

MECHANICSBURG RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER The February 11, 2020 meeting of the Mechanicsburg Recreation Board was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairwoman Wilson.

MEMBERS PRESENT Chairwoman Ellen Wilson, Kathryn Johnston, Diane Nace and Kathleen Snyder.

MEMBERS ABSENT Vice Chairwoman Meck, Lorrie Weber and Bart Miller.

OTHERS PRESENT Councilwoman Agerton, Borough Manager Ciecierski, Pool Manager Canniff and Administrative Assistant Sara Martin. Public as per attached list.

GUESTS

DOUG MARSICO – UPPER ALLEN MECHANICSBURG BASEBALL ASSOCIATION – EAST FIELD UPGRADE PROPOSAL Doug Marsico, the President of the Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association, introduced himself and gave some background on how Upper Allen and Mechanicsburg Little league merged a few years ago. Marsico informed the Board that the Association wishes to make upgrades to the East Field in Memorial Park. He submitted the attached proposals for upgrades to the backstop as well as re-grading and Diamond-Tex for the field at a collective price of approximately \$10,000. Marsico conceded that he is coming to the Board after the budget has been finalized but is requesting help to pay for these upgrades.

 Marsico also asked for help trimming tree branches that hang over the fence line of the York Street field. *Manager Ciecierski answered that the trees are on private property and if the fence had been left where it was intended and not moved back this would not be an issue.* Marsico asked if the Association should go to the homeowner for the tree issue. *Manager Ciecierski answered that yes, they should.*

 Marsico asked how much the Borough would be able to help to assist in paying for the field upgrades. *Manager Ciecierski answered that the Borough does not have that kind of money in the budget that has already been approved for this year. He also noted that it would be a tough sell to Borough Council as the field in question is one of the least used fields in the park, the Baseball Association didn't even touch it after games began in previous years.* Marsico agreed that in previous years the field was not used, but he countered that the Association will be adding a new age group this year of four and five-year-old tee ball that will utilize the field all through the season.

 Chairwoman Wilson asked if the Association has the funds for the upgrades. *Marsico answered that they do, but they wanted to see what they could get from the Borough as it is Borough property.* Kathryn Johnston asked Manager Ciecierski if there is a precedent as to how much money could be allocated to this kind of request. *Manager Ciecierski answered that if the Board wants to allocate money to pay toward the upgrade in next year's budget they can, but Borough Council can still cut that amount.* Kathryn Johnston asked Marsico how much money the Association is requesting. *He answered that he had no set amount but would like to see a 50/50 split.*

Councilwoman Agerton asked how many kids would be using the new program. *Marsico estimated 64-170. He also added that this uptick will lead to more use at the Koser field, but he will come back another time regarding the fencing at that field.* Manager Ciecierski clarified that is the field where the Baseball Association tore out one year old fencing the Borough had just paid to put in without coming before the Board and getting permission.

Mike Glumac, MSC Head Coach introduced himself noting that he had three items he e-mailed Sue Canniff about for this meeting. One being the team discount which is already on the agenda so that is taken care of. The second, to request pool time for the (attached) meet schedule and use of the pool for practice on Tuesdays and Fridays (same as last year). The third being permission to install new starting blocks at the North pool. Glumac handed in the attached engineering specs and diagrams of the proposed blocks. There would be no cost to the Borough only permission to install and he would like to have someone from the Borough there for the consultation with Aqua Specialists who will be doing the installation to ask questions and cover all bases. He noted that this may not be able to be done by this season but they need to get the consultation done first so they can figure that out. *The Board were all in approval of the new installation and Manager Ciecierski asked only that Glumac give him a couple days' notice of when the consultation will be so he can ensure he will be available.* Glumac added that he will come back ahead of the 2021 pool season to request permission for an invitational meet to raise money for a scholarship in the recently passed Assistant Coach Nester's name.

David Maher, a Cumberland County resident working to get a seven-mile rail trail put in that would connect the Borough of Mechanicsburg and the Borough of Dillsburg, gave a little background on the work he has been doing for over four years with the South Mountain Trolley Greenway. He advised that they are working on starting Phase Two study where they are hoping to work with the Borough of Mechanicsburg as their lead municipality (Silver Springs Township was the lead for Phase One), something he will be officially asking the Borough for at the end of the month. Maher explained that the coalition and the steering committee will do all the grant writing.

