

Manheim Township Parks & Recreation Board

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Weaver Road Fields Complex

March 2, 2010 - 6 PM

Meeting Location: Manheim Township Municipal Building, 1821 Municipal Drive

The public meeting of the Manheim Township Parks and Recreation Board on the subject of the Weaver Road Fields Complex was opened by Chairman Bohan at 6:01 PM. In addition to Chairman Bohan, board members present included DeSha, Krick, Laubach, Lee, McBride and Miller. Also present was Recreation Director Lewis, Commissioner Martin, Township Manager Rimer, Assistant Township Manager Molchany and Public Works Director Neff. Guest present were Richard McKenna (232 Cobblestone Lane), Kori Barto, Ray Seace, Suzanne Miller, Andy Woolley, Dominic Rice (956 Glendower Drive), Stephen Medina, Kevin Groff (2416 Raleigh Drive; did not sign guest book) and Roy Baldwin (2402 Raleigh Drive) (addresses of guests not noted in address book; public comment speakers addresses in parentheses after name).

Chairman Bohan welcomed all to the meeting and explained that there will be a presentation of the plans for the complex by Assistant Township Manager Molchany. Comments and questions will be received by the public after the presentation. Chairman Bohan asked guests to announce their name and address before speaking.

Assistant Manager Molchany, on behalf of the Manheim Township Commissioners, explained the history of sport fields needs within the Township. A Fields Needs Assessment and analysis was done approximately two (2) years ago with the cooperation of all Manheim Township Youth Sports groups (Baseball, Soccer, Football, Lacrosse). The outcome of the Needs Analysis produced that the Township is not currently (short and long term) accommodating the needs of the youth sports groups (specifically, football). The Commissioners purchased Weaver Road property approximately eight (8) months ago and the plan has moved forward since that time. Assistant Manager Molchany explained that fields needs assessment identified the need for additional football fields. The Fields Needs Assessment also identified maximizing any future land acquisition for fields that can be utilized seven days per week, twenty-four (24) hours per day, year-round. Assistant Manager Molchany briefly explained synthetic turf as alternative field cover. The plan on display is "conceptual in nature", Assistant Manager Molchany stated. Assistant Manager further explained that the site will be bid in phases and include alternates. The main proposal (Phase I) would include a three (3) field synthetic turf complex, parking, restrooms, baseball field, and two (2) soccer fields. Additional phases include little league baseball field, a basketball court, a volleyball court and a children's play area. Two of the existing buildings (bank barn and tobacco shed) on the property will remain for storage purposes. The project has been presented to the Commissioners, the Parks & Recreation Board, the Planning Commission (received recommendation and approval in February) and also to all of the Youth Sports organizations. The plan will go to the Commissioners on March 8 for their recommendation for approval. What will be built will be based on cost. The main proposal does include lighting. Director Lewis distributed an updated map (with correct location for basketball, sand volleyball and playground areas). The base bid does not include alternative amenities (little league field, basketball, volleyball, etc.). Assistant Township Manager Molchany presented the proposed alternates (conversion of soccer field to synthetic, little league baseball field, sports courts, playground area, and access to additional parking area). What is approved by the Commissioners, Assistant Manager Molchany explained, ultimately comes down to the funds that have been allocated in 2010 for this project, depending on what the prices are that come in through the bid process. Assistant Manager Molchany shared the plans for the concession area and restrooms which were received today. Assistant Manager Molchany reported on the tentative time schedule for the project: seeking Commissioners' approval March 8, bid advertisement March 12-17, bid opening April 20, Commissioner bid approval April 26, and begin construction on May 17. He also reported that the synthetic field construction will be June 21 to be completed by September 15. Total project completion (all subject to approvals and weather) by November 1, 2010. These dates are 30 days past what was originally proposed. Assistant Manager Molchany entertained any questions from the Parks and Recreation Board. Parks & Recreation Board Member Ray Lee asked Assistant Manager Molchany to address the park

pathways in relation to the main phase. Assistant Manager Molchany explained that the “loop system” is proposed to be built within Phase I. Future linkages would be included within future phases. The synthetic turf facility will be a fenced/gated facility. Parks and Recreation Chairman Jim Bohan asked how soon the grass fields would be ready to play on. Assistant Manager Molchany stated that fall of 2011 would be the earliest (weather permitting).

Public Comments:

Randy Ketchum, 212 Buckfield Drive – Asked if tentative completion date for synthetic fields of September 15 included the 30 day delay in time schedule which was referenced earlier. Assistant Manager Molchany stated that initial date was August 15 (answer yes).

