

**MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MARCH 2, 2004**

The meeting of the North Lebanon Township Parks & Recreation Board was called to order on March 2, 2004 at 7:00 PM at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building located at 725 Kimmerlings Road, North Lebanon Township.

The following members were present:

Evelina Krall	Chairman
Clyde Ebersole	Vice-Chairman
Jay Snavely	Member
Steve Smith	Member
Gary Zelinske	Member
Sheila Wartluft	Assistant Township Manager

Also present were 4 Township residents.

Chairman Krall called for a motion to approve the February minutes.

MOTION: Motion was made and second to approve the February minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Kochenderfer's Request for Egg Hunt

Sheila has included a letter from the Youth Ministry of Kochenderfers Church to request the use of Township property to hold their annual egg hunt for the children of the Township. The egg hunt would be held April 10th here at the Municipal Park. Jay said we always left them use the parks for the egg hunts in the past and sees no reason why we should not allow them the use this year. Chairman Krall said as long as there are no other conflicts with the use of the parks, it should be no problem. Sheila said that she checked with Dave to make sure that the restrooms would be open for use and he assured her that they would be. Sheila said she also received another request for the use of Township property for another egg hunt for another church in the Township to be held on Palm Sunday, April the 4th. She said this date has no conflicts as well. Chairman Krall said we would allow both groups to use the municipal parks for their egg hunts with the dates as listed.

Woman's Softball League Request

Chairman Krall said it seems that they are a group of older women requesting the use of the fields. Clyde said he saw something in the letter that concerned him. It states that

Woman's Softball League Request(con'td)

the games are played at 6:30 and 7:45 PM. He feels that the games played at 7:45 would be quite late unless they are requesting lights be on for those games. Sheila said she has not spoken to this person, but she assumes it is the same one that requests the fields each year. One of the members asked which field they are requesting? He was told they would take any field that we would be able to give them at this point. They used the one down at the lake last year. Sheila said they are looking to start May through mid-August, Monday and Thursday evenings. Chairman Krall said she would like to correct herself in saying that the group is all ages, not older women. Jay asked if these women are from the Township? Chairman Krall said she doesn't think they are all North Lebanon residents as some of the phone numbers are Myerstown numbers. Sheila said the one she spoke to is from the Township. She said maybe we could exchange numbers and try to work something out. They would really like an answer after this meeting if possible. Gary said he doesn't think we are in any position to do anything different from last year. He would say to follow last years format if possible. Sheila said last year she told them that we had limited field space and we usually leave it open to our Union Canal and Ebenezer people. She thinks she gave them Bob Fourman's phone number and also, Gene Martins phone number. She is not sure what happened after that, if they called them or not. Mr. Fourman said no one ever called him about it. She said she is looking for direction as to what the Board wants her to do. One of the Board members said, evidently, something else worked out for them, as we never heard back from them. Sheila was directed to have this individual call Tom Stewart to check the availability of the fields. He then gave the various phone numbers that he could be reached at. Sheila was also told that the County Optimists Park was made for female teams, so maybe she could suggest this to the individual that called her. Sheila asked whom she could tell this person to contact for this field, the Optimist Club? Chairman Krall asked, if by some chance, they would be able to use our field, and they say they are able to pay, what would we charge them for the use of the field? She is asking this because we normally do not charge for the use of the fields. Would it be a donation? This is what she would suggest. Jay said we have to make sure that they have current insurance before we allow them to use the fields. Sheila assured him that they do have insurance. Chairman Krall again said she feels we should ask for a donation for the use of the fields. Then someone asked if they would be bringing their own equipment to drag the fields, the bases, mats, etc? Or would the Township be responsible for that? Chairman Krall said that would be a good question to ask the individual when they are contacted. But then if they are paying to use the fields, they may feel that is included in what they are paying. Chairman Krall also said she hopes that if they were to use the fields that they would leave the fields in the condition that they were previously in and clean up after themselves.

Fishing Derby

Hershey Foods has again requested to use the lake for their annual fishing derby. They have assigned a different person to this project, which is probably why no one is in attendance. They have scheduled it for May 22nd, this year. Chairman Krall asked Jay if he has any comments since he has been on the Board since they originally use the facility for this purpose. He asked if they are requesting the use of the building? Sheila said they are asking to use the pavilion directly off of the parking lot and also the one at

Fishing Derby(cont'd)

the walking path. Jay said they are paying quite a large fee, so that should not be a problem. Sheila said they would also like to have a DJ and a booth for crafts. Sheila said last year we charged them \$750 for the rental and they also stocked the lake with trout. Chairman Krall asked since they are having a DJ, does that affect the electric portion of the charge? Both Sheila and Jay said it would reflect the amount that we would charge them for the use of the facility.