JANUARY
MINUTES
DISCUSSION

None.

ACTION

A **MOTION** was made by Kathryn Johnston and Diane Nace seconded to approve the January 14, 2020 meeting minutes. **MOTION** approved.

REPORTS

PARKS AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

- Sue Canniff informed of the Board of a partnership request from Jess Long of the Mechanicsburg Area School District for the Dive-In event requesting the Borough absorb the cost of staff for the event while they take liability. *Manager Ciecierski clarified that the event had always been a pay to attend until last year.* Sue Canniff explained that there was a cost when the Recreation Department ran it, but the School District took it over and made it free so that those who cannot afford to pay would be able to attend. She also noted that attendance

jumped from 60-ish people when there was a charge to approximately 300 when it was free. *Chairwoman Wilson asked how much it would cost to foot the bill.* Manager Ciecierski estimated it was around \$400-500 but would need to pull the invoice from last year's event to be sure. *Sue Canniff stated that she could request Jess Long come to the next meeting to pitch her proposal.* The Board instructed her to do so and staff will pull the invoice and investigate how much the concession stand made. *Manager Ciecierski and Pool Manger Canniff noted it is a good trial run for the start of the season.*

- Sue Canniff reported that the Unicorn Magic Dance will be held on February 22nd.
- Sue Canniff stated that the sponsors from the concert are in the summer brochure and she will be double checking her list with Manager Ciecierski to be sure they have everyone.

**BOROUGH
COUNCIL LIASON**

- Councilwoman Sara Agerton reported that the Committees of Borough Council will be meeting to discuss how they can better support the volunteers and community so if there are any items the Board would like to have discussed there please send them to her if not now via email.

**BOROUGH
MANAGER**

- Manager Ciecierski reported that the new Ford F350 truck with snowplow and dump bed is at Ryder Graphics getting the vinyl decals put on.
- Manager Ciecierski stated that he and Council President Weber have been discussing reactivating the green park bathrooms in Memorial Park to take some of the wear and tear off the newer ones by the Baseball Pavilion.
- Manager Ciecierski informed the Board that Recreation Director Brown forwarded him information on a parent-child Kindergarten class that contacted her about running a weekly program on Thursdays April 1st – May 15th from 8:30-11 AM for children 18 months to 8 years of age at the Koser pavilion. Manager Ciecierski noted that the program costs \$140 per child for all eight weeks and the Pavilion Rental Policy requires a Special Event Permit (that must be approved by Borough Council) for money-making events. The pavilion rental rate for said events is \$125 per rental (which they would need to pay for each of the eight weeks). Manager Ciecierski informed the contact person for this and they requested that they only pay 10% of their take home or \$10 per hour. Manager Ciecierski advised that when the group submits their liability insurance and clearances required to hold the event, they would have to request Borough Council make that exception for them. Manager Ciecierski will be reaching out to communities that are currently hosting their program to get more information.
- Manager Ciecierski stated that the Winter Concert was on the 1st, it made over \$1,400 at the gate with water and made \$4,200 in profit total. He stated that after talking with Council President and resident Winter Concert Talent Gary Weber, we might have to have another band if we continue the concert next year. *Mark Stoner stated that he*

doesn't know if he will return to do the concert next year but suggested getting sponsors earlier. Chairwoman Wilson asked for the list of sponsors to send thank you cards to. *Manager Ciecierski answered that after he coordinates and confirms the list with Sue Canniff, he will forward it to her.*

- Manager Ciecierski referenced the attached financials hand out provided by Assistant Manager Boyer noting that the pool made \$50,000 this past season and Assistant Manager Boyer has requested the Board move those funds from the Pool General Fund to the Pool Capital Fund. He noted that this is the first time in 12 years that the pool has made a profit, thanks to Pool Manager Sue Canniff.

Kathryn Johnston made a motion to recommend Borough Council move \$50,000 from the Pool General Fund to the Pool Capital Fund for investments. Diane Nace seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

- Manager Ciecierski noted that as of February 1st pool pass sales were at \$25,000 but, he estimates they are closer to \$30,000 at this point. He added that not raising the prices helped a lot this year.
- Manager Ciecierski extended a big thank you to Sue Canniff for all her hard work in making the pool profitable.

