

**UPPER FREDERICK TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024**

Township Attendance: Kevin Murray, Desra Keenan; Tracy Harper; Ed Goltz; Michael Frederick; Kate Hanna

Public Attendance: George Jones, Michael Downs

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Pledge to Flag

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Kevin Murray made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2024 meeting, Ed Goltz seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Michael Downes – Troop 73 Eagle Scout

Mr. Downes completed his project of building Bird Boxes at Wayland Park. He installed 10 smaller bird boxes and 10 larger boxes for larger species. He stated he had about 25 volunteers assist with the project and the Township provide resources as necessary. It took him about 6-8 hours to build the boxes and another 4-5 hours to install the boxes. These were attached to the trees using recycling straps, they will not damage the trees and should last many years. Mr. Frederick stated it was a well-planned project and Mr. Downs ran it efficiently with the volunteers.

Mr. Frederick motioned to sign and accept the project. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed – 5-0
The Parks and Recreation board thanked Michael for putting this project together.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

Old Business

Swamp Creek Stomp 2024

Mr. Murray stated he reached out to Pretzel City for recommendations on dates for the Swamp Creek Stomp. They mentioned that May 11 or 12th looks to be pretty open for races. It was decided that we should go ahead with the Swamp Creek Stomp, we can put together a volunteer list and try to obtain public participations. We will need assistance to clean up and mark the trails, will need volunteers throughout the trails and at registration. It was agreed that we may be able to get more volunteers if a signup sheet is available so that people know exactly what they are signing up for.

Playground Equipment

Township Road Crew is working on the playground. The board looked at structures that may fit in the available space. Kate will request the township staff get exact measurements and Kate will call for pricing and provide an update in March.

Community Day 2024

Community Day is scheduled for September 28, 2024. It was discussed that due to staff shortages we may have to cancel Community Day. Township Manager played a significant park in helping with planning, securing vendors and insurances. Kate will add it to the BOS Workshop Agenda for their comments

Greenway along Scioto Creek

BACKGROUND HISTORY - A property on Perkiomenville Road that includes a portion of the Scioto Creek has been approved for a farm preservation easement from Montgomery County. Once preserved under this program, there will not be an opportunity for a future trail easement along the Scioto Creek, so it has been suggested that we should try to secure a greenway/trail easement along the Scioto for a small portion of the property that could be excluded from the farmland preservation easement. The Parks Board agreed we should try to secure it and did not think the township should contribute to the funding of the farmland easement.

UPDATE – Kate looked for recent communications between the property owner and Mrs. Tackett and could not find any. Kate will try to reach out to owner.

Other Updates/Potential Projects

Tracy Harper attended the Green Lane Park master Plan Steering Committee meeting on 2-20-24. Tracy provided the following meeting highlights:

Priority projects for each region were discussed, including, but not limited to:

- Additional staff with expertise in land/water stewardship as well as creating a volunteer coordinator position.
- Trail improvements, including wayfinding signage as well as signage describing cultural/historical aspects. Some trails also need better grading to reduce chance of injury as well as to improve drainage. ADA compliant trails.
- Proposed visitors center, hopefully via funds from a donor.
- Traffic related improvements including larger and more distinct park entrance signs, additional crosswalks, some additional parking.
- Forest and meadow diversity and reduction of invasives. Also removal of dead or dying ash trees.

Emphasis was placed upon how to create excitement for the projects so as to motivate our county commissioners to approve the plan as well as to motivate potential donors.

Next and final steering committee meeting is March 12, 2024.

Public meeting #4 is March 20, 2024 (Red Hill Fire Hall) 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Upcoming Meetings

Next regular Board of Supervisor meeting: March 6 & 13, 2024 at 7 PM. Kevin Murry will plan to attend.

Adjournment: Kevin Murray motioned and Ed Goltz seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm. Motion was approved by all.