

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
April 6, 2022 6:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER by Council President Mary K. Mattocks at 6:00 PM

MEETING ATTENDANCE / ROLL CALL

X if present	Council Member Name	X if present	Council Member Name	X if present	Other Name
X	Mattocks, Mary Kay	Absent	Bonner, Timothy (Solicitor)	X	Oakes, Vance (Boro Manager)
Absent	Morley, Shawn	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Boro Secretary)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	Absent	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
Absent	Henry, James	Absent	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
Absent	Gallagher, Amy	Absent	Oakes, Alex (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	Absent	Messer, Colin (Jr. Council)		

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- No citizens requested to be heard.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- None

Discuss 2022 Memorial Park Pool Policies

- Ms. Karen Wendelschaefer, Grove City YMCA, was present and discussed her proposed changes for 2022. Ms. Wendelschaefer requested that the rules from 2021 remain the same and that the prices for daily passes be increased from \$4 to \$5 and that family passes increase from \$80 to \$90. These price increases would be in line with the pool pricing in 2019 prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Councilwoman Mattocks asked Ms. Wendelschaefer about keeping the pool open longer in the season. Ms. Wendelschaefer responded that she couldn't do that due to staffing issues. She explained that she may be able to stay open an extra week and a half or so as her high school lifeguards may be available. Councilwoman Mattocks thanked Ms. Wendelschaefer for that as she stated that the Borough received complaints last year that the pool was closed too early in the season. Councilwoman Mattocks asked Ms. Wendelschaefer about the weather policy for this year. Ms. Mattocks explained that last year the Borough received complaints that the pool would close if there was any rain and then would not reopen if the weather improved. Ms. Wendelschaefer said that this year they are committed to staying open unless it looks like the whole day will be rained out.
- Councilwoman Mattocks informed Ms. Wendelschaefer that the Borough has been in talks with Chik-Fil-A regarding a food truck one night a week and asked if Ms. Wendelschaefer would be willing to stay open late one night a week. Ms. Wendelschaefer mentioned that she would be willing. Mr. Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, explained that if Chik-Fil-A does not work out that the Borough would be alright with the YMCA arranging for a food truck or different food trucks each week and working out an arrangement with the food truck owner to keep some of the profits as a fundraiser for the YMCA.
- Councilman Jaillet asked Ms. Wendelschaefer if she was expecting the Borough to cover any losses that the YMCA incurs from the operation of the pool. Ms. Wendelschaefer confirmed that was the expectation and that she could get weekly reports to Mr. Oakes regarding the revenue and costs. Councilman Myers inquired if \$5 was enough to cover costs. Ms. Wendelschaefer confirmed that she thought the pricing was adequate to cover the costs.

- Councilman Morley inquired if Ms. Wendelschaefer could consider staying open later a few times each week. He explained that many people get off work late and are not able to make it to the pool by 6PM. Ms. Wendelschaefer confirmed that they could be open later a few days a week and then tweak it as the season goes on to see how it works.

Discuss Grove City Youth Soccer Association and Grove City Christian Academy 2022 Lease Agreements

