

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MARCH 4, 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, M. Kries.

ATTENDEES

R. Berrie, D. Detrick, S. Fritts, W. Godfrey, M. Kries, D. Schott, J. Miller (arrived at 8:00). J. DeFranza and B. Jeffries were absent. Committeeman B. Mueller and WTRC Administrator were also present. Guest: J. Cooper (DPW).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. Kries asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2008. D. Schott made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2008, S. Fritts seconded. All in favor.

MEADOW BREEZE PARK

Ice Skating - Morris Canal - The temporary dam appears to be holding the water the way it should and the canal is deep enough for ice skating. The goal is to have the dam put in (at the correct location) the canal during the month of November, weather permitting, so the canal can be used for ice skating any time it freezes.

D2 Bench Repair - W. Godfrey & J. DeFranza will take care of this in the spring.

Installation of New Aluminum Benches on D4 - J. Cooper reported that they will be installed before spring sports begin.

Horseshoe Court Shed and Field House Roof Repair - J. Cooper reported that the DPW will be taking care of the Horseshoe Court Shed and he was getting quotes for the Field House Roof.

Meadow Breeze Park Sign - The new replacement sign has been installed, except it is only printed on one side. J. Cooper reported that when they ordered it they forgot to mention to the sign maker that it was a double sided sign. The other side of the sign is on its' way.

Tennis Court Sign - A new sign with contact information is being ordered to replace the one that used to be there.

Walking Paths Map - N. Godfrey will check with the Township Engineer to see if he can help with this project. B. Mueller reported that he had spoken to Brian Wilcox, Historical Preservation Chair/Twp Web Master, about this and he was going to see if he could do something with the aerial views of the park available. D. Schott said that once the weather gets nice she will get together with J. Cooper to finish the milage markings.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award - B. Mueller brought this up to the Township Committee at their last meeting and there was a suggestion by Committeeman Elbassouny that we consider doing something for younger outstanding citizens, not just for someone age 65 or older. After a brief discussion it was decided that even though honoring someone younger is a good idea, we would still like this particular award to be for a "lifetime achievement"
B. Mueller said that at the last Township Committee meeting there were two members not there and the Committee would bring this up again when all five members were present. B. Mueller will report back to us once it is discussed again.

2. Dr. Wasser Memorial Bench - At the last Recreation Commission it was decided to have the engraving on the seat portion of the bench. M. Kries suggested that the engraving should say "In Memory of Doctor Louis "Doc" Wasser for years of dedicated service. There was some discussion on whether to add Washington Township and whether or

not it should have the number of years of dedicated service. D. Schott suggested that M. Kries speak with Esther Wasser and see if she has any other suggestions and perhaps she would know how many years "Doc" was involved with volunteering for the Township . M. Kries will speak with Esther and the rest of the Commission members should think about the saying and be prepared to make a final decision at our April 1 meeting..

FINANCIAL & BUDGET REVIEW

Nothing new to report.

ACTIVE AREAS

Field Scheduling

W. Godfrey and R. Berrie reported that things went pretty good at the meeting. N. Godfrey reported that she received a phone call from the coach of the WTYA Girls Lacrosse team saying that they were not going to use the Pacesetter field because they were not able to work out practice and game schedules with the Washington Township Lacrosse Club (boys) who are also using the Pacesetter field. The WTYA Girls Lacrosse team were going to be using the Comcast field which is located in Mansfield Township. This did not bode well with some of the parents that WTYA has to use a field not located in the Township. There is a feeling that there are way too many outside clubs using the Township fields and that outside clubs are taking over and that the Township youth teams should be given first priority.

R. Berrie suggested that a committee be set up to take charge of the field situation, so we can get things back on track We will have to let the Club team know that if they can't work with the WTYA Girls team then they will be the ones to go - not the girls. The committee will consist of R. Berrie, M. Kries, W. Godfrey and S. Fritts. R. Berrie will contact the Mayor and both the Club and the WTYA Girls coaches to speak with them.

J. Miller wanted to go on record as a member of the Recreation Commission to express his concern over the situation with Township youth teams being crowded out of the Township fields by outside Clubs and Organizations. It is absolutely ridiculous that the WTYA cannot use one of our fields. He also received numerous phone calls over the last week from parents who were very upset over this situation.

Another discussion on raising the fees that we charge for the field usage. Because the park was purchased with Green Acres money then they would have to approve the rate changes. N. Godfrey will contact Green Acres and get the ball rolling on this so perhaps by the fall sign up time the new rates will be in place. She also asked that a fee needs to be in place for tournaments. The Recreation Commission needs to sit down and revisit the fee schedules. A subcommittee consisting of J. Miller, M. Kries, D. Schott and D. Detrick was formed to review the fees.

Tape for Basketball Courts - J. Miller reported that he can get a roll of tape for \$20.00 and he can do all the cuts (22"x24") he would suggest that whoever puts the tape up on the back boards that they clean them first. This would be enough to cover all six backboards. A motion was made by D. Schott that J. Miller go ahead and purchase the tape and make the cuts, W. Godfrey seconded. All in favor.

PASSIVE AREAS

J. Cooper reported that the Springtown Road Natural Area has been cleared out by the DPW and the trails are ready to be used again. He also provided a map of the area with a brief description which was prepared by R. Flint.

The large tree that was blown down at Griffiths Woods has been cut up by DPW.

NEW BUSINESS

1. D. Detrick spoke with Nick Holgash about the WHRHS Fall Soccer teams. They will not be practicing at Meadow Breeze Park at all, they are only playing games. During the week both JV and Varsity will be playing games and on Saturdays he would be able to do the Varsity team only and have the JV's play somewhere else. He is also willing to make the game times later in the day, if necessary.

2. R. Berrie suggested that we might consider a new project for the park, one that is for our four legged Township residents - a dog park. Both N. Godfrey and B. Mueller said that they have also been approached about this. The Commission thought this might not be a bad idea and will look into this idea further. S. Fritts and W. Godfrey will go and check out a dog park located in Hunterdon County and report back on what they find.

2. J. Cooper asked to discuss the problem the DPW is having with the "Field Closed Signs" at the park. DPW keeps putting them up and the teams could care less. They just take them down and play. He has discussed this with both P. deBoer and N. Godfrey and they both feel the Park Ordinance needs to be amended to include "Field Closed" signs. Also they would like the Violations and penalties portion of the Ordinance to include some type of fine for ignoring the field closed signs. N. Godfrey will have the Township Attorney review the Ordinance and make the changes.

3. J. Cooper wanted to bring up G. Jayne's email regarding fencing. He was asking for fencing by the goals on S1 and S2. DPW has 4 ft. fencing that they can use on S1 to keep the balls from going into the parking lot, but on S2, because of the size of the drop off from the goal to the parking lot, a 4 ft. fence will not help from keeping the balls from going into the parking lot. J. Cooper was directed to put the fencing on S1 but, at this time, we can't afford to purchase additional fencing. If the DPW wants to try the remaining 4 ft. fencing that they have left that would be fine with the Recreation Commission. We will leave that up to their discretion.

4. M. Kries questioned if B. Jeffries still plans on being on the Recreation Commission. He has missed 4 of the last 5 meetings. N. Godfrey will either write a letter or call him about this.

Having no further business to discuss a motion was made by D. Schott, seconded by J. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Godfrey
WTRC Administrator

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