

**SALISBURY TOWNSHIP
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2010**

A special 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 7:05 P.M. Committee members in attendance: Frank Adamcik, Walt Aungst, Frank McCullough, and Mark Wilson. Township staff in attendance: Genny Baillie, Township Recreation Director and Randy Soriano, Township Manager.

The purpose of this meeting was to develop a set of recommendations for the Township Commissioners to consider at their August 26, 2010 meeting in order to address the complaints received from Township residents regarding the large groups that have been congregating at Green Acres Park to play basketball. Please refer to the meeting minutes from the July 26, 2010 meeting for further background regarding this situation.

The committee opened up with a discussion as to why some parks have been described as being “community parks” while others are known as “neighborhood parks” and still others are known as “pocket parks.” After some discussion, the committee unanimously agreed to consistently follow the language found in Ordinance 08-2009-549, which simply calls all parks in the Township as public parks, as the entire Township pays the taxes that are applied uniformly to all of the parks, and all Township residents and other visitors, of course, can use any of these public parks in the Township.

Recommendation #1: Consistent with the language found in Ordinance 08-2009-549, all Township parks should be described as public parks, as the entire Township pays the taxes that are applied uniformly to all of the parks, and as public parks, all are open for use by all Township residents and other visitors.

The committee next reviewed the proposed sign submitted by Police Chief Allen W. Stiles. Using that submission as a starting point, the committee stepped through each paragraph in the Ordinance itself to ensure completeness and agreed to the signage listed below in Recommendation #2.

Recommendation #2: Signs with the below wording should be conspicuously posted at all entrances and other prominent areas within all Township public parks. The specific locations of placement will be determined during the committee’s next park inspections (September 14 & 16). These signs should be worded as follows:

Welcome To Our Park

Park Hours: opens half-hour after sunrise and closes half-hour after sunset.

Prohibited in all Salisbury Township Parks:

1. Disorderly Conduct
2. Alcoholic Beverages

3. Animals*
4. Littering
5. Vandalism
6. Motorized Vehicles
7. Bicycles, Roller Blades, Skate Boards
8. Open Fires
9. Golfing
10. Amplification Devices

Salisbury Township Ordinance 08-2009-549

*Note: For the signs that would be placed at Franko Farm Park, since leashed dogs are permitted there, item 3 above would be amended to read “Animals other than Properly Leashed Dogs.”

The committee next discussed the need for posting additional signage at basketball courts that reflected the new Township Open Courts Policy. The committee reviewed that policy in detail and agreed upon the following additional signage that should be conspicuously posted at all basketball courts located within Township public parks.

Recommendation #3: A sign with the below wording should be conspicuously posted at all entrances and other prominent areas within all Township public parks. The specific locations of placement will be determined during the committee’s next park inspections (September 14 & 16). The preliminary locations identified for Green Acres Park would be behind each bench and back-to-back on the fence between the upper and lower courts. These signs should be worded as follows:

Basketball - Open Court Rules:

1. Play Is Limited to One Hour or One Game If Others Are Waiting to Play.
2. Courts Must Be Yielded to Groups with Permits.
3. No Foul Language.
4. No Littering.
5. No Hanging on the Basketball Rims, Nets or Backboards.
6. Strict adherence to all Park Regulations in accordance with Salisbury Township Ordinance 08-2009-549.

The committee next discussed the increased Police presence and its effectiveness in managing the activities in and around Green Acres Park, particularly during the busy evening hours. Nevertheless, the committee agreed that a full time Police Officer should be seasonally dedicated to patrol the parks during their hours of operation to enforce all park rules as well as all traffic and parking regulations.

Recommendation #4: Establish a full-time Police Officer that would be seasonally dedicated to the patrol of all Township parks and adjacent areas to ensure consistent enforcement of all park rules as well as all traffic and parking regulations in areas surrounding the park.

The committee next discussed the concerns expressed by some residents that there are too many courts dedicated to basketball at Green Acres Park, as well as the petition that was signed by neighborhood residents calling for the removal of four of the eight basketball rims at the park. The committee agreed that, rather than doing so immediately, a usage study should be conducted next spring and summer before making any alterations to the park.

Recommendation #5: Perform a usage study of the courts between May and August 2011 to determine and re-evaluate the needs of the basketball facilities at the park.

Finally, in response to residents' concerns regarding the on-street parking situation, the committee agreed that a feasibility study of incorporating a small off-street parking area should be conducted. Such an area was installed several years ago along the north end of Laubach Park.

Recommendation #6: Perform a feasibility study for the incorporation of a small off-street parking area to alleviate the present on-street parking situation.

These recommendations will be formally submitted to the Township Commissioners for consideration at their next meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2010.

Finally, the committee agreed to a request by one member to move the September park inspections from Monday and Wednesday (13th & 15th) to Tuesday and Thursday (14th & 16th).

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