

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Park & Recreation Board Meeting
November 15, 2011**

The scheduled workshop meeting of the East Goshen Township Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at the Township Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruth Scadding at 10:00 am. Other board members present were: Ann Marie Fletcher-Moore, Phyllis Marron, Bob Huebner, Heidi Karpa, Erich Meyer and Vicki Wooters.

Others present were: Frank Vattilano, Director of Recreation, and various residents.

A. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence to remember our Armed Forces.

The Chairman asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. There was no response.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairman noted that the minutes of the November 3, 2011 meeting were approved.

C. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. YMCA – Ruth thanked the residents for coming to the meeting. She explained the history of the relationship with the YMCA starting with the recommendation of the TAG Committee to the Board of Supervisors. The Park & Rec Board has been working with the YMCA since 2010. To date nothing has been approved. She explained that the Park & Rec Board is an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors and makes recommendations to the BOS. Ruth stated that the YMCA has withdrawn their proposal. The Park & Rec Board will continue to work with the YMCA on other programs. Ruth assured the residents that the Park & Rec Board and the Board of Supervisors are always looking out for the residents. Bob denied the rumors that the park is being sold. The park is underutilized in the morning so the BOS asked the Park & Rec Board and the YMCA to discuss possible use of the facilities. He explained that the Park & Rec Board works together with other groups such as the West Chester Area School District.

Public Comments:

Randy White, 1546 Millrace Lane (representing Great Valley Little League) – He feels the letter of understanding should have been put on the township's website.

Annette McIntosh, 933 Cornwallis Drive – She feels the residents should have been notified.

Elizabeth Faunce, 1544 King George Ct. – She looked for minutes on the website, but the October minutes are not there. If the reason for this proposal is revenue enhancement, some items, like a movie in the park, are not revenue makers. She thinks the park has the perfect amount of utilization so she can go there when she wants. She doesn't want the Park & Rec Board to consider giving any authority to any outside interest. If events are costing too much, stop them until the revenue is there when we are out of this economic distress.

Ruth explained that the Friends of East Goshen (501c3 Committee) was set up to raise funds for the township events. They raised the funds for the Harvest Festival. She explained that the meeting today was supposed to discuss the proposal and develop a counter proposal.

Vicki told Heidi to tell the people that she works for the YMCA.

Heidi gave her background. She was born and raised in East Goshen. She got married, moved away and is back as a single mom and wants to be involved in the community. Shortly after she was appointed to the Park & Rec Board, she was offered a job at the Y at the front desk guest services. She immediately informed the Board and everyone who needed to know about her employment. She has declined to vote on anything about the YMCA.

Public Comment:

Lisa O'Neill, 10 Brookmont Dr. - She asked who was on the sub-committee and was told Ruth Scadding, Bob Huebner, Frank Vattilano and Thom Clapper. She mentioned a few of the items in the Y's proposal and stated that in the past 4 ½ months, the Y has declined to be involved in the East Goshen Farmers Market. The Market has raised \$13,000 for township events. She loves the Y and has been a member of the Upper Main Line Y but knows what a camp would do to the park – destroy it. She is a member of the 501c3 committee and verified that they raised the funds for the Harvest Festival. An analysis of the Y's proposal on a financial basis shows that the Y would be the only one making revenue from this.

Donna Zingani, 1548 King George Ct. – The residents should be notified of anything like this in the future. The daytime meeting is not convenient for those who work.

Julieta Calmon, 1549 Tanglewood Dr – She gets all her information from the minutes on the website. In September Frank reported that it would cost \$1,600/week to rent the fields. \$18,000 from the Y for everything is too little. She's sorry the Y didn't buy a large enough place. She asked if Frank was going to lose his job and was told no.

Michael Juskalian, 935 Cornwallis Dr – He hears what is being said and is sure the Board knew from the start this would be a sensitive subject. He wondered why there wasn't communication to the residents about something like this before there was a proposal from the Y. Perception is fact – these economic issues should be put in the Township Newsletter.

Vicki Wooters stated that she didn't know all the details about the proposal until recently. She did mention the proposal to some residents. She has been asked to resign but not by the Park & Rec Board.

Public Comment:

Annette McIntosh – She appreciates that Heidi took herself out of the voting.

Cindy Tinsman – 1579 Colonial La – She stated that the Y has a lobbying fund. Also the township is having a party at Hershey's Mill. If there are no funds, stop spending on needless items.

Heidi commented that the newly created 501c3 is beyond exceptional. The TAG committee recommended this and it has been very successful.

Ruth mentioned that the Park & Rec Board needs volunteers for the Farmers Market and Community Events. She announced that the Conservancy Board is planting dogwood trees this Sat. November 19 at 9:00 am at Paoli Pike and Line Road and needs volunteers. The Historical Commission has events during the year and needs volunteers.

Public Comments:

Lisa O'Neill – Out of 23 members on the Y's board, how many are from East Goshen – only 1. Again this proposal needed to be evaluated objectively.

Doreen Presz, 627 Marydell Dr. – She goes to the Y and the East Goshen Boot Camp. She suggested that, in order to calm everyone, the Board should say that from now on communication will be improved.

Randy White – Great Valley Little League is a big user of the township ball fields. There are 600 boys and girls from East Goshen in the Little League. Their concern every year is getting time to use the fields. Each year Frank has a meeting of all the organizations that want to permit the fields. They all work together to set the use of the fields, which has worked well for many years. They don't want the Y to have control over permitting fields. The Y was at the Fall meeting wanting time to use the fields too.

Lisa O'Neill – She feels at some point applications for fields have to be closed because there are enough groups using them.

Robert Ardinger, 1569 Tanglewood Dr. – He wants the Y out of the decision making process. Leave control to the township. He used to do this in Delaware County so he knows how demanding it is.

Frank explained the process of getting a permit. He mentioned some of the organizations he has worked with and stated that he monitors field use closely. He follows policy which has to be clear cut. He explained how he runs the meetings to permit the ball fields.

Ruth commended the Great Valley Little League and Frank for 20 years of working out the use of the fields.

Vicki stated that the current permit process is working and doesn't need to be changed.

Vicki made a motion that the Park & Recreation Board is not in favor of a new partnership with the YMCA or any other organization at this time.

Discussion: Bob only wants this proposal with the Y mentioned and feels the Board can always look at proposals and say yes or no. Ann Marie feels it is too broad. Erich doesn't want to give a controlling interest to anyone. He commented that the board was not in favor of this proposal. It was just a starting point, like negotiating for a car.

Vicki withdrew her previous motion and made a new motion that the Park & Recreation Board is not in favor of the partnership with the YMCA and wants to continue with the current system for permitting fields, pavilions, and other facilities. Ann Marie seconded the motion. The motion passed. Heidi abstained.

Ann Marie commented that the Board does not want to lose the confidence of the residents. The TAG report had some good things and not so good. She recommends that residents let the Board of Supervisors know how they feel. Ruth said it is important to do this in writing.

Frank mentioned that Neighbor to Neighbor Day is this Sat. November 19, at 8:45 am. Volunteers help senior citizens in the township with yard work.

The residents commended the Park & Recreation Board members for their good work.

E. NEW BUSINESS

None

F. ANY OTHER MATTER

A. Items to discuss at the next meeting:

- * Goals and objectives for 2012 and accomplishments for 2011
- * Need to assign liaisons to the other boards and commissions
- * Ban smoking in the East Goshen Park
- * Applebrook restrooms

G. LIASION REPORTS

None

H. CORRESPONDENCE

None

I. DATES OF IMPORTANCE

No discussion

J. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, December 1, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary