



MINUTES

WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

February 23, 2023

7:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting Held Both In Person At The Township Building And Via Zoom

ATTENDEES: Andy Oles, Dan Mertz, Joanne Mancini, Lise Dietz, Jim Keyser, Ernie Rehr, Mike Diorka

BOS Liaison: Mike Diorka

7:09 PM - CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF January 2023 MINUTES AND POSTING TO WEBSITE
approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS *(The Board will hear from any interested resident or taxpayer who would like to comment on an item not on this evening's agenda. Respondents are asked to keep their comments to 3 minutes.)*

PRESENTATIONS BY GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS

1. **Special Equestrians – Janice Witt (Exec Dir) & Laura Gurano**
 - 17 horses all over 20yrs old, 40 acre facility, barn, indoor arena and outdoor arena
 - >350 indivs served, ~100 volunteers (14yr and older), >150 people on wait list, Warrington resident go to the top
 - Sensory Path - ~50 different items
 - 10-14 lessons each night, various ages, 55+ silver saddles program
 - Limited in bad weather by size of arena for how many classes they can hold at one time.
 - Participants can stay with program as long as they feel need.
 - Funding: 70% grants, 20% student fees, 10% funding events
 - Issue with spigot on one side of barn – possible area where P&R can assist
 - Shared pamphlet that notes website for more info: www.SpecialEquestrians.org

2. **Warrington Warriors Football & Cheer** – Tara Beck (President) and Tim Byrne (Twp Liaison)
 - Tim starts with their focus with the players is good character, sportsmanship, courage, leadership and respect. All players play
 - Focus for coaches is be competitive but fair, aggressive but respectful, tough but compassionate, maintain balance in coaching
 - Coaches complete intensive training certification (safety and efficacy)
 - Both see how much this does for their participants in terms of attitude, confidence, etc.
 - Free Flag, Tackle (\$375 registration), cheer (\$325)
 - \$10k sponsorships, another \$7k from fundraising
 - Organization amazing growth of >300% in past 3 years. Anticipate continued growth this year in a sport that is seeing decline in many areas
 - 2018 - <80 registered, 2021 – 150 kids, 2022 – 300 kids
 - Scholarships available
 - Have struggles with affording and replacing equipment (i.e. “sled” replacement needed)
 - A few issues with fields, Andy reviewed how to contact him to have addressed. One sprinkler head needs to be replaced due to Twp public works inadvertent breakage
 - Shared copy of presentation

LIAISON REPORTS

1. **Mary Barness Community Pool Committee; Recent Meeting and Reports Summary**
 - a. Mar 9th 6pm Public Zoom meeting to present concepts from swim study group
 - b. Also including all aspects of pump room and maintenance in addition to member experience
 - c. Feasibility study on track for meeting date requirements for grant application
 - d. In process for hiring of guards and support staff
 - e. Early Bird pool registration is until April 15th.
2. **Directors Report, (BOS Actions), (Works in Progress), (Presented Studies/Reports), (Programs Update) (Annual Budget Status) (End Of Year/Season Reports) (Community Room Progress Update)**
 - a. community room site prep mostly completed, waiting for compaction of gravel
 - b. Mar 10th 11am ground breaking ceremony for start of building
 - c. Anticipate completion Dec 2023, program initiation 2024, fee sched 80/20 split (20% to twp)
 - d. Community room has inner and outer storage for rec equip, etc (currently spread out in various locations)
 - e. Anticipated overhead costs (heat, cool, electric) not projected at this time
 - f. Turnout for recent Lego, Dino kids, and princess program very nice and well received.
 - g. Feb kid programs Space Explorers expected to go well.
 - h. Barness TRF tower progressing, concrete pad completed, awaiting arrival of structure (~2 wks)
 - i. Eric Pinkus and softball fence – progress in conjunction with public works
 - j. Posts and top rails repaired/straightened and new capping pulled and installed

OLD BUSINESS

1. Recognition of Carol Rice and Bob McNulty, Rick Weiss

- a. Andy has started process to verify years of service. Need to look through paper records. More investigation required and not as easy as anticipated
- b. Rick recognized in 2018 for years of service up to that point

2. AEDs for Youth Sports Programs

- a. Andy's initial response from Risk Management is to not provide the AEDs.
- b. Observations that access would be difficult and inconsistent, along with possible maintenance issues and would provide a false sense of security
- c. Overall question is what is the Twp legal exposure (risk) if these are not available during times of "active" use of parks during sports organization activities, especially in light of several professional athletes collapsing on sports field and baseball incident of player being hit in face and resultant 911 call (took over 9 mins for emergency response to arrive at scene).
- d. Logistics for access/maintenance discussed.
Acknowledged this is difficult and requires a lot of coordination
Intention to be in buildings and used during times of active participation of sports organization with access controlled by leaders of the sports organization.
Not intended to be available during "passive" use of parks by general public.
- e. Proposal to recommend to BOS for their review
 - i. Twp to purchase AEDs for use by sports organizations as follows
 - 1. Two at Barnes, Snak stand and Jack Toy tower
 - 2. Two at King, toilet building and football
 - 3. One at IPW for soccer, lacrosse
 - ii. Twp to maintain AEDs
 - iii. Dan motion to recommend to BOS for their review, Ernie second, all in favor
 - iv. Andy will bring to the BOS

3. Sponsorship / Memorial Program

- a. Andy making progress. Lots of coordination and consolidation of information to create brochure.
- b. Most likely do bench and tree and keep memorial bricks separate (different process)
- c. Noted that a plan of specific locations where community members may have bench/trees installed would be very helpful to assist interested community members possible choices.
- d. Noted that assessing locations immediately after times of rainfall to help direct installation locations to avoid water issues afterwards

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Works Maintenance Schedule at Township Parks and Tot lots

- a. Sweep done on mon/tues each week to assess need
- b. Bradford addressed separately
- c. Two park stewards active from April to November
 - v. encouraged to walk areas to look for any issues and
 - vi. speak with community members to show our care and presence in the parks and be open to feedback/input
- d. Andy noted all of our community – if they see any issues – can notify him

Please be sure to give clear detail of location within the park so may be properly addressed

2. PR Long and Short Term Goals

- a. Due to length of meeting Dan motion to postpone this topic, Lise second, all in favor

3. Annual Sports Organization Meetings

- a. Dan encouraging all organizations to present to P&R board at least once a year
- b. No presentations anticipated March 2023 due to review of candidates for vacant positions on P&R Board

OTHER BUSINESS

Not on Agenda

1. Liaison Reports Not Covered Above

- a. Ernie motion to un-table Liaison Report discussion. Dan second, all in favor
- b. Focus of P&R board should remain with activities we are responsible for, with coordinated input and collaboration on areas of overlap amongst P&R board and the other groups
- c. All encouraged to attend other committee meetings to foster communication and knowledge of the various twp groups
- d. Other than the Pool Committee and Director's report, unless there are items of overlap and needed collaboration (i.e. Open Space), the other liaison reports will no longer be necessary.
- e. Note to review existing ordinances in place (available on the twp website) for specifics of how each board or committee is structured and their responsibilities both within and amongst the various twp organizations.

ADJOURNMENT

9:40 pm adjournment –Ernie motioned, Joanne second, all in favor