PARKS **MEMORIAL**

- Manger Ciecierski stated that it has been wet and gray, and the school's contractors will be taking trees down along the football field soon. He added that the school district still plans on starting construction in March.

- Manager Ciecierski reported that someone knocked all the stones off the entrance on Saturday night, so he had staff go pick up the rocks on Monday. Parks staff will work on refurbishing that.

KOSER

- Kathryn Johnston reported that there is a big piece of equipment in Koser Park. *Manager Ciecierski confirmed that is from the contractor for the Natural Playground. He added that the Borough Parks staff will be building the equipment for the Natural Playground.*

FINKENBINDER

- Manager Ciecierski reported that there is a lot of graffiti.

ACTION ITEMS **MSC DISCOUNT**

Chairwoman Wilson asked if this was approved last year. *Manager Ciecierski answered that it was, but the motion was only for the 2019 season, so this new one is open ended and will not require re-approval each year.* Kathryn Johnston made a motion to recommend to Borough Council that the Mechanicsburg Swim Club be offered a 25% discount on the price for the purchase of a resident, individual pool pass, on the condition that the swim club provide a complete membership roster to the Mechanicsburg Borough Office staff prior to the purchase of the passes. *Diane Nace seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.* Manager Ciecierski informed the Board that this did cause an issue with parents of MSC kids wanting to drop off under aged children to do their required out-of-practice laps. *The Board discussed the matter and stood behind the age limit rule and that it should*

apply across the board because maturity is an issue just as much as the ability to swim.

OTHER BUSINESS

**COMMENTS ON
THE NORTHSIDE
ELEMENTARY
LAND
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN.**

- Manager Ciecierski showed the plan to the Board and reviewed what will be changed. He noted that they are not doing much to the play area, but they will be losing greenspace. Manager Ciecierski asked that if the Board have any comments or questions please forward them to staff.

**SIGN YEARLY
EXPECTATION
COMMITMENT
PLEDGE.**

- Staff asked all to sign and hand in their pledge as soon as possible, all those in attendance turned in their forms.

**EASTER EGG
HUNT**

- Staff confirmed that the Egg Hunt will be held two Saturdays before Easter on April 4th with a rain date of April 11th (as is customary). *Chairwoman Wilson asked how soon the Board should ask the Mechanicsburg Fire Department about having the fire trucks there.* Mark Stoner suggested sending an email as soon as possible. *Chairwoman Wilson requested that staff forward the contact information to her.* The Board decided to pick up the planning for the Egg Hunt when Vice Chairwoman Meck and Lorrie Weber are present as they do most of the purchasing for it. *Manager Ciecierski stated that there are three storage bins of stuffed animals and toys in storage in the office and that they will need Board members to come early to the March Meeting to help sort them for the age groups.*

**DATE FOR PARK
TOUR**

- The Board decided to save this discussion for next month when Vice Chairwoman Meck and Lorrie Weber could be in attendance.

**DISCUSSION ON
PARKS
COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN**

- None.
- Chairwoman Wilson asked if the Board should be looking for a new member. *Administrative Assistant Martin reported that she called and emailed Bart Miller about his residency status, asked for a resignation letter if he does not live in the Borough or an update on contact information if he does. So far there has been no response to either email or voicemail attempts to contact him.* Manager Ciecierski stated that the Board cannot look for new membership without a resignation.
- Kathryn Johnston asked if the Board needs to take action on the Baseball Association's request for money. *Manager Ciecierski stated that because the budget for this year is already approved and the*

Baseball Association intends to proceed with this upgrade with or without a Borough contribution that they need to take their request to Borough Council. Chairwoman Wilson stated that if the Association wishes to upgrade the field either way then that's great, but the Board doesn't need to allocate funds to pay them back in their next year's budget. Councilwoman Agerton stated that the Association still needs to go to Borough Council for their approval. She added that if they wish to make upgrades and have the Borough help pay for it then they need to present a request for next year's budget. Upgrades are always welcome if they follow the appropriate channels for approval of their requests first. Manager Ciecierski added that he received a parks equipment booklet in the mail that has a backstop the parks staff could install themselves for \$5,200.

- Mark Stoner stated that he has received no word back from the military band yet but that is still within expected time frame.

There being no further business, Kathryn Johnston motioned to adjourn seconded by Diane Nace the meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Martin
Administrative Assistant