

Manheim Township Parks & Recreation Board

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2008

NOTE: Due to facility technical difficulties, there were no audio tape(s) available of the meeting. Minutes have been prepared using staff (Norton) and board member (Bohan) notes of the meeting.

- I. The regular meeting of the Manheim Township Parks and Recreation Board was held in the Convocation Hall, Manheim Township High School on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. Chairman Bohan called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The start of the meeting was slightly delayed due to members and citizens navigating to the relocated meeting location (Convocation Hall). In addition to Chairman Bohan, board members present included DeSha, Keene, Miller and Reed. Also present were Commissioners Keebler, Casselbury, Township Manager Martin, Assistant Township Manager Molchany and Recreation Superintendent Norton. Guests were in attendance, but names and addresses were not recorded in Guest Book.
- II. **Review and Approval of April 1, 2008 Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the April 1, 2008 Minutes as written. This motion was accepted unanimously.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Ms. DeSha summarized the available financial reports and posed several questions that staff answered.
- IV. **Committee Reports:**
- Facilities Committee – Several updates were made on the construction at Overlook Pool and the readiness for the season opening of Skyline Pool. Change orders at Overlook Pool were reported to date in the \$100,000 area.
- Personnel Committee – Announced the hiring of a new Recreation Director to begin on May 12, 2008.
- Program Committee – Discussion regarding the pricing at the Overlook Activities Center for skating, parties, rentals, etc. This will also be discussed in June.
- Public Relations Committee – No report.
- Finance Committee – No additional report.
- Activities Report – Enclosed in the packet.
- V. **Old Business**
- Steering Committee – MT Comprehensive Plan – Status Update - Mr. Keene gave a brief update.
- 5 and 10-Year Capital Expenditure Strategies – Status Update – This item was deferred.
- Fields Committee Report – Assistant Township Manager Molchany detailed all of the deliberations, options and recommendations of the Fields Committee. Chairman Bohan suggested that a vote of endorsement was not appropriate as two (2) Board members were absent and Commissioner Flanagan only asked for our input. Commissioner Casselbury argued that the Board should vote on endorsement. Board member Reed responded that if there were to be a vote, he would have to abstain as he needs time to study the proposal and recommendations. A summary of Board members feelings on the Fields Committee recommendation included:
- Mr. Miller stated that “if two synthetic fields is the answer, then the Foundation site is the best choice” for this option. “That option seems expensive in the short run. The issue centers on what is the true need for fields immediately and in the future.” Mr. Miller felt that the consensus of the Board was against constructing synthetic fields on the Foundation Property.

(Continued)

Fields Committee Report (Cont'd.)

- Ms. DeSha expressed concern that the Foundation Property will become a sports field only park. Mr. Miller also shared this concern. Ms. DeSha continued by stating that the options for the Municipal Office site do not change the inventory of fields in the short term; once football moves to a permanent location, there will be two (2) more soccer fields added. She expressed concern that the proposed three (3) fields on the Community Campus will be sufficient to address even the needs for fields for the next five (5) years. She also stated that she is not clear that the recommendations really meet the field needs.
- Mr. Keene stated that he could be convinced to build one (1) grass field near the Dog Park as a concession to the Committee. He stated that he too is concerned about too many athletic fields. He is concerned also about the impact of an aquatic center, grade 5/6 school building, parking, etc. on the School District back 40 fields. He expressed that he is very concerned about the safety around Destination Park due to the potential of increased traffic.
- Mr. Reed agreed that the Municipal Office site as a short term solution for football. He stated that more discussion between the School District and the Commissioners is needed. He is very concerned on the traffic and safety issues created by having those fields in closed proximity to Destination Park, walking paths, etc.

Rules, Regulations and Policies Committee – Park Facilities – This item was deferred until the June meeting.

V. Old Business

Pool Status (Joint Task Force Report) – This item was presented earlier in the agenda. Details of the studies, deliberations, financial implications, timelines and recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Aquatics were shared. This report was purely informational as there was no request for endorsement. Positive comments and a few concerns were shared with the presenters.

Director Search Update – This item was addressed during the Personnel Committee report.

VI. New Business

Director Search – This item was previously discussed.

Correspondence – Enclosed in packet.

Overlook Community Foundation Report – The Foundation voted 5-2-1 to deliver a message to the Fields Committee that it was not receptive to any proposal for construction of fields on the Foundation Property. Chairman Bohan reported that the reaction of some of the members of the Fields Committee were surprised even though other members affirmed that this was no surprise and this sentiment from the Foundation Board had been discussed by Peg Adams, (Foundation Board representative) and Jim Bohan (Parks and Recreation representative) several times during the Fields Committee deliberations. Assistant Manager Molchany will present the report and recommendations to the Foundation Board on May 20.

VII. Commissioner's Report – No further report.

VIII. School Board Report – Mr. Reed reported that the academic year 2009/2010 will begin on August 26 – may be some implication for staffing the pools.

IX. Museum Board Report – Mr. Keene reported that the Art Show is coming.

X. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 p.m.