



DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Meeting Notes: May 14, 2024

A meeting of the Doylestown Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at the Doylestown Township Administrative Building, Caucus Room.

- In attendance: Blythe Kelly, Joe Salvati, Paul DiNella, Kellie McGowan, Brent Ruge, Karen Sweeney-Director of Parks and Recreation; and Barbara Lyons, BOS liaison
- Absent: Kathy Brown, Don Borden
- Guests: Stephanie Mason, Township Manager, Dave Tomko, Director of Public Works.
- Visitors: Keith Holmes

Meeting Notes:

- Motion made by Joe Salvati, with a second by Brent Ruge to approve the meeting minutes for the April 9, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously 4-0, with Blythe Kelly abstaining.

Visitors:

- **Keith Holmes representing Doylestown Athletic Association (DAA)**, 4795 Cheshire Drive, Doylestown 18902.
- **Fred Grecca, managing director of DAA**, 19 Cedar Wood Circle Doylestown.
- **Carlos Valdez**, 308 Windy Run Road Doylestown

Information and Correspondence:

- **DAA Turk Park Shed / Scoreboard Request.** Discussion further in agenda
- **Bonitatis-Steeplechase Drive.** Discussion further in agenda
- **Park Improvement Project.** Board reviewed the two-week lookahead. Dave Tomko advised that construction continues with anticipated completion in Spring 2025.
- **Concert Schedule Flyer.** Park board reviewed the flyer and thanked Karen for her preparation.

Review of Plans:

- **4 Buck Run Drive – Updated Land Development Plan.** Park board reviewed the proposed lot line change plan. Board has no recommendations.
- **Barn Plaza Redevelopment Land Development Plan.**
 - Accompanying paperwork (Application, Stormwater, Traffic). Stephanie provided a summary of the proposed redevelopment plans. Plan includes phasing, with demolition of the existing barn plaza. Current phase includes demolition of prior Applebee's restaurant and replacement structures. Township is looking into traffic improvements.

Old Business:

- **DAA Improvement Request.** Keith Holmes advised of the discussions between DAA and the Township since the last board meeting.

- **Scoreboard.** DAA and the Township have reviewed options for locations of the scoreboard, as shown on an aerial concept plan for development. Dave Tomko discussed maintaining the potential field in the middle of the baseball fields; Township requested maximum amount of offset. DAA circulated a petition to the neighboring property owners. Board discussed focusing on orienting away from neighboring property owners. The scoreboards are not illuminated. Stephanie Mason advised of the resident concerns relating to traffic and driver distraction from the scoreboards and thanked DAA for reaching out. DAA will be padding the scoreboard poles, which have been reduced in size. Height has also been reduced to 13-foot max height, and 9 feet to bottom of scoreboard. DAA intends to maintain the scoreboard. Paul DiNella motion, second by Brent Ruge, to recommend support for the scoreboard locations and specifications. All in favor.
- **Sheds.** DAA described constraints with existing shed located on the other side of Almshouse Road. Purpose of two sheds to store field lining equipment. DAA proposal and the Township recommended location differ. DAA prefers the location for time and efficiency, together with electrical connection. Township recommendation was based upon concerns with location in proximity to the trail, with preference to location immediately adjacent to the parking lot. Township zoning requirements for the front yard setbacks are also considered. Township advised that Chris Mason, director of the park, recommended the parking lot location. Joe Salvati motion, second by Paul DiNella to recommend location of the shed at the Township preferred location adjacent to the parking lot.

PRB Discussion:

- **Park Improvement Status Update.** Prior discussion.
- **Plumstead Softball Future Events and Locations.** Discussion of Plumstead Softball has been deferred to the next meeting. Park board noted the importance of improving opportunities for softball play, including youth and women's field opportunities. In addition to future discussion of Plumstead Softball, board would like to consider opportunities for all softball groups. Board discussed possible opportunities at Sauerman Park.
- **Future events/locations**
 - Penn Community Day of Service – Wednesday, June 5th – the bank is donating \$10,000 to the capital campaign on behalf of the Bucks County Special Olympics bocce team to sponsor a bocce court at the new community center. Also sponsoring a scoreboard.
 - Joe Salvati recommended a chess tournament at the game grove.
 - Blythe recommended including a message in the next Township newsletter reminding the community of the game grove.
- **Member Comments.** None.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Golf Outing Update.** The subcommittee met at the Township building on May 13, 2024. Paul DiNella provided an update on the sponsorships and efforts, with thanks to Karen for the spreadsheet organization of the outing. Paul noted that the outing has availability for 56 more golfers, and sponsorships are still available.
- **Wayfinding signs.** Brent advised of progress and took feedback from all board members. The board discussed looking at options for digitalized signage and weighing the options

for aerial sign versus the digital sign. Board would like to see a sign that is accessible and easy to read for all visitors.

P&R Director's Report:

- **General information.** Planning for the Fall has started. Staff are focused on looking forward to programs and activities to be held in the temporary space, but that can be moved to the new community center. Park department plans 6 months out with the programming.
- **Summer concert series.** Sign up Genius is being released. Karen requests one board member to assist with tickets etc., and a second board member to attend to assist with parking in the lots.
- **Summer Concert Parking Areas Map.** Karen reviewed the final map for concert parking. Park will be closed at 3pm on concert days to facilitate the event and parking preparation. Central Park will re-open for concert attendees only at 5pm.
- **Fundraising efforts.** Karen described efforts to partner with community members and continue capital campaign efforts.
- **Park Department.** Additional giveaway items have been ordered for the year.
- **Touch a Truck event is Saturday May 18, 2024.**

Director of Operations Report: None.

- **General maintenance is ongoing.** The department is working through improvements to benches and tree planting this Spring. Parking lot expansion is in permitting. New Britain Road parking area will be doubled in size, with a two-tiered lot. Joe asked about power-washing the brick walkway along kids' castle.
- **New staff.** Dave advised a new addition to the maintenance staff.

Visitor Comments. No Further comment.

***Adjournment:** Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 on a motion by Kellie McGowan with a second by Joe Salvati. All in Favor, motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kellie McGowan
Doylestown Park and Recreation Board

Approved: _____