

Recommendations for moving forward

PRC Commissioners,

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the PRC meeting last night, sometimes my day job duties call.

I very much agree with Reg Brown and Cam Maninno that the PRC is at a crossroads, but I'm going to advocate that the PRC go the opposite route from what they advocated for. Those two spoke at length during the public comments section to goad and encourage the PRC to enter into what can be expected to be a lengthy, expensive, and in my opinion an ultimately unsuccessful legal battle.

Like them, I support your role and mission and more than anything want you to be successful. Ultimately, as I've made very clear publicly, I believe the Fox land (or whatever you want to call it), was mismanaged. The communication with residents was awful, the actions permanent, the oversight nonexistent, and the response dismissive. The BOT meeting was the first time any of us heard an actual apology for those issues.

The BOT intervened not out of some sinister plot, or an interest in managing parks, but rather to try and provide better communication and interaction with the residents and provide an additional layer of oversight for major proposed changes.

So the fork at the road is that you as an elected body can continue to dig your heels in, deny wrongdoing, and try to fight a legal battle. Or, you can look objectively at the situation, take some accountability and ownership, and work in all regards to improve. Township residents want and deserve improvement and action, not legal waste or stalemate.

Continued finger pointing, blame placing and thinking it's always the other person's fault are not techniques of successful individuals or organizations. One of my favorite books is Extreme Ownership. If you haven't read it, I suggest you do. The primary lesson it teaches is that all things in life and work can be improved by accepting failures as your own, and working to resolve them constructively.

Resistance is met with resistance and cooperation is met with cooperation. Start afresh with the BOT. They will rely on your expertise. Wow them with your responsiveness, ability to provide information, and complete tasks.

Improve your management and supervision. Continue to improve your communication. Work more closely with the residents and BOT. Talk with residents, not at them.

I have no doubt that if this route is embraced, the township, the parks, and the residents will see major positive results.

I also predict in very short order the relationship between the BOT and Parks will improve dramatically and BOT will be less compelled to be involved in the direct management of natural areas and will happily relinquish responsibility back to the PRC.

Drew D. Moore, M.D.