- Jamie Stucco, Grove City Youth Soccer Association, was present and spoke on behalf of the organization. Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Stucco if he could first identify the number of fields that were present at the Soccer Fields as Solicitor Bonner needed that information for the lease agreement. Using a Google Earth View that was projected onto the presentation screen, Mr. Stucco highlighted the fields for Borough Council. Mr. Stucco further detailed that the shed that was present on the property would be demolished and that additional parking would be added in the area that runs parallel with North Liberty Road. Mr. Stucco detailed the thousands of dollars in improvements that the Association has made at the field including drainage, field maintenance, mowing and the future plans for the concession stand/bathroom project. Mr. Stucco showed where the location of this structure would be and estimated that the cost would be about \$200,000, with the Borough donating the utility connections for this building. Mr. Stucco asked how with the continued growth of the Association that they could coexist in this space with the Grove City Christian Academy. Mr. Oakes explained that with other sports organizations that share fields, the lease agreements create a hierarchy that includes priority for scheduling and requires maintenance activities to be completed by each organization. Mr. Stucco explained that he does not think there is room for the academy given the number of games and practices that his organization has. He also detailed that it costs the association anywhere between \$1900-\$3500 to maintain each field. He has recommended to the Christian Academy that they join the Grove City Youth Soccer Association as a team. Mr. Stucco explained that the High School has taken this approach and their players who play outside of the High School season are members of the Association.
- Councilman Jaillet clarified with Mr. Stucco that all High School players play under the club and that the High School does not use the fields at all separately as its own organization. Mr. Stucco confirmed that was the case and said that the association has been working cooperatively with the High School to make this work.
- Councilman Jaillet asked the Christian Academy to explain their request and how they planned to use the fields. Ms. Megan Nash, Grove City Christian Academy, explained that they planned to use the fields only for practice and their season was from August to the end of October. Their practices would occur from 3-5:30PM, which would not conflict with the Soccer Association use. Ms. Nash stated that the academy has volunteers that can provide maintenance services and they have their own equipment. Mr. Stucco stated that the Soccer Association maintains the fields all year long even if they are not playing games. He also explained that the Soccer Association has committed thousands of dollars of improvements and is concerned about an equitable distribution of both maintenance and the cost of improvements. Councilman Jaillet asked the Christian Academy how many teams they had. Ms. Nash responded that they have two teams with about 26 kids in total. Ms. Nash explained that they would be willing to put in the time to keep up with maintenance responsibilities. Councilman Jaillet suggested that the Christian Academy establish some sort of fund to help pay for improvements. Councilman Jaillet explained that he did not want to tax the Christian Academy as he understood that they were a small organization, but he wanted to make sure that it was fair between the two organizations.
- Mr. Stucco again suggested that it may be best for the Christian Academy to join the Association, especially from a cost perspective. Ms. Nash explained that the Christian Academy wanted to remain independent as they did not agree with the COVID-19 rules that the Soccer Association was required to implement as a part of their membership with the Pennsylvania West Soccer Association. Ms. Nash asked Mr. Stucco if they joined the Soccer Association would they still have the same maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Stucco stated that they would not, the Association works on a volunteer basis and that parents could volunteer to help with maintenance, but were not required to.
- Mr. Oakes repeated that the Borough would be looking to establish a scheduling priority in each organization's lease agreement and then require that the organizations are responsible for maintenance. He further explained that the Borough did not want to pick a winner or a loser, but wanted to work out a solution that would allow

both organizations to coexist. Mr. Stucco stated that they could find a way to work with the Christian Academy. Mr. Vance Oakes suggested that the two organizations sit down and negotiate a maintenance contract. Mr. Stucco confirmed that would be alright with the Soccer Association and Ms. Nash confirmed that the Grove City Christian Academy would sit down with them. Mr. Stucco explained that he would also discuss the opportunity to join the Soccer Association with the Christian Academy as well.

- Councilman Myers asked if Council could move forward with the Soccer Association's lease with this understanding. Mr. Oakes confirmed that they could. He explained that they could have a lease ready by the April Council Meeting and Council would provide the Association with priority for scheduling. Mr. Stucco asked what the term of the lease would be. Mr. Oakes stated that it would be a one-year lease that could be renewed each year. Mr. Oakes explained that Council prefers to do this to facilitate a yearly update. Mr. Stucco explained that the Association had reviewed a sample lease from another organization and had a few tweaks that they wanted the Borough to consider in the drafting of the lease. First, the Association is a 501 (C) (3) Non-Profit. Second, they would be using the field 7 days a week. Third, they would want to use the fields from March 1st to November 31st. Fourth, their insurance is currently through Pennsylvania West Soccer Association and they need to discuss adding the Borough as an additional insured. Mr. Oakes stated that the Grove City Girls Fast Pitch Softball League has insurance through a larger organization and they did not have any issues with adding the Borough, so PA West may be familiar with the process. Mr. Stucco thanked the Borough for all of their help thus far. Mr. Oakes asked the Christian Academy to sit down with the Soccer Association prior to the Borough's April 18th meeting and provide the Borough with a response with the result of their negotiations.

Discuss 2022 Grass Volleyball Events at Hunter Farm Park

- Ms. Jennifer Shelley, Grove City High School Volleyball Coach, expressed her desire to hold a grand opening of the new grass volleyball courts on 4/29/22. Ms. Shelley wants to introduce the community to the new courts. Ms. Shelley stated that she wants to name the courts after the donors or something the community will be familiar with. Mayor Riddle stated that he would reach out to the primary anonymous donor and see if he would be willing to release his identity so that the court could be named after him. Ms. Shelley inquired about having high school fundraisers out at the courts. Mr. Oakes stated that they could, but they would need to obtain an event insurance policy to hold these events. Mr. Taylor Pokrant, Borough Secretary/Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer, stated that Ms. Shelley would also need to fill out a special event request form and receive Council's approval.
- Ms. Shelley inquired about having a lockbox placed at the courts for the boundary lines that were purchased. Mr. Oakes inquired about the size and Ms. Shelley stated that it would need to be about the size of a toolbox. Councilman DiStasi suggested that instead of a lockbox that the High School just keep the boundary lines and if another organization requests to use them that they could get them from the High School. The rest of Council expressed their consensus to this proposal and no member objected.
- Councilman Myers expressed his desire that for the grand opening event that Ms. Shelley have her attendees park in the gravel lot at Hunter Farm Park and reserve the paved parking for walkers/bikers. Ms. Shelley confirmed that she would do that.

