

ORANGE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009, 7:00PM

Meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Christian at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call:

Jennifer Christian, Park Board member
Chris Masciola, Park Board member
Len Fisher Park Board member,
Michelle Eckels, Park Board member

Also Attending: Nelson Katz, Trustee Liaison, Beth Hugh, Maintenance and Parks Director,
Robert Barbosky, Parks, Facilities and Grounds Manager, Gail Messmer, Township
Administrator, Scott Overturf, Owners' representative

Absent: Steve Aumiller, Park Board member

Minutes were taken by Renee Mensen.

Previous meeting minutes were not presented. Further submissions were to be submitted to Gail Messmer and no vote for approval was needed.

Public comment was given the floor but there were no comments offered.

MORPC Update

Len Fisher presented his MORPC Update. He had attended a meeting for the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission. He is a member of the citizen advisory board and informed the Parks Board that Orange Township had received an award for some of the things they were already doing. He wanted input from the board about joining the Green Pact that MORPC has established. He felt that it would not change very many things and that they were already somewhat participating without being official members. Concerns were raised about it causing additional expense to tax payers. Beth thought that perhaps it would not be in the best interest of the taxpayers to be obligated to such a pact. Mr. Katz also had reservations about signing such a commitment. It was unclear whether it would require additional monies to be spent and further actions to be carried out to conform to the pact (with special regard to emissions and other general concerns). Mr. Masciola was not comfortable and suggested that perhaps the township could come up with their own Green statement in the future. It was decided that for now there were too many concerns about the pact and it would not be signed. Mr. Overturf pointed out that the township was already working on grants and that membership was not necessary.

Nelson Katz presented the Trustee Notes

Mr. Katz gave a rundown of the recent activity of the Trustees, including meetings with Home Owners Associations and individual property owners. He pointed out that the Trustees do not pursue the acquisition of property; owners can come to the township and propose donation or dedication of land that meets certain criteria. Walker Woods is contemplating a donation of green space to the township for park development. The VOCHOA trail idea is progressing and paperwork is still outstanding.

OTCPB By-Laws were also discussed. Some changes that will be proposed are as follows:

- Committee Membership may no longer be restricted to residents in the unincorporated portion of Orange Township. Membership might be extended to those who have paid and will be paying the Orange Township Park Levy, if the Trustees accept the change.
- Regular Meetings were reduced from meeting a minimum of quarterly to meeting no more than quarterly with additional Special Meetings as called for by the Park Board Chair.
- Also, a quorum of three or more members is required to vote and now, required to pass resolutions rather than just a simple majority of members present.
- Task Forces no longer have the power to fill vacancies within their ranks. That duty shall be left to the Park Board Chair, with the advice of the OTCPB.

The Trustees will also consider adding the position of secretary to the park board, as was done for previous boards.

Mr. Masciola asked about the one standout property owner along the S. Old State Trail. Nelson pointed out that the trail is due to be complete in 2012 and completion date is not able to be bumped up so there was still time to work on the situation.

The Parks Board meetings being moved to quarterly raised concern because some members felt that it would require too much “catch-up” of Trustee meeting minutes at the Parks Board meetings.

Beth Hugh 2010 Projects and New Projects Report

Updates on the Lewis Center Rail Trail, Glen Oak Phase II projects and E. Orange Rd improvements.

Ms. Hugh outlined several of the upcoming projects and some of the challenges being addressed concerning their implementation, including: Kingwood Dr/23, E. Orange Rd./Lewis Center, and Alum Creek connections, as well as the connection to Westerville trail.

Ms. Hugh also reviewed the fact that the Township specifies that property owners can decide to either donate or not donate green space to the Township, but that the township determines the final design for any park based on the general needs of the township residents. Property acquisitions that involve restrictions do occur but are avoided if possible. Mr. Fisher asked if the Parks Board could be made aware of the donations that do come with restrictions.

Ms. Hugh summarized that 2010 is going to be a year that is all about the connections for the future. The township will be working on things both east and west of SR 23 so that eventually connectivity can be pursued. That would require applying for and obtaining appropriate permissions and grants.

It was pointed out that the landscape contract would be up this year, and will be put out for bid.

Mr. Masciola asked if any line items in the 2010 budget were for a Community Center.

Ms. Messmer addressed his question. She stated that there was not at this time and perhaps a separate tax levy would be talked about in the future. Nelson said there would be a tax levy for maintaining the parks on an operational level. It was mentioned that a special meeting could be established to discuss the tax levy.

Ms. Eckels suggested a slogan or tag line be chosen for all parks.

Mr. Scott Overturf – Construction Report

Owenfield – almost complete

Gooding Blvd. – almost complete

Pool – landscaping is nearly complete and a few maintenance items are being addressed

A Grant for the Abbey Knoll to Bale Kenyon trail has been received and requires that the trail be completed by 12/2010.

A Grant from Preservation Parks is also in.

More Grants have been applied for and responses not yet received

The Army Corps of Engineers were recently in the area and information is forth coming.

Discussion about next Meeting

It was decided that the next Meeting would be scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 7:00pm. Everyone was asked to bring calendars so that the rest of the regular meetings could be scheduled. The tentative meeting dates are set for:

March 17

June 16

Sept. 15

Dec. 1

Additional and special meetings as needed.

A levy meeting may need to be set for as early as January 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Board. A motion to adjourn was made. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Jennifer Christian, Chairperson

Steve Aumiller, Vice-Chairman

Len Fisher, Member

Chris Masciola, Member

Michelle Eckels, Member