke to the Upper Allen Township Manager who has a few concerns due to the changes made by the School District. Upper Allen thinks there should be a Joint Recreation meeting to discuss the agreement before anybody votes on it. Manager Ciecierski stated the he will email Greg Longwell at the school district tomorrow requesting that a meeting be set up.* Lorrie Weber asked Manager Ciecierski what his concerns are.

Manager Ciecierski answered that he would like to know, what we are paying for. Previously the Recreation Department made it known they do not wish to schedule Pavilions in the parks, then stopped selling pool passes, now the new agreement has removed field scheduling and changed grant writing to assisting with grant writing. The Borough will be taking care of and booking all recreation amenities which begs the question of what services we are receiving for the money we pay to be in the joint recreation agreement. Lorrie Weber stated that she thought the Borough wanted to handle the pavilions and selling pool passes. Manager Ciecierski answered her that the Borough did not request to take these over or filed coordination and he has the email(s) from Recreation Director Brown informing him that the Recreation Department will no longer be taking care of these items. Lorrie Weber added that the fields used to be done by the Recreation Department, so all Upper Allen, Mechanicsburg Borough and the School District's fields were coordinated together and asked how they will be coordinated if it is not one central person doing them all. Manager Ciecierski answered that is the question, he is aware of why it was all done in one location and he knows it will require some serious coordination to make it work now that the Recreation Department will not be handling it. He added that the Borough will have to hire another staff person to handle all these new duties. Lorrie Weber noted that is a good reason to keep the agreement. Manager Ciecierski corrected that it is only if those stipulations are removed. Lorrie Weber stated she feels the Borough should give some of these duties back to the Recreation Department. Manager Ciecierski stated that he wants an explanation of the statement about "use of park facilities as needed with recreation" in the agreement. Pool Manager Canniff noted that she thinks that is there because Upper Allen Township does all their own field scheduling. Chairwoman Wilson questioned that it means the Recreation Department won't schedule the fields but have the right to schedule pavilions for summer programs. Manager Ciecierski stated that he does not know and would need clarification from the School District on what was intended. He added that he would like to know what all does that pertain to since it can be as broad or as narrow as they'd want to make it. He added that there also needs to be a definition on what "assist" means in the section on bid preparation. Lorrie Weber suggested it could mean how Recreation Director Brown assists in writing the narrative for grants then the Borough signs for them, as has been done with the past three grants the Borough received. Lorrie Weber repeated that she doesn't know how the fields for four entities can be coordinated without one person doing it all. Pool Manager Canniff pointed out that Upper Allen does all their own field scheduling. Councilman Stoner stated that they view it as something they pay for, so it is theirs. Manager Ciecierski confirmed that their Township Manager said the same thing, they put a lot of money into them, so they want control of them. Councilman Weber stated that he thinks the School District needs to call a meeting and everyone needs to attend. Lorrie Weber noted that there was a Recreation Board member as a representative for the Borough previously and now it is a Council member. Councilman Stoner stated that Upper Allen wishes to change

their representative to a Commissioner from their Recreation Board member as well. Lorrie Weber thinks the composition of the committee needs to be discussed as the School District has three votes and everyone else just one. Pool Manager Canniff cited that the School District pays 75% of the Recreation Department's salary as the reason behind that. Manager Ciecierski stated that he agrees there needs to be a meeting with everyone in the agreement to talk about it and Borough Council will not want to vote until they have one. Lorrie Weber asked how one is called. Manager Ciecierski answered that the Committee Chairman must call one and this year that is the School District. Lorrie Weber asked if the Recreation Board can attend the meeting. Manager Ciecierski answered that the meeting does not have to be public, but he would like it to be public and will notify the Board as soon as the Borough knows when it will be. He added that he will email Greg Longwell tomorrow to request he call a meeting. Councilman Weber suggested Manager Ciecierski CC Dr. Leidy on that email.

**BOROUGH
COUNCIL
LIASON**

- No report.

