

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2008**

Adequate notice of this meeting, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, has been given by posting one copy of the Notice of Meeting in the Washington Township Administrative office, by making copies to the "Express Times" and "Star Gazette," and to the municipal clerk in Washington Township.

The regular meeting of the Washington Township Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Mel Kries.

ATTENDEES

R. Berrie, J. DeFranza, S. Fritts, W. Godfrey, B. Jeffries, M. Kries, J. Miller, D. Schott, D. Detrick arrived at 7:40. Committeeman B. Mueller and WTRC Administrator N. Godfrey and J. Cooper, DPW Parks Foreman were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. Kries asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2008. D. Schott had a correction on page 3, 1st paragraph, second to last sentence the word will should be inserted between Godfrey and will. It should read "S. Fritts and W. Godfrey will go. D. Schott made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2008 as amended, S. Fritts seconded. All in favor.

MEADOW BREEZE PARK

D2 Bench Repair - W. Godfrey reported that he and J. DeFranza will be working on them this coming weekend, weather permitting.

Installation of New Aluminum Benches on D4 - J. Cooper reported that the DPW has not put them in yet, but will once the weather breaks.

D2 Dugout Roof Repair - B. Jeffries reported that WTYA has all the materials and someone who is going to do it, they are hoping to get it done this weekend but if not it should be done before opening day, April 12.

Horseshoe Court Shed and Field House Roof Repair - J. Cooper obtain 3 quotes for roof repair for the Field House, the lowest being AMA Roofing at a cost of \$2025.00. W. Godfrey asked if this price included a complete tear off, J. Cooper said yes, this price also included rotten wood replacement, 15 lb. felt placement, 1/2" plywood, installation of roof louvers, where needed, four nail shingles to spec. using 1 1/2 inch nails, installation of roof edging, installation of water shield and cleaning out of all gutters. J. DeFranza made a motion to authorize J. Cooper to hiring AMA Roofing for repair of the Field House Roof Repair not to exceed \$2300.00, seconded by J. Miller. All in favor.

Tennis Court Sign - J. Cooper reported that the new sign has been delivered and will be put up tomorrow.

Walking Path Map - N. Godfrey reported that she has talked with P. deBoer and he will be working with the new Township Engineer on preparing an updated map.

Replacement of Old Playground Equipment - Mulch has been ordered - delivery approximately 1 month.

D2 Dugout Roof Repair - W. Godfrey reported that he noticed that the 3rd base side dugout is starting to show signs of disrepair and we should start thinking about putting monies aside to repair that. It should last one more year but the rolled roofing is starting to get a little iffy. B. Jeffries said that it was his understanding the WTYA was having both dugout roofs repaired at the same time. W. Godfrey said this was very good news.

Backboard Stencils - J. Miller reported that he picked up the material today and they should be installed this week by the DPW.

Tree Spraying - J. Cooper said that he spoke the person who is going to spray and he was informed that the sprayer does not want to set up a date until we actually start to have a problem. When or if we have a problem, he suggested that we call him them and he'll be here within 3 days.

Port Colden Field - Field has been mowed and can be used as a practice soccer field.

W. Godfrey said that he had a few items with regards to the playground that he wanted to address. At the playground by the pavilion the dragon is broken, it looked as if someone broke through the steps on the upper part by the head. J. Cooper said that they would probably have to dismantle it and put it away so no one gets hurt on it. N. Godfrey said that she and J. Cooper spoke just today about a replacement dragon and J. Cooper will get prices from Gametime.

On the roof of the same section of playground equipment there is a lot of profanity written on the bottom side. N. Godfrey said that she has received a few complaints about within the last week so it must have been done recently. J. Cooper will look into getting it removed.

On the swing sets the chain links by the swivels are worn about half way through.

At the pavilion there are six tables that the tops are all warped flipping up. It might be a good idea if they are unbolted and flipped upside down. This might make them a little more useable.

D. Detrick asked if the spraying/weather proofing of the pavilion is on the project list for this spring. N. Godfrey said that J. Cooper obtained a few quotes and they were between \$10,000 and \$14,000. N. Godfrey said there would be no way this could be done this year because of budget constrains.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award - M. Kries asked B. Mueller if he had received any more feed back from the Township Committee on this. B. Mueller said he had some, but would probably have more after the next Township Committee meeting. He will try to get something together for our next meeting.

2. D. Wasser Memorial Bench - M. Kries reported that he had spoken with Esther Wasser and she would like the engraving to read "Louis "DOC" Wasser for his years of dedicated service to Washington Township". Everyone was in agreement that this was perfect. D. Detrick will meet with J. Cooper to show him where we want to have it placed. M. Kries suggested that we dedicate this bench in his honor on opening day for "Panther's Football.

FINANCIAL & BUDGET REVIEW

We have a temporary budget of \$2100 until the 2008 Township Budget is passed and we have collected \$1460 in use fees this year.

At this time, M. Kries announced that since we had some people in the audience who wished to speak we would take this time to hear them

Rob Rhinehart - Jersey Fusion Softball - During the tournament which they are having on May 3 and May 4 they would like to be able to have some food available. J. DeFranza said that the Panther Football people would be the ones helping out with this. They plan on using the Snack Bar and also would be using grills to prepare the hamburgers, hotdogs etc... , they are fully insured for this and they would like to have our permission to do so. N. Godfrey reminded him that we don't allow charcoal grills, only gas grills. R. Rhinehart asked if there would be a problem if they used a generator and no one had any objection.

Dave Dempski - President, WTYA - His initial concern is that they usually had four (4) benches built by an Eagle Scout for the WTYA soccer program and they also used them for T-Ball and when he was taken inventory he found that two (2) of the benches had moved clear across the park to S5. WTYA had always had them in the "old" section of the park and also used them for whistle soccer and T-Ball, the benches are not light, they weigh a couple of hundred pounds each , they would take a few guys to carry and he was just curious how it happened and when they could be put back where they belong.

J. Cooper (DPW) said that they were on S5 last fall, R. Lucy (DPW) said that J. Cooper was not involved with this last fall and that when those four (4) benches were delivered to the school and no one ever told them that those four benches (4) were to be kept separate and this spring, they just put them around as benches to be used because there are four (4) or five (5) that are identical to them and they had no idea that those benches were meant to be used for WTYA only.

D. Dempski said that the WTYA will see that those benches will be labeled for WTYA use only.

D. Dempski also wanted to bring up the fact the WTYA Girls Lacrosse league was a new league this year and they were hoping to have a home game field available to them without any kind of risk this year. They need to have a field that is guaranteed for them to say that this field is available for all of their home games. The WTRC did try to give them a field

around S5 and the WTRC also offered the use of the Pacesetter Field, to be shared with the Washington Township Lacrosse Club. Dean Childress, coach of the Girls Lacrosse Team, said that as far as S5 goes, with all of the lines that would have had to be put down on the field (i.e., soccer, softball and lacrosse) it just would have been too confusing and as far as Pacesetter field, they met with the boys lacrosse team and as far as scheduling practices between the two teams (both teams practicing three (3) times a week and games) they decided that it just wouldn't work out. There were too many teams between the two groups and WTYA Girls Lacrosse decided to go to the Mansfield/Comcast field. D. Childress thanked R. Berrie and the Recreation Commission for trying to work this out, but this year it was easier to go to Mansfield/Comcast field.

After lengthily discussion, the members of the WTRC said that next year the WTYA Girls Lacrosse team will have priority over any other outside Club and we will work together to rectify this situation.

The WTRC has already formed a sub-committee to address these issues and will be more involved with the scheduling meetings in the future. The sub-committee will try to come up with a better way to handle all the teams/clubs game schedules at the time of the field scheduling meetings so we can avoid the types of problems we are having for the spring 2008 season.

N. Godfrey asked Ernie Buel, Warren United Soccer Club, who was also present, if it would be possible for them to schedule some of their soccer games some where else in the fall, since in the past all of their home games are scheduled for Meadow Breeze fields during both the spring and fall seasons. Since the WTYA is growing we have to give them first priority over outside clubs. He said that he would contact the other Warren United Boards to see what they can do.

At this point of the meeting, everyone in attendance agreed that the Township needs to start seriously investigating what needs to be done to develop the Mill Pond Rd. property for additional fields. D. Dempski stated that, as Mayor, he will bring this up to the Township Committee and try to get started on the soil testing and Phase I Environmental Studies.