MOTION: Motion was made and second to approve the Hershey Fishing Derby for May 22nd, 2004. Motion approved.

Lighting at Football and Ball Fields at Long Lane

Sheila mentioned that since this came from the Athletic Associations, maybe they would like to address this topic. Since this involves the pursuit of grants, it would have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The request is to cover the football field and the 2 ball fields. Clyde then asked if this is not putting the cart before the horse. Shouldn't the approval be given prior to the grant being pursued? They said that is what they are doing here this evening; they are here to ask for permission and to discuss it with the Board first. They said that they are looking at the fields that see the most use. Clyde asked if anyone had thought of the type of lighting that they would like to have at the facility? Tom Stewart said he showed Ed Brensinger some of the types of lights that would they would like to see. Clyde then asked him why this particular field or area has been singled out for lighting? There are areas of the Township that are not residential that could use lights as well. He asked which areas are these? Clyde said there are other areas within the Township that are very remote and have no other buildings or lights around them. Clyde said we have fields right here at the Township building that have no lights or homes around it. Stewart said their organization has 21 teams and has the largest draw of kids participating. He is not sure of the numbers of the other leagues within the Township. Then Clyde said you have to consider the fact that the fields they are requesting lights for are in residential areas. Has anyone contacted these people to see what their feelings or concerns would be with lighting? He feels that these certain things have to be taken into consideration before you start getting grants for lights and then have problems with the neighbors because of the lights. Chairman Krall asked if there are ordinances concerning lighting within the Township or certain areas of the Township that we would have to be concerned with? Tom Stewart asked how could there be when there is a field less than a quarter of a mile away that is lit up? She said she is just asking. Clyde said that is not a residential area either. Sheila said she is not sure that our Township has anything concerning that. Chairman Krall said should we check with the Supervisors to make sure that they are not considering an ordinance concerning lighting before grants are applied for? The different scenarios that they have discussed this evening sound good, but should we not check with the Supervisors first before making this decision? Clyde said he feels it is a little more than just that. He doesn't want to sound like a "hard nose" about it, because he has nothing about the lighting done right, but he thinks we have to consider first how lighting is going to affect this area as a whole. We are not just talking about lights and the homeowners. We are talking about parking facilities, traffic, and 4 teams instead of 2 teams, rather 12 teams, instead of 2 teams. If they overlap, where do you

Lighting at Football and Ball Fields at Long Lane(cont'd)

park all of those cars, we have no room now for parking. We have been complaining about the parking situation for years now, with no resolution. He was asked how you could force people to park in a certain area? Clyde said when you have 12 teams there; they will park wherever they can. He is mainly concerned with the traffic in the area and especially due to the fact that it will be at night. Clyde said these are all things that have to be discussed before anything is done. When they purchased the land on the east side of the Township, everyone said, we have enough ball fields; we want some other type of recreation area for the Township. But now we hear tonight that we should have more fields. Mr. Stewart said we also heard that we don't want water down on that side of the Township as well, but that is happening right now. Clyde said that is a health issue, but then he said he figures you could say that sleeping is a health issue as well. He really thinks this needs to be thought out in great detail before money is sought for the project. Why go after the money if you do not know for sure that you can put the lights there? One member asked what time frame they are looking at for the lights? Jay said they would not be able to be done this year, because the grants take quite some time to be obtained. Clyde also mentioned that once lights are put up, you couldn't limit who can use those fields. You will then have soccer teams, other football teams and the like that will be using the fields at night. Who is going to pay for the electricity for these lights? Clyde said he doesn't think that responsibility should be pushed on the Township. It was asked if they knew what the cost of operating these lights would be. They were told about \$75 per hour. The type of lighting they are looking at is the same kind that the Fifth Ward fields use. This brought up a comment by one of the Board members that lives near Fifth Ward. He said the lights are quite bright; you cannot get away from it. Sheila then had a question about the placement of the structures. She had a concern since the new sewer relief line was just installed in this same area 2 years ago. There really isn't a lot of room to work in this particular area. She was told to not worry about it, there is plenty of room for everything. He has laid everything out and there is plenty of room. She is not sure that the plan he is referring to actually shows the new line and she has a real concern with that. Chairman Krall said she has been sitting here listening to everything that has been said and she remembers all of the problems that we have had with giving you enough field access through the years, and she doesn't see that improving in the near future. She would like to see you have lighting, but she would also like to see an ordinance or some type of regulation that protects the citizens of that particular area. She would recommend that the Supervisors come up with an ordinance prior to approving the lighting, but do pursue the lighting and also, check into the parking problem. She personally would not like to see it turn into late nights with little kids, noise and bright lights. She doesn't think she would like to be a neighbor to that herself. Although, she feels that these are all problems that can be worked on and worked out. Clyde said his only intent by bringing all of this up was to see if there was any intent in bringing other groups in to use these facilities. If this is the case, that then becomes an issue with traffic night after night after night. It also becomes a maintenance issue as well. It was asked if the athletic organizations have a proposal yet that we would be able to give to the Board of Supervisors for informational purposes? They were told not yet. Sheila asked them if they know what type grant they are looking at applying for? They told her they have not looked into that yet and have not yet started working on it. They said since the property is owned by North Lebanon Township, they do not know if they will be able to apply for the grants themselves

Lighting at Football and Ball Fields at Long Lane(cont'd)

because they don't own the land. Sheila said she is sure there will be plenty of red tape to go through, as is the norm for grants. Chairman Krall asked that they get together again to come up with more information and talk about possible ordinances concerning lighting of the sports fields. They agreed that this would be a good idea. Chairman Krall mentioned that we are never going to come up something that everyone is happy with, but we need to come up with something that is reasonable and still make it a nice community.

The last thing that the athletic association wanted to discuss was the diamondex for the fields this year. He said if he remembers, they pay for it and the Township picks it up for them and brings it to the fields. Sheila said that is what we did last year and it seemed to work. Sheila asked if it would be the same amount as last year to which she was told yes.

Pertinent Issues

At this time, Sheila announced that the Township will be launching a website in the very near future and we are putting in a section on Township sports teams. So if any of the teams would like to have some input into this section, please feel free to contact the Township. It was asked how often the website would be updated? Sheila wasn't quite sure since it is a new project and undertaking.

Sheila also mentioned that she received the schedule from New Covenant Schools' sports association. She asked Bob Fourman if he received a copy as well? He said not yet. She said she would supply him with a copy if he would like one.

She also sent a letter to the fireworks people and they are planning to have their stand set up from June 25 – July 5. She has not yet received the check, but she is sure she will shortly.

She also sent a Thank You letter to the Boy Scout troop that painted the bleachers. She also mentioned that she has Dave getting a list together of items for a group that inquired about volunteering to the Township.

Sheila said we received a letter from a young man who lives over by the Lake requesting a skate park. The letter was very impressive for such a young person. Chairman Krall said this could be a good start for the future of recreation in the Township. Sheila then read the letter to the Board and they thought it would be appropriate to answer his letter. Chairman Krall asked if this is at all feasible to do? The Board said there is a lot of liability in doing this. Clyde said he knows the Board may not agree with him, but the tennis courts that were re-surfaced behind the New Covenant School would be a perfect place for this. The pieces that the kids use for skateboarding are very mobile and could be adapted to this area to be used. It just needs some thought and foresight to do it. Someone in the audience said from the noise that she hears from the skateboards hitting the street when they do their jumps, the residents near any one of these parks would not like it at all. She said they need to be a little bit away from the houses to avoid that type of problem with the neighbors. The area that

Pertinent Issues(cont'd)

they had talked about earlier, behind the New Covenant School may not be too bad, but in the summer with your windows open, it could be a problem. Sheila mentioned that as far as having something like that down at the Lake, we really wouldn't be able to use this area because of the wetlands. She said that Dave had met with DEP and unfortunately, she was not able to make the meeting, but they told Dave what he could and could not do with the areas that are designated as wetlands. So they are going to come up with sort of suggestions of what we need to do in the wet areas. DEP needs to investigate what areas are true wetlands. One of the other areas that was discussed with DEP was the water that runs across the walking path. We just cannot go in and change the way the water flows across the land. DEP has to approve anything that is done and most likely, nothing will be allowed to be done because of the wetlands. Since that is the case, how was it that the walking path allowed to be constructed? Sheila said that is something that she is trying to find out. Chairman Krall said, getting back to the letter from Zachary, could we check into his request and possibly use the old tennis courts for this purpose? She really thinks we should give his request some consideration. It was suggested to contact the young man to see if he has any suggestions or plans that he would like to see enacted. They feel that they should at least let him know that we are looking into it. Sheila said she would gladly respond back to him to see what his ideas might be.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Tulpehocken Greenways Feasibility Study

Sheila mentioned that she received e-mail today that they will be holding a meeting on March 18th and she will do her best to make it. She will let them know what is discussed. Clyde asked if while she is there she could hit someone up for a map of the greenways surrounding the Township. Also, he did contact Rettew's office about the layouts, and he was told that they don't have exact layouts, but they do have them by county areas. He then asked her if she could make a copy of this for us and she said there would probably be no fee for this.

Safety Inspection – April 16th

Chairman Krall said she is taking the liberty to invite the Board to attend the inspections of the Township Parks. She attended the last one and found it very informative and interesting.

MOTION: Motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

With no more information before the Park and Rec Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina M. Haser
Recording Secretary