

**Franklin Township
Open Space Advisory Committee
September 15, 2009 Minutes**

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:31 PM. Present (P) were the following members:

Melba Battin-P
Phyllis Beals
Ted Chase
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Kenneth W Daly
Mark Healey
Randy Jones-P
Vandana Khurana
Robert LaCorte-P

John Moon-P
Mike Orsini-P
Alice Osipowitz-P
Bob Puskas-P
Arnold Schmidt-P
David Triggs-P
Rich Torraca

Also present was Councilman Vassanella.

2. Approval of June 16, 2009 minutes. Puskas moved and LaCorte seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2009 meeting. One minor correction was made and then the motion carried.
3. Financial Report. The financial report was reviewed. There is \$17,008,042.83 in the trust fund. Puskas moved and LaCorte seconded to approve the financial report. Motion carried.
4. Presentation by Alice Osipowitz regarding recreation needs and review of a “benchmark” study. Osipowitz reviewed a benchmark study that compares Franklin Township’ to numerous other towns *vis-à-vis* recreation spending and recreation facilities. In many areas, Franklin lags behind other towns. After this presentation, representatives of numerous sports groups in the township spoke: Scott Luvwigen spoke of the need for more soccer fields.
 - Keith Stewart spoke of the need for more Pop Warner fields.
 - Armando Diana spoke of the need for more Little League fields and lighting for fields.
 - Baraht Patel spoke of the need for more cricket fields.
5. 1st opening of meeting to the public. Connolly moved and Battin seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
 - John Herrling spoke of the need for “historic village” signage, similar to what was recently erected for the Middlebush Historic District, for the East Millstone Historic District. (Jones suggested that they might want to apply to the OSAC’s historic grant program. LaCorte

suggested that the Historic Preservation Commission may have money in the HPC budget for this.)

- Phil Kramer supported the E. Millstone Village request.
- Janet Tracy had a question regarding the OSAC's Historic grant program.
- Tom Malone spoke of the need for the township to move aggressively on getting more active recreational fields as "our kids need it."
- Ron Consiglio asked why the Catalpa property has not been developed. (Orsini and Jones responded.
- Nancy Sayre stated that adults need fields, too.
- Phil Kramer suggested that there is a need for a "grand plan" and perhaps an ad hoc committee to evaluate recreational needs.

The public portion was then closed.

6. Discussion of the Phil Marden preserve proposed site plan. Loos reported on a meeting with the Land Use Committee and stated that there would be a public hearing scheduled later this fall.
7. Review of Consultant's work log. The work log was reviewed. Schmidt commented on how difficult they are to read.
8. Open space trust fund budget changes
 - i. Addition of \$75,000 for the pedestrian bridge over Ten Mile Run stream
 - ii. Addition of \$15,000 for the Pleasant Plains one-room schoolhouse
 - iii. Elimination of \$5,000 from budget item "Salaries-full time"

Puskas moved and Connolly seconded a motion to approve these changes. Motion carried.

9. New Business.

- a. Schmidt reported discussing the possibility of holding OSAC meetings at one or more of the Meadows Foundation houses.
 - b. Loos reported that the township has been awarded \$750,000 in a PIG grant—pending approval of the township's PIG grant application.
10. 2nd opening of meeting to the public. Puskas moved and Connolly seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
 - Phil Kramer clarified previous remarks and again suggested the need for a "unified document" that pulls together recreation needs, historic preservation needs, trail needs, open space and farm preservation needs.

Connolly moved and Puskas seconded a motion to close to public. Motion carried.

11. Executive Session. Connolly moved and Orsini seconded a motion to go into Ex. Session to discuss property purchase negotiations.
12. Adjournment. At 10:40 PM, the committee adjourned.