



Allen Township Park and Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes February 29th, 2024 6:00 P.M.

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Park and Recreation Board was held on Thursday, February 29th, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Municipal Building, located at 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, PA.

1. **Roll Call:**

Present: Gary Behler, Donna Teklits, Adrienne Ibarra, Louise Bugbee, Nicole Dotta, Ilene Eckhart, Manager

Absent: Paul Link, Mary Austin, Maria Bonett, Denise O'Brien

2. **Announcements and/or Actions to Add New Items to Current Agenda:** Ms. Bugbee made a motion to add the 50th Anniversary of Northampton County Parks to the current agenda; seconded by Mr. Behler. On the motion by roll call vote, all members present voted yes.
3. **Review of Minutes:** Ms. Dotta made a motion to approve the January 25, 2024 minutes; seconded by Ms. Ibarra. On the motion by roll call vote, all members present, apart from Mr. Behler who abstained, voted yes.
4. **Public to be Heard:** Mr. Kyle Sergent, a representative of the Bath Allen Youth Club, questioned if there have been any updates for the locks and keys for the Howertown Park Facility Building and Club House Office. Ms. Eckhart indicated that she would need to get back to him with an answer. Ms. Eckhart questioned the Club's election. Mr. Sergent indicated that the first nominations take place in April 2024, the second nominations take place in May 2024, and the election takes place in June 2024. Mr. Behler questioned the difference between the keys and the key fobs. Ms. Eckhart explained that the fob would allow the Club to enter the Howertown Park Facility Building while the key would allow the Club members to enter their office. Mr. Behler questioned what would happen should the power go out. Ms. Eckhart indicated that there is a battery backup.
5. **Business Items:**
 - A. **Touch-a-Truck Event:** Ms. Teklits explained that the Allen Township Fire Company would be interested in having a Touch-a-Truck Event on a Saturday in June. She indicated that June's movie night could be moved to a Saturday to accommodate the Touch-a-Truck Event and the movie, therefore creating an afternoon-to-evening event. Mr. Behler made a motion to change June's movie night to Saturday, June 29th, 2024; seconded by Ms. Bugbee. On the motion, by roll call vote, all present members voted yes.
 - B. **October Halloween Movie Reselection:** The Board generally discussed different

movies for the October Halloween Movie Night. The Board expressed interest in the 2023 Haunted Mansion movie or a Hotel Transylvania movie depending on licensing availability.

C. Sponsors/Fundraising: Ms. Teklits questioned what the Board could do for sponsorship and fundraising for the movies and for food options at the October Movie Night. Mr. Behler indicated that regarding food, the Board may wish to advertise that residents could bring their own meals.

D. Food Vendors/School Fundraising for Movie Nights (July, August, and October): Ms. Ibarra explained that there is a process for having one of the sports teams fundraise at a movie night. She explained the challenges of having a high school sports team fundraise for the events, especially in October as the kids will be back in school and will have weekend games. Ms. Ibarra felt that it may be best to have younger kids come out to fundraise than high school kids as they may have more availability. Ms. Ibarra felt that maybe groups that need fundraising and volunteer time would be a better option for fundraising at movie nights. Ms. Eckhart questioned if the Board would be interested in reaching out to the Triboro Soccer Club to see if they would be interested in fundraising. Ms. Dotta indicated that she would be willing to reach out to the Club.

E. Status of Batting Cage Updates: Ms. Eckhart indicated that the netting will be replaced and that she is in the process of obtaining pricing for the netting. She explained that she is working with Mr. Steve Hemler of General Recreation, Inc., to order the netting as well as other items for the parks.

F. Status of Dog Park Gating: Ms. Eckhart discussed placing a secondary gate on each side of the dog park that will serve as an exit to help break up the foot traffic as well as any tension between dogs at the entry points. Ms. Teklits asked if the additional gates would be inside or outside of the dog park area. Ms. Eckhart explained that on the northern side of the dog park, there is a row of trees planted between the dog park and a resident's property. She explained that the trees are filling in nicely and they serve as a buffer between the dog park and a resident's home. Ms. Eckhart indicated that there is not enough room on the side of the dog park to have the second gate point to be on the outside of the fence. Mr. Behler questioned if it was possible to keep all gate access points to the east side to keep people over on the parking lot side. The Board expressed concern about taking away space from the inside of the dog park.

The Board discussed dog park volunteers. Mr. Behler expressed concern about the safety of the volunteers. He explained that in the past the Township's Code Enforcement Officer went to the dog park to give citations out to those who were not following the rules and that he was given a hard time. Mr. Behler concluded that he feared that the volunteers could get injured or given a hard time if the Township were to have them enforce the dog park rules.

G. Covered Bridge Festival – June 2024: Ms. Teklits questioned what kind of services the Covered Bridge Association needed for the Covered Bridge Festival. Ms. Bugbee indicated that they need help with setup and cleanup. Mr. Behler suggested that the Board table the discussion for the next meeting when Ms. Austin is present.

H. 50th Anniversary of Northampton County Parks (Item Added to the Agenda): Ms. Bugbee explained that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Northampton County Parks System. Ms. Bugbee indicated that she has worked with Mr. Bryan S. Cope, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation for Northampton County, PA, who is interested in having fifty different park events this year.

She indicated that she felt that it would be a good idea to have a guided walkthrough at the Bodnarczuk Tract and have someone talk about the geology and history of the land. Ms. Bugbee indicated that the walk could take place in the late summer or early fall. She suggested that the event could be advertised as a nature walk. Ms. Teklits suggested that the Township invite Pennsylvania Game Commission Land Management Supervisor, Bill Car, to help with the walk and to discuss the land's flora and fauna. Mr. Behler indicated that the Mauser family could share the land's history.

6. Public to be Heard: No public comment.

7. Next Meetings: The next Park and Recreation Board Meeting will be Thursday, March 28th, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. (Meeting to be held at the Allen Township Municipal Building located at 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, PA).

8. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart