



SPRING GARDEN TOWNSHIP

558 SOUTH OGONTZ STREET
YORK, PA 17403-5709
PHONE NUMBER: 717.848.2858

MINUTES OF THE SPRING GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 29, 2019

PERSONS PRESENT:

Thomas I. Warman, President
Michael L. Thomas, Vice-President
Cara Beth Zortman, Commissioner
John J. Luciani, Commissioner
Daniel E. Rooney, Commissioner (by phone)
Marcy L. Krum-Tinsley, Township Manager
George J. Swartz, Chief of Police

There were 25 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Spring Garden Township Board of Commissioners opened its special meeting at the Township Municipal Building, 340 Tri Hill Road, York PA 17403, on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 7:10pm by President Commissioner Thomas Warman.

BUSINESS:

President Warman announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters on this day from 6:35 to 7:00pm; no decisions were made.

President Warman introduced the purpose of the meeting being to review the three proposed recreation concepts for the future administrative and police facility at the Tri Hill Road property. President Warman further presented to the Board of Commissioners (the Board) the Draft Recreation Commission meeting minutes from their August 21, 2018 special meeting. The Recreation Commission unanimously passed a motion recommending the neighborhood park concept with a splash pad with the condition that a section of the Mount Rose property be dedicated in a long-term plan to serve general recreation purposes.

Ann Yost of YSM (Landscape Architects) presented to the Board the three recreation concepts; discussion occurred for each of the recreation concepts.

The property was originally purchased in the 1970's; the purchase was supplemented with funding from DCNR for the acquisition of community space. The existing site plan shows an area outlined in red which was for the police department. The area outside the red outline is to remain accessible for community space.

- Concept 1: proposed as drawn with a U10 flat field, pavilion, tot lot and youth playgrounds, and basketball court located in the western portion of the property.

The playgrounds are segregated by age groups according to the consumer product safety guidelines that indicate there is a standard of care to segregate the age groups based on ability and strength.





SPRING GARDEN TOWNSHIP

558 SOUTH OGONTZ STREET
YORK, PA 17403-5709
PHONE NUMBER: 717.848.2858

Flat field sports are being accommodated elsewhere and sports teams are not necessarily seeking out Spring Garden Township for flat fields.

- Concept 2: proposed as drawn with a baseball field (50' from home plate to mound and 70' baselines), basketball court, playground, and pavilion.

This is a tight configuration that does not necessarily fit within the lot. A baseball field would require excessive grading, backstops, and fenced outfield (which would limit the size of the outfield). The orientation is not optimal.

Baseball fields typically get a 10-week use (other uses are generally regulated by the weather).

Commissioner Thomas stated he attended the Recreation Commission meeting on August 21, 2018. Baseball has a long history in Spring Garden Township but serves a small portion of the community. Approximately 50 children play in Spring Garden Township in a formalized league. However, the Township hates to lose the field, but the Recreation Commission reviewed focusing and investing in Custis and Elmwood fields. What would serve the community best and serve the largest numbers, passive and active recreation types, the Recreation Commission motions to recommend Concept 3 (Neighborhood/Community Park). Spring Garden Township should continue to apply for grants to support the investment in its other parks.

Commissioner Luciani asked if the Spring Garden Township's current fields can accommodate different fields (age groups). If not, he suggested Spring Garden Township consider another location for a larger field.

- Concept 3: neighborhood/community park concept is proposed as drawn with a large oval creating a great lawn which could be used for a U8 or U10 field, tot lot and youth playgrounds, splash pad, small family style restroom, walking trail, pavilion, and basketball court.

As proposed this concept serves the most people and a diversity of needs.
This concept provides more area for stormwater control.

Commissioner Rooney indicated Spring Garden Township should go back to the community since the recreation concepts are a major change and that Spring Garden Township should look at other building options (such as a D2-a, a two-story building to free-up area for other recreation opportunities).

Commissioner Luciani stated that a two-story building will be 20 feet below the existing homes and will not look into the back of the residences. He stated the administrative office has been pushed further to the back side of the side since the first concept was introduced. It should be moved closer to the street.

Motion (Luciani/Zortman) to consider an alternate design that accommodates the 70' baseline baseball field and consolidates the administrative office and police department into a multi-story scheme.
Vote: 2-3, motion failed.





SPRING GARDEN TOWNSHIP

558 SOUTH OGONTZ STREET
YORK, PA 17403-5709
PHONE NUMBER: 717.848.2858

Discussion included being considerate to what the residences would view with a new building viewed from their backyards, cost to redesign the building with the purpose to create a larger recreation footprint, setback issues for the location of the building causing a tight design for recreation. Commissioners Luciani and Rooney voted in favor of the motion whereas President Warman and Commissioners Thomas and Zortman voted against motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dan McGarry, 1716 Crescent Road, stated that the baseball fields are heavily used and that Spring Garden Township should not do away with baseball. He provided the opinion that the Board has provided a fictitious promise to develop Mount Rose Avenue.

Stu Leppo, 540 South Yale Street, indicated there is a recreation concept called convertible baseball fields, that he preferred the two-story building, was negative toward the splash pad idea, and had concerns over the amount of parking needed for a splash pad. He suggested well-lit walking paths be associated with this project. He further stated that the concept of a baseball field is also important for adult ball games.

Sean Clark, 148 Highland Road, indicated that he wants what is applicable to the community and suggested that the recreation concept go back to the community for consideration.

Shannon California, 701 Hoffman Road, stated that a two-story building would not waste space, that soccer fields are necessary, that a splash pad is not a good idea, and that basketball courts are important.

John Porter, 144 Highland Road, stated that the Board should relook at the two-story option, that fields need to be looked at to be constructed in the township, and that the D2 plan that was voted on previously was inaccurate and that the Board should return to revisit the plan.

Victor and Laurel Sciukas, 377 Randolph Drive, indicated that they do not care for the two-story building because it will be seen from their living space and there is no room for expansion on the site.

Rebecca Deal, 373 Randolph Drive, implied opposition to a two-story building and felt her property value would decrease with the construction of a new office building.

Sara Hunt, 1430 Bee Tree Road, stated that the Board should consider lacrosse and soccer fields and that basketball courts should be kept on the site.

Mitchell Grossman, 363 Tri Hill Road, suggested that the condos across the street from Tri Hill be power washed after construction is complete.

BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Motion (Thomas/Rooney) to consider the recreation option that presents the community park recreation approach with the understanding further consideration will be had to replace the aging township facilities, and, that within 12 months a site suitable for a 70' baseball field shall be identified within the township.

Vote: 5-0, motion carried.





SPRING GARDEN TOWNSHIP

558 SOUTH OGONTZ STREET
YORK, PA 17403-5709
PHONE NUMBER: 717.848.2858

Discussion: Amenities for the proposed recreation concept need to be discussed with the public at a later date.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Motion (Luciani/Zortman) to pass Resolution 2018-13 amending the Civil Service Regulations regarding section 5.4 pertaining to a passing score of 70% on written promotional exams.

Vote: 5-0, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Luciani/Thomas) to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Vote: 5-0, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy L. Krum-Tinsley
Township Manager/Secretary