Richard McKenna, 232 Cobblestone Lane – Are there any plans to widen road? Assistant Manager Molchany explained that Weaver Road will be widened along frontage and also road. He further stated that intersection of Weaver and Petersburg Roads will be signalized as a result of this project. Also questioned the impact of potential increased traffic in this area. Assistant Manager Molchany explained that he did not bring the traffic study along to the meeting and asked for name and phone number in order to call him at a later time to discuss specific traffic findings.

Assistant Manager Molchany explained that the facility will be used for youth football practices/games and other events.

Commissioner Jim Martin asked when the traffic signal will be installed (at Weaver and Petersburg Roads). Assistant Manager Molchany explained that the Traffic Development plans are currently with PennDOT (for separate review and approval) and it is anticipated that the plans will be approved during the last quarter of 2010.

Dominic Rice 1956 Glendower Drive – Representing SWARM (Youth) Rugby. Mr. Rice asked if there would be a fee schedule for use of these facilities and an opportunity for the rugby groups to use the facilities. Parks & Recreation Chairman Bohan explained that on the agenda for the Parks & Recreation Board meeting (directly following current meeting) there will be a discussion of fee schedule for the use of all Manheim Township fields (which will include the Weaver Road complex). He further explained that there is a fee schedule currently for usage, but an updated proposal to this schedule will come before the Commissioners after approval and recommendation by the Parks & Recreation Board. Chairman Bohan suggested that Mr. Rice contact Recreation Director Lewis with regard to fields access, as the Recreation Department does all of the field scheduling. Recreation Director Lewis explained the hierarchy of field usage (youth sports organizations, other groups: resident and then non-resident groups). Parks & Recreation Board member Ray Lee asked Mr. Rice what communities participate within the SWARM organization. Mr. Rice explained that in addition to Manheim Township, Warwick, Ephrata, Manheim Central and Penn Manor also stating that it was “quite widespread”. Three to four years ago Hempfield has established their own group that utilized their high school fields. Assistant Manager Molchany stated that the goal of the Township is to maximize the utilization of these fields and available times will be available for outside groups and the established hierarchy will need to be followed. Parks & Recreation Board member Ray Lee asked for clarification regarding the fields’ permanent markings on the artificial turf fields (football practice followed by soccer game on same field). Assistant Manager Molchany stated that both the football fields and soccer fields will not be utilized at the same time. Mr. Lee commented on multiple field lineage. Assistant Manager Molchany explained that there is a color coating to different sport line markings.

Kevin Groff, 2416 Raleigh Drive – Mr. Groff asked if basketball courts would be lighted. Assistant Manager Molchany stated no. Mr. Groff stated that he would prefer if these courts were not lighted, as the Township already has a problem at the Skate Park being unsupervised. The Skate Park is also less than 50 feet from the wading pool (at Overlook) and the bad language that is used in that close proximity to the young children using the wading pool, Mr. Groff stated. As there are seven (7) basketball courts

within the Township, the closest (to the Weaver Road complex) being at Community Park, Mr. Groff stated that he did not think that any more basketball courts were needed. He suggested that space could possibly be used as a “green space”. He also stated that with the situation with the Chesapeake Bay, “this would be a better use of the land”. Mr. Groff asked if the Township was going to pursue going green with regard to the parking areas and the use permeable asphalt (storm water runoff pertaining to the Chesapeake Bay). Assistant Manager Molchany explained the Township was not. Mr. Groff stated that it was in the Comprehensive Plan. Assistant Manager Molchany stated that it does not pertain to parking areas as there is a maintenance issue with permeable paving. Assistant Manager Molchany explained that permeable paving is used predominantly in the south where no salt or cinders are used, as these processes null the permeable surface. Public Works Director Neff briefly explained additional reasons why permeable paving will not be used. Parks & Recreation Board Chairman Bohan stated that the Skate Park is on the Parks & Recreation Board agenda for the spring.

Roy Baldwin, 2402 Raleigh Drive – Mr. Baldwin asked if the rain garden was explained and if it was part of the storm water. Assistant Manager Molchany stated that the rain garden was no longer needed to meet the requirements.

Parks & Recreation Board Chairman Bohan thanked all for attending the meeting and invited all to attend the Parks & Recreation Board meeting which will begin at 7 PM. Parks & Recreation Board Chairman Bohan stated that if anyone had any further construction questions to notify Assistant Manager Molchany. Any questions regarding facilities management, notify Recreation Director Lewis.

Randy Ketchum, 212 Buckfield Drive – Mr. Ketchum asked if the lights that were installed at Municipal Park (for Manheim Township Youth Football Association) will be moved to Skyline Park. Assistant Manager Molchany stated that no, they will not be moved to Skyline. Mr. Ketchum explained that he was just asking in case the lighted fields on the complex would not be opening on time (by September 15).

Public meeting ended at 6:55 PM.