

The stated meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on October 4, 2017 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Vice Chairman Commissioner Bowman presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners BOWMAN, SCHREIBER, KALINOSKI

Excused: SPIEGELMAN, ROTHMAN

Township Manager MANFREDI

Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER

Township Solicitor CLARKE

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, MYERS, SANCHEZ, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE

MINUTES: Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017 Public Affairs Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

Mr. Frans Griet field naming request for Roslyn Park Soccer Field

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to consider approving Mr. Frans Griet field naming request for Roslyn Park Soccer Field. It is the hope that this request will be approved as it has the support of Commissioner Thomas Bowman, