

AMITY TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2015

ATTENDANCE: Scott Weller, Jerry Kupp, Keith Berry, Peter Gaskins, Troy Bingaman, Charles Lyon, Pam Kisch

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Casey Blankenbiller (Daniel Boone School District Buildings and Grounds Supervisor), Curt Clifford (Optimist Club)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Weller called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Lisa Miller did not attend due to personal matters. October minutes were tabled until the January meeting.

MINUTES: Jerry moved, seconded by Keith to approve the November minutes, as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. FIELD SCHEDULING: The Athletic Director (AD) who was hired before the start of the 2015-2016 school year is no longer with the District, and staff continues to have difficulty getting return calls from the interim AD regarding scheduling. Cathy Shutt works in the athletic department, but only part-time hours. Casey Blankenbiller stated the staff may not have the tools needed to address the questions being presented. Casey will be meeting with the school IT Director on Tuesday, in regards to utilizing School Dude, which is an online application and should simplify field scheduling. They hope to have the application ready to use for the Spring sports season and hope to schedule a meeting with local sports teams in January/February. Jerry asked if the new scheduling system will prevent teams like the Pottstown Black Sox from securing fields. Casey verified with the interim AD that the school has not received an application for field use from the Pottstown Black Sox, and they have not secured any field use with the school. Chairperson Weller stated he will work with Troy to redefine the terms "affiliate" and "non-affiliate", as they relate to fees billed for field use. Casey recommended researching Muhlenberg Township, as they spent extensive time revamping their field use fees and policies. Pam will forward that information for the Board's review. Manager Bingaman will contact James Harris, the new Superintendent to arrange a meeting to discuss reconvening the License Committee. Casey suggested allowing the school to handle all field applications. Chazz stated the school admitted they hadn't addressed clearances and have accepted non-affiliate applications in error, among other issues. Chairperson Weller stated only those applications for affiliated teams should be submitted to the school. All others should be submitted to the township. Pam will forward the list of affiliated teams to Casey. The township will not run clearances, but in cases where concerns are raised, the Police Department can run background checks.
2. REFUND POLICY FOR FIELD USE: Currently there is no written policy regarding refunds for field use when games are cancelled. Scott asked if there would be a way to quantify staff's time to provide partial refunds. Chazz will determine what fees should be withheld for administration of the applications. Chairperson Weller suggested non-affiliated groups should forfeit a minimum of 20%.

3. 888 OLD AIRPORT RD/WHEELER FIELD: This item was tabled until January. John Weber, LTL, will present his analysis to the Board of Supervisors December 16th, and more information will be available at the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

OPTIMIST CLUB: Curt Clifford reported that the Optimist Club has approximately \$600.00 left from contributions made to the Butch Boyer Memorial Pavilion (BBMP) project. Curt said he would like to issue a check to the Township so that the church can close that bank account. Chairperson Weller stated he'd like to see that the remaining funds be used toward the BBMP, rather than paying down the debt from Amity Community Park. Chazz asked the Mr. Clifford to send an email to that affect. Staff will place the funds in the escrow account to draw down funds for the BBMP. Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Gaskins, to recommend the Township allocate those funds exclusively for use at the Butch Boyer Memorial Pavilion, to be used at the sole discretion of the Recreation Board. Motion passed 4-0. Curt mentioned the 2015 Community Day was not financially successful due to bad weather, complications stemming from a new location, not having large amusements and minimal volunteer participation. The Optimist Club has petitioned the community, seeking an 501(c)(3) organization who would want to help ensure Community Day(s) continue. The Optimist Club will continue to hold meetings the second Wednesday of the month at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for discussion about Community Days. Curt asked about using Amity Community Park to hold a craft brew event. Park rules prohibit alcohol. Chazz said the school is also designated a "drug free zone". Alcohol would most likely be prohibited on school property.

COYOTES ON MONOCACY HILL: Chazz shared an email, for informational purposes only, from a hunter who passed along concerns after observing "several coyotes" on Monocacy Hill. Chairperson Weller stated it is a naturally wooded area and noted that coyotes can be hunted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Casey stated that he could change schedules around if it is determined he needs to have employees to be able to handle calling off middle school athletic fields on weekends. Chazz mentioned the township and school may want to consider having someone part-time for the park, to make those calls, ensure bathrooms are stocked and clean, etc.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Jerry Kupp and seconded by Keith Berry to adjourn. Adjourned at 8:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela Kisch

Township Secretary

approved 1/4/2016