

Observations Regarding Recent Board and Parks Meetings

After attending the Board Meeting last Tuesday, April 12 and watching the Parks meeting on Wednesday, April 13th my original observations that I shared with the Board via email and posted on both Mr. Yager's and Mr. Michalsky's blogs still stand.

The Board wants to continue to have Parks maintain the Land Preservation property, Fox Nature Preserve, but via the Resolution, at their Tuesday meeting, any major development shall be presented to them for review and approval.

Parks Commission needs to exercise the direction of the resolution and for Land Management and Stewardship it is obvious the Board is asking for a halt and review. That might be a slide presentation by someone from Parks at a Board meeting to answer both Board and resident questions. Please note, I don't believe this is the presentation of Parks' April 7th meeting. The object is how to slow the development down and how to mitigate, if possible, what has already been done. This may not be possible but if not explain why. A proposal perhaps to plan development over several years in stages with Board and resident input is what is needed and I believe requested of the Parks Commission. Please remember, this may ultimately be what Parks is looking for but the immediate goal here is a much slower approach.

As far as the joint meeting that Parks is clamoring for again, I say please follow my and Mr. Zale's advice and go to the July 15, 2013 meeting on the Township website. As Mr. Zale said 99% of all concerns were resolved. I also ask that Parks review the letter to Mr. Choi from Mr. Kline on June 24, 2020 regarding the position of the Township.

So, there is nothing new. The questions are the same and the answers are the same. There is no need for a meeting.

I thank the Board for finally stepping in after two months and many resident complaints. What was to be prep work for opening actually included wholesale clearing and tree killing and was perhaps not necessary at this time. Especially, without resident and Board review and input.

Now, having participated at the Board meeting and watched the Parks meeting, there are a few things to note.

As I said from the podium in my truncated Public Comment 1 & 2, although Parks does great work, they are not perfect when it comes to attitude. I pointed out a few of my experiences. But I have been around for several years to experience the mild degree of arrogance and subtle condescension. Current and former Township Managers from Kline to Stuart, to Brown have had similar experiences with Parks. So, it was interesting to hear at the Board meeting from Mr. and Mrs. Moore and from the more recent Dr. Moore's letter to the PRC that they observe and have felt a similar tone and attitude. They are new to the township, just purchased their home on Clam Lake in the Fox Nature Preserve. They have skin in the game. They are observing Parks actions and public interactions with fresh eyes.

I want to say I fully support Mr. Moore's positions and recommendations in his letter to the PRC.

I want to say as well that I have great respect for Ms. Cam Maninno and Mr. Reg Brown now and always. However, I ask them to review the July 15, 2013 meeting. Perhaps, then, they too will agree with Mr. Zale and myself.

For Mr. Reg Brown I think the difference between "goadng." and "recommending" is in the eye of the beholder. The point of the request ends up being the same. For Ms. Maninno I can assure you that the PRC is getting legal advice.

It seems there has been some headway with Parks based on their meeting of Wednesday, April 13th. Now, it is important to note that Ms. Dale did receive via a phone call approval for not one but two ninety-day extensions if needed. Wonderful.

Parks is developing a Gantt Chart or the like, for all points to consider for opening the Park and beyond and is going to share it with all PRC members, The Board, and Mr. Kline almost immediately.

Parks is an elected body it is true and manages Township Parks via their annual budgetary expenses supported by a Parks Millage. A budget that is approved for "necessary and reasonable" expenses by the Board of Trustees.

The Board does not want to control the Parks Commission and they have over the years continually made that point. Now, even as they are exercising some oversight on the separate Land Preservation Fund, they are not interested in micro-managing.

It should be understood, the Board is the only legislative body in the township. They are responsible for all Parks and employees and the legal

ramifications rising out of these responsibilities. Therefore, I think Parks might well understand that the two bodies are not equal in authority.

Nevertheless, I don't believe any member of this Board or previous Boards wants to approve something that has not been first reviewed by the Parks Commission. They are the experts and have access to consultants as needed. Once the Parks Commission all agree on a proposal then it should come to the Board for their review and agreement. Again, this is why there should be no joint meeting on Parks business. Some at Parks may think it a good idea but it will cloud the independence of both bodies. It is not like the joint meetings held between Parks and Trailways. You will note Parks had to present even those agreements to the Board of Trustees for final approval. Just follow the process. It will work.

I would ask the Parks Commission and also the Board, if they have already received Mr. Moore's letter, otherwise I am attaching it from Mr. Yager's blog, to read it. Then, read it again. Read it slowly and let his thoughts sink in. He makes excellent points and has a great perspective and honorable goal.

I am happy the Moore's moved to our Township. We should all take his thoughts to heart.

Frank Ferriolo

(former: Oakland Township Trustee and Trailways Commissioner)

I LIVE IN OAKLAND TOWNSHIP, I'M HALFWAY TO HEAVEN AND THERE IS
NO RUSH!

Frank Ferriolo

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