**BOROUGH
MANAGER**

- Manager Ciecierski reported that he has been out at the pool working with Pool Manager Canniff.
- Manager Ciecierski informed the Board that the Aqua Zip'n creator is very excited about the Borough installing two and has been out to adjust take photos and was very interested in the fact that Manager Ciecierski assembled them himself. He would like to come do a promotional video of the Aqua Zip'ns for their company. He added that there were some issues, but they have been adjusted. For example, they put a different strap on the retractable lines, but the covering was fraying so currently there is one covered strap and one Kevlar cord. *Pool Manager Canniff and her staff have been able to give him feedback and critiques on the Aqua Zip'ns, which she said she appreciated.* So far there have been a couple bloody noses (rope swinging back) and one broken hand (user error) and they intend to paint a safety square on the deck to prevent those in line from being in harm's way. *Lorrie Weber asked if there is a weight limit.* Manager Ciecierski answered that there is. *Lorrie Weber asked if it is posted.* Manager Ciecierski answered that they will be adjusting the signage given to us by the company. Manager Ciecierski showed the Board a suspension bridge monkey bars that the company makes. The owner thinks would be perfect to run across the 4-5-foot area of the pool.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that Pool Manager Canniff has been keeping in great contact with himself and Justin Lewis has been doing a great job. He added that there is a leak in main pool and a small leak in the Olympic pool they are keeping an eye on. Currently Justin doesn't have any epoxy to fix it, but they are getting some and will try to patch it as soon as possible.

PARKS
MEMORIAL

- Manager Ciecierski reported that he ordered the new plastic piece for the top of the slide in Finkenbinder Park, it will take a little while to get here but as soon as it arrives it will be installed.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that there is free firewood in the park.
- Manager Ciecierski gave a demonstration with the new pool software showing the daily stats on member entry from the days it has been open.
- Lorrie Weber noted that the parks look great thanks to the new parks staff.
- Lorrie Weber asked Pool Manager Canniff if she would be doing a Doggie dip at the end of the season this year. Pool Manager Canniff stated that she has left it to Gail Hiestand who wants to do it as a fund raiser for the softball team.
- Discussion on missing tables from years ago at the pool ensued with no leads as to where they may have ended up.
- Lorrie Weber asked if the area to the right as soon as you enter the ladies changing room could have shelves added that patrons could pay to store lawn chairs in. *Bart Miller said let's do it.* Manager Ciecierski noted they would have to be "at your own risk" because the pool cannot have someone monitor them and would not be responsible for stolen chairs. Thus, if we don't have someone monitoring them you wouldn't be able to charge for them. He also brought up the idea of having an outside shed put somewhere on the property where they could be stored.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that they are unable to get grass to grow around new pavilion, so staff will order AstroTurf to go around there. It will cost \$3500 total, be non-slip, won't have any no infill and staff won't have to worry about mowing, plus no mud in the pool!
- Lorrie Weber asked how many functioning vacuums the pool has right now. *Pool Manager Canniff answered that they have one hand vacuum.* Lorrie stated that she thought there were two robotic vacuums. *Pool Manager Canniff answered that they are both at Aqua Specialists to be repaired. One is fixable but the other will need to be replaced.*

KOSER

- Kathryn Johnston reported that the park looks sad and like it needs some TLC. She noted that the softball field next to the pavilion is looking rough, especially the infield and the playground area needs new tanbark.
- Manager Ciecierski suggested making a comprehensive recreation plan with Legacy Park coming and more recreation funds being made available.
- Kathryn Johnston asked about the installation of a pickleball court in Koser. *Manager Ciecierski answered that it is not in the budget for this year but budgeting for next year will begin soon so please put it on the Board's "wish list" for next year so they can add it in when they make the proposed budget.* Ellen Wilson asked if the Board can get blue prints of the parks with dates on what amenities were installed and when. *Manager Ciecierski answered that he will look for some.*
- Manger Ciecierski noted that the Natural Playground project/grant is still alive but waiting on the Kindergarten Academy work.

FINKENBINDER

Discussed under Manager's Report.

ACTION ITEMS None.

**OTHER
BUSINESS**

**COMMENTS ON
THE JOINT
RECREATION
AGREEMENT** Discussed under Parks and Recreation Director Report.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, a **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Kathryn Johnston and seconded by Diane Nace. **MOTION** approved, and meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Martin
Administrative Assistant