ACTIVE AREAS

N. Godfrey reported that she has been in touch with Green Acres with regards to increasing the use fees for field usage and we can basically increase them, within reason, to what we want, however we can only double the non-township fees from what we charge township residents. D. Detrick asked N. Godfrey to let him have this information so the sub-committee can review and make the necessary changes so the WTRC can review at the next meeting.

J. Cooper wanted to talk about the quote for a line painter which was previously distributed. The cost of the painter was approximately \$5000.00. The painter the DPW has in service now still works but if in the future we would have to use two different color paints they would suggest purchasing a second painter. It was decided that since the girls lacrosse team was not using S5 this year, and a second color paint would not be necessary right now, this would be considered later on in the year.

J. Cooper said that they have a lot of fill dirt at the shop and they would like to start hauling it to the Brown & Brown Building (New Municipal Bldg) to the field there to help fill in it, and possibly start preparing it for another field. Then, when time and money permits, they can bring in some top soil and hopefully this would be a start on getting us another field. N. Godfrey said before they start doing this, have P. deBoer get this okay in writing from Soil Conservation.

B. Jeffries wanted to bring up a problem that they (WTYA) are having with the men's team that plays on D4 on Sunday afternoons. There is a girls travel team that plays on D3 also on Sunday's and it's going to be a problem because they just crush balls into the middle of their practices all the time. They are dogging balls all the times and they think this could be a safety issue. D. Detrick asked if the girls team could possibly move to another field? Most of the other fields are empty on Sunday. B. Jeffries stated that if they did move to another field they would have to move all of their practice/batting equipment to the other field with them. B. Jeffries asked if the men's team could move to another field. M. Kries said that they could not because D4 is the only field that has 90 ft. bases. B. Jeffries asked that maybe they could move to the high school. That is not something that the WTRC has any control over and at this point since the men's league has already been approved to use D4 this is a moot point.

N. Godfrey suggested to B. Jeffries that he talk with J. Cooper and R. Lucy and to get together with them to see if they can figure out another field for them to use.

B. Jeffries had one more issue to bring up. R. Kuzmann asked if the WTRC would consider purchasing yellow plastic safety barrier to go around the outfield fence of D1 (the little league field). He got three quotes, however he would prefer the rounded one at a cost of \$700.00. D. Schott asked why is he asking the WTRC to pay for this, when D1 (little league field) is used only by the Youth Association and not by any other teams/clubs? B. Jeffries did not know. N. Godfrey suggested that B. Jeffries bring this back to the Youth Association, run it by them for them to consider purchasing this and if they feel that

this isn't something they should be responsible for then the WTRC will consider this request.

PASSIVE AREAS

J. Cooper reported that the blow down tree in Griffiths Woods has been taken care of. Two of the three blow down trees up at Lake Marguerite have been taken care of, the third will be taken care of this week.

NEW BUSINESS

D. Detrick drafted a letter to the Board of Ed in favor of them putting in artificial turf on their new playing field. A motion was made by S. Fritts to send the letter from the WTRC supporting the installation of an artificial field, seconded by J. DeFranza. All in favor.

N. Godfrey was instructed to send the letter D. Detrick drafted to the entire Warren Hills Board of Education.

At the last meeting there was mention of maybe putting in a dog park somewhere in the park. S. Fritts checked out what would be needed do this. We would have to have a minimum of one (1) acre of land, surrounded by a 4 - 6 ft. fence, a double entry gate, wheel chair assessable, shade and water, adequate drainage, covered trash cans, pooper scooper stations, along with a parking lot close to the dog park. R. Berrie also did some research and found out that a grass surface should not be used, a pulverized rubber is preferred and numerous other items. Due to budget constraints and lack of space in the existing park, as much as we would like to do this project, it just can't be done at this time.

D. Detrick said that there are 100 kids signed up for the flag football league this year. The kids are from the Warren Hills sending district.

Having no further business to discuss, D. Schott moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m., seconded by S. Fritts. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Godfrey
WTRC Administrator

cc: P. deBoer - DPW
D. Dempski - WTYA
Township Committee