Discuss Memorial Park Basketball Lights

- Councilwoman Mattocks stated that she has been in touch with Pat Kavanagh regarding his donation to improve the basketball courts at Memorial Park. Mr. Kavanagh has committed to a donation of at least \$25,000 to improve the courts and Councilwoman Mattocks has expressed to Mr. Kavanagh that the priority would be lights for the basketball courts. Councilwoman Mattocks stated that Mr. Oakes had Mr. Jeff Badger, Electrical Department Supervisor, obtain a quote for the lights and the total material cost will be \$32,700. The Borough will be providing the labor to install the lights. Councilwoman Mattocks has reached out to Mr. Kavanagh to see if he would be willing to fund that entire project and is waiting to hear back from him. Councilwoman Mattocks hopes to have an update for Regular Meeting on April 18th.

Consider Resolution 2022-09 Adopting the 2022 Mercer County Joint Seal Coat Bid Program and Appointing Barry Spiker as the Borough's Delegate

- Mr. Oakes explained that this resolution would appoint Barry Spiker to be present at the County Seal Coat Bid Opening and would allow him to accept the bid or reject the bid on behalf of the Borough of Grove City.

➤ **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to adopt Resolution 2022-09. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Consider Event Request: Pittsburgh Flying Disc Association Disc Golf Tournament to be held at Hunter Farm Park from June 18-19th of 2022

- Mr. Pokrant explained that he had been in touch with the Pittsburgh Flying Disc Golf Association regarding this event. The Association plans to close the volleyball courts and post signs near the walking trails warning pedestrians of flying discs. Mr. Pokrant explained that Association is aware of the insurance requirements and is working on submitting a certificate of insurance. Mr. Pokrant recommended that the event be approved contingent upon receipt of this insurance certificate. Councilman Myers expressed his desire that they park in the gravel lot for this event to leave the paved area open for people using the walking trails and playground.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve the Pittsburgh Flying Disc Association Event Request contingent upon receipt of a certificate of insurance and use of the gravel lot at Hunter Farm Park for parking. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Discuss Metal Detector Use/Digging in Municipal Parks

- Councilman Jaillet explained that he had received complaints regarding individuals using metal detectors in Memorial Park. These individuals are digging with shovels to find items. He is concerned that holes could be left and present a tripping hazard. Mr. Oakes stated that the rules for metal detector use in state parks was attached in Council’s board packet and that if Council wanted to take action that he could draft a resolution that mirrored these restrictions. Councilman Hodge expressed his support for a resolution that mirrored these guidelines. Mr. Oakes confirmed that he would draft this resolution and have it ready for the Regular Meeting on April 18th.

Other Business

- Mr. Oakes explained to Council that there were a few pending issues that Council needed to meet and discuss. Mr. Oakes detailed that they needed to meet to discuss the Volunteer Fire Department live-in proposal and they needed to meet to discuss field upgrades at the Softball Fields at Memorial Park. Council expressed their desire to meet at 6PM on April 18th prior to the regular meeting to discuss both items.
- Councilwoman Mattocks detailed to Council that she attended a meeting earlier that day with Mr. Oakes that was hosted by Representative Tim Bonner to discuss his proposed landfill legislation. Representative Bonner’s landfill legislation would ban a landfill within 3 miles of a population center that had greater than one thousand people per square mile. CESERA and Liberty Township were present at the meeting and asked for financial support for the landfill appeal from the Borough of Grove City, questioning why the Borough had insisted on waiting until Pine Township’s appeal status was known. Councilwoman Mattocks further explained that Pine Township has been granted intervenor status in the appeal, but are not a direct appellant. Councilwoman Mattocks explained that until the Borough was able to meet with Attorney Valentine, the attorney for Liberty Township, Pine Township and CESERA in the landfill appeal, the Borough was not taking any action. Liberty Township, Pine Township and CESERA expressed that they have had trouble contacting Attorney Valentine and suggested that he be reached by email. CESERA expressed that if Attorney Valentine does meet with the Borough of Grove City that it be done via video conference to avoid costs for travel. Councilman Mattocks further explained that despite these conversations, the primary focus of the meeting was to discuss Representative Bonner’s proposed legislation. Representative Bonner is working on organizing experts to testify on behalf of his bill. These include a recognized urban planner, a real estate broker and an environmental specialist from Duquesne University.

NEWS MEDIA

- None

ADJOURNMENT

- President Mattocks adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:56PM

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor G. Pokrant
Borough Secretary