

THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF RADNOR TOWNSHIP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021

Meeting Held at the Radnor Township Building Radnorshire Room (televised)

PRESENT:

Bill Remphrey; Mary Coe; Chris Campbell; Bill Quinn, Howard Childs; Christina Basciano
Commissioner Sean Farhy; Commissioner Lisa Borowski
Tammy Cohen, Director of Recreation & Community Programming

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

Minutes from the May 13, 2021 and notes from the June 10, 2021 (no quorum on June 10) meetings were approved 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Park/Playground Communication Boards Proposal and Presentation

Julie Long (Marple Newtown School District) and Marcela Gibbons (resident) presented the concept of Communication Boards and proposed the installation of them at Radnor Township playgrounds. This project is currently being implemented in Marple Newtown. The Parks Board engaged discussion and will continue to review this project.

Public Participation

Commissioner/Resident, Lisa Borowski commented to support the initiative that creates a more inclusive environment in our parks and in our community.

REPORTS

Tammy Cohen gave an update on the recreational programming, projects, and initiatives taking place.

Commissioner Farhy updated on the June Board of Commissioners Community Development Committee Meeting that took place to discuss the Fenimore Woods Park Renovations Project.

OLD BUSINESS

Odorisio Park & Cowan Park Basketball Court Renovation Projects

Tammy Cohen provided a summary of the two on-site meetings that took place at each the park in June.

From June 2021 on Cowan Park:

Members of the Board had discussion and questions and suggested the court playing area be reduced from what is approximately an NBA/NCAA court size (94'x50') currently to High School or Middle School Size (84'/74' x 50' or smaller) in order to capture minimum out of bounds safety zones and reduce the size of the three-point line commensurately as needed. This would therefore eliminate an increase to the impervious asphalt surface area at the park.

The following motion was made, seconded, and passed with a unanimous vote of 6-0:

The Parks and Recreation Board recommends to the Board of Commissioners that the Cowan Park Basketball Court Renovation Project move forward as noted above with no changes to current playing surface size, with the exception of the commensurate adjustments of the playing lines and maintaining the proper distance for the foul lines.

[Project re-design will not come back to the Parks & Recreation Board for subsequent review.]

From June 2021 on Odorisio Park:

Tammy Cohen updated on the board on the status, funding, and current option for the basketball court project that will not incur any tree removals.

Members of the Board had discussion and questions and suggested the court playing area be reduced from what is approximately (81.5' x 42.5') in order to capture the out of bounds safety zones and reduce the size of the three-point line commensurately as needed (similar to Cowan Park). This would also eliminate an increase to the impervious asphalt surface area at the park, although it was suggested that it could possibly be expanded into the hillside in order to capture addition width as feasible.

A post and rail fence would be installed for separation and safety from the driveway entrance at Church Road along with the possibility of bollards. Approximately 7 parking spaces would be eliminated that pull up to the end line of the court.

Further discussion ensued about moving the basketball court to the lower parking lot (above the third base line of the baseball field) and considering the current basketball court area for a pavilion and nature grove.

Discussion took place regarding the overall funding options for the park to develop its spaces more comprehensively.

The following motion was made, seconded, and passed with a unanimous vote of 6-0:

The Parks and Recreation Board recommends to the Board of Commissioners that the Odorisio Park Basketball Court Renovation Project be redesigned consistent with the discussion, with no tree removals, and in addressing safety issues in and around court. The Parks Board also asks that the Board of Commissioners place a priority on examining comprehensive short- and long-term planning for the park.

[Project re-design will not come back to the Parks & Recreation Board for subsequent review.]

Public Participation

Resident, Camrin Azzarano, commented on the Cowan Park Basketball Court Project to maintain the existing footprint and inquired about the process regarding funding for the project.

Cowan Park – Repairs to playground platform transition bridge

Tammy Cohen updated the board on the status of the repair needed to the deteriorated (due to age and wear) playground platform transition bridge that has been removed. This project will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at their August meeting for review and potential approval; upon approval, installation would take place sometime in the fall.

Fenimore Woods Park Renovations Project

Tammy Cohen updated on the June Board of Commissioners Community Development Committee Meeting where community input and suggestions were heard regarding the project plan. There was overall concern for the project tree removals, and it was decided that only the hazardous trees should be removed immediately due to their impact on public safety. Further direction is anticipated from the Board of Commissioners regarding the project to the Staff and the Parks & Recreation Board.

Public Participation

Resident, Camrin Azzarano, commented on the project and the need to place emphasis on the resident input along with considering the park project comprehensively including the pond.

The Willows Park Preserve / Concerns About Dogs in the Willows Park/Trails

Members of the Board discussed ideas on how to proceed in their future discussions and analysis. Next steps will include engaging the public to discuss the ideas put forth, specifically regarding dogs and their interactions with other dogs as well as with humans along with the continued dog waste problem.

Commissioner Borowski commented that defining the issues and input topics would help to gain public feedback and encourage attendance to discuss this topic.

Additional Comments:

Commissioner Farhy suggested that he would work to evaluate reallocating the bond funding from the Fenimore Woods Project to a potential comprehensive improvement project at Odorisio Park.

There being no further business, on a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Cohen
Director of Recreation & Community Programming