

**SALISBURY TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 21, 2013**

A regularly scheduled meeting was held on the above date at the Salisbury Township Municipal Building located at 2900 South Pike Avenue, Allentown, PA 18103. The meeting was brought to order at 7:35 PM. Committee members in attendance: Frank Adamcik, Walter Aungst, Antonella DiMatteo, Frank McCullough and Mark Wilson. Staff members in attendance: Genny Baillie, Township Recreation Director, and Randy Soriano, Township Manager.

**Annual Reorganization:**

On motion by Mr. McCullough, and seconded by Ms. DiMatteo, the Recreation Committee approved the following slate of officers for 2013: Mr. Adamcik as Chairman, Mr. Aungst as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Wilson as Secretary.

**Approval of November 2012 Minutes:**

On motion by Mr. McCullough, and seconded by Mr. Aungst, the Recreation Committee approved the November 19, 2012, meeting minutes as submitted.

**Advisor Reports & Updates:**

Frank Adamcik: No report.

Walter Aungst: Mr. Aungst reported that Laubach Park was "still a mess" from the fall storm damage, while Franko Farm Park was in "pretty good shape", and River Road Park was "fine".

Antonella DiMatteo: No report.

Frank McCullough: Mr. McCullough reported that the large tree that had fallen onto the yellow sliding board had been removed earlier in the day, although the damaged sliding board was still in place. In addition, he noted that there were still many small branches at Lindberg Park that still need to be removed.

Mark Wilson: No report.

**Staff Reports & Updates:**

Genny Baillie: Ms. Baillie reminded the Committee to attend the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners, as the Green Futures Funding topic was to be addressed and voted upon. She also noted that the approved Township budget has \$2000 allocated for recreation activities, including the Easter Egg Hunt being planned (and discussed below under new business).

Randy Soriano: Mr. Soriano discussed the structural deficit impasse that was behind the delay in approval of the Green Futures Fund, from which the Township had requested \$160K during 2013 (of the \$727K total allocated to Salisbury Township) for construction of the perimeter walking path at Lindberg Park. Mr. Soriano also reported that he had met with John Andreas regarding the budget and had requested that he focus on the clean-up and other improvements at Laubach Park, including the pavilion roof, lighting and the existing security camera. Finally, he reported that the geese management approach at Laubach Park seems to be working.

**New Business:**

SYA Storage Shed Proposal: Salisbury Youth Association (SYA) President Jeff Rothrock requested approval from this Committee to pursue construction and use of a storage shed at Franko Farm Park to house equipment for their Lehigh Valley League travel baseball teams and soccer teams that play there. Although the Franko Farm Master Site Plan had specifically excluded any such construction at the site, SYA had already placed multiple field lock boxes on an existing area of crushed stone, and their request was to build a 12' x 24' shed over this existing area so that they could consolidate their storage into one structure and thus remove the existing set of lock boxes (at their expense), and to provide additional storage capacity for some additional baseball equipment (pitching machine, electrical generator for pitching machine, practice screens, etc.) and also to house some soccer goals between the spring and fall seasons. There was considerable concern expressed by Ms. Baillie and Ms. DiMatteo of the proposal, in terms of it going against the Franko Master Plan, the requested size, its intended use or uses, and needing to inspect the site and collect more information before proceeding with a vote. Mr. Rothrock claimed that this shed would never be used for anything other than equipment storage (such as opening a concession stand as part of the structure or even storing concession stand supplies there). Mr. Wilson also expressed some concern regarding the requested size with respect to storage needs, as it would far exceed the current capacity of the lock boxes put together. Mr. Rothrock explained that the rationale for the 12' x 24' footprint was that there are large soccer goals that would require the 24' length, although it was acknowledged that it would be unlikely that

larger goals would actually be moved into that storage space for what amounts to approximately three months per year. However, Mr. Adamcik and Mr. Aungst both argued strongly that quibbling over insignificant differences in size (i.e., the proposed 12'x24' size versus smaller sizes such as 12'x12' or 12'x16') was ridiculous and that it should be passed without further question or delay, and subsequently, on motion by Mr. Aungst that this Committee recommends approval of the proposal, and seconded by Mr. McCullough, the motion passed 4-1. The next step will be for Mr. Rothrock to work for an agreement on his plan with John Andreas, and, subsequent to that agreement of specifics, present the proposal to the Township Board of Commissioners.

**HPAA Batting Cage Proposal:** Hamilton Park Athletic Association (HPAA) President Jerry Collins and Board Member Corey Goff co-presented a set of slides that outlined a proposal for constructing a pair of batting tunnels adjacent to the tennis courts at Lindberg Park. A pair of batting cages had been incorporated into the Lindberg Park Master Site Plan at the same exact location in the park, so this proposal was strictly related to getting permission to construct the cages (as specified in the plan) in time for the spring baseball season and entirely at HPAA's expense. Mr. Goff, who was formerly the head baseball coach at Muhlenberg College and is now its Director of Athletics, had already constructed a pair of batting tunnels at the college's Cedar Creek Parkway West athletic fields and planned to use a similar approach for these cages at Lindberg Park. The design would incorporate strong weather-resistant netting that would be supported by several steel poles, all of which would be removable during the winter months. Each of the tunnels would be reserved in conjunction with the existing permitting process for each of the two ballfields at the park; however, when the fields are not in use, the tunnels would be available for use by the general public. On motion by Mr. Aungst that this Committee recommends approval of the proposal, and seconded by Ms. DiMatteo, the motion passed 5-0. The next step will be for Mr. Collins and Mr. Goff to meet with John Andreas to finalize a construction plan, and, subsequent to that agreement, present the proposal to the Township Board of Commissioners.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Mr. Soriano expressed concern regarding liability coverage and potential cost if the egg hunt were to be held as previously discussed at Salisbury Middle School (or at any other School District property) and strongly recommended that this Committee instead focus on holding the event at a Township park. After some discussion, it was agreed that the event would instead be staged at Lindberg Park. As agreed upon during the November Committee meeting, the event will be held rain or shine on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 10:00AM. There will be three age groups – 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 – that will hunt for plastic eggs in separate areas of the park. All members of this Committee are expected to attend and work at the event. Ms. DiMatteo will work on securing the plastic eggs and candy for the egg hunt, and Ms. Baillie will work on registration details. A flyer with registration form will be posted on the Township website, and paper copies of this flyer will be distributed at both Harry S. Truman and Western Salisbury Elementary Schools.

**Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Adamcik and approved unanimously by the committee at 9:07PM.

**Next Meeting:**

The next regular meeting Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, March 18, 2013, 7:30PM, at the Salisbury Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark R. Wilson  
Secretary, Recreation Advisory Committee