



## Allen Township Park and Recreation Board

### Meeting Minutes January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:00 P.M.

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Park and Recreation Board was held on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Municipal Building, located at 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, PA.

#### 1. **Roll Call:**

Present: Mary Austin, Louise Bugbee, Nicole Dotta, Adrienne Ibarra, Paul Link, Donna Teklits, Denise O'Brien, Maria Bonett, Ilene Eckhart, Manager

Absent: Gary Behler

2. **2024 Reorganization:** Mr. Link made a motion to appoint Ms. Donna Teklits as Chairman; seconded by Ms. Austin. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Board members voted yes. Mr. Link made a motion to appoint Ms. Denise O'Brien as Vice Chairman; seconded by Ms. Teklits. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Board members voted yes. Mr. Link made a motion to nominate Ms. Mary Austin as Treasurer; seconded by Ms. Bugbee. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Board members voted yes.

3. **Announcements and/or Actions to Add New Items to Current Agenda:** None.

4. **Review of Minutes:** Mr. Link made a motion to approve October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes; seconded by Ms. Dotta. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Board members voted yes.

5. **Public to be Heard:** Mr. Kyle Sergent, representative of the Bath Allen Youth Club, expressed concern about the field house access. He indicated that the keys still needed to be exchanged for the key fobs, however, he was concerned with the access to the storage with the Club's uniforms. He indicated that the fobs could not open the office door and questioned if the lock could be changed or if a duplicate key could be made. Mr. Link indicated that he was not comfortable with the creation of key duplicates. It was discussed if adding a fob to the office could be considered and what could happen with the fob system should the building lose power. Mr. Link explained that typically fob readers will still hold power even if the building loses power. Mr. Link requested that the discussion be tabled.

#### 6. **Business Items:**

- A. **Dog Park:** Ms. Eckhart indicated that she invited the Parks and Recreation Department of Northampton County as well as the Friends of Allen Township Dog Park Facebook Administrator, Mr. Joseph Pallitta. Ms. Eckhart indicated that a representative from Northampton County was not able to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Pallitta discussed various issues that have occurred at the park such as dog owners not following the general rules, dog aggression, and owner-to-owner confrontation. He indicated that certain owners bully other dog

owners and dogs out of the park, while the aggressor stays and enjoys the park. He questioned if some type of registration could be implemented as criteria for utilization of the park. Ms. Eckhart explained the Board of Supervisors' feelings regarding the dog park. She indicated that the Board of Supervisors felt that cameras could be utilized at the park, however, having dog owners register and pay administrative fees for applications and key fobs did not seem feasible at this time. She explained that the Supervisors felt that the key fobs would not deter people from placing their dogs over the fence when gates are locked and expressed concern for dog owners, who have the fobs, opening the gates for those who are not registered with the Township Office.

The Board discussed various situations when dogs tend to turn aggressive at the park. It was discussed that having a second gate entrance or exit would help reduce dog fights as owners would be able to use one gate to enter a run and another to exit. It was also discussed that a second gate would allow an owner and dog to leave in order to avoid conflict should it happen at the other gate. Mr. Pallitta indicated that cameras in the parking lot may help the Township catch aggressive owners and hold them responsible.

The Board discussed the possibility of having dog park volunteers that have some enforcement capabilities to help police the dog park. Ms. Eckhart indicated that this could be discussed at the upcoming Board of Supervisors Meeting held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- B. General Park Events:** The Board discussed possible titles that could be shown for the movie nights. Ms. Teklits made a motion for June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 movie to be Migration, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 movie to be The Sandlot, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 movie to be Grease, and the October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 movie to be Ghostbusters: Afterlife; seconded by Ms. Austin. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present Board members voted yes. Mr. Link expressed interest in having a Touch-a-Truck Event and an orchestra event.

The Board had a general discussion about potential food vendors. The Board expressed interest in possibly having a school's sports team or a vocational-technical school fundraiser by selling food items at the movie nights. Ms. Ibarra indicated that she would discuss the possibility of a team fundraising at a movie night with the Northampton School District.

- C. Sponsors/Fundraising:** Ms. Austin questioned how the Park and Recreation Board could get sponsors. Ms. Eckhart indicated that the Park and Recreation Board could send out letters requesting sponsorship. Mr. Link indicated that there are tenants within the Township that would likely be willing to donate money for the park events. Ms. Eckhart suggested that the Park and Recreation Board send a letter to the Pet Supplies Plus warehouse in reference to donations for the dog park cameras. She explained that the Board could look into ways to give Pet Supply Plus credit for their donation.

7. **Public to be Heard:** No public comment.

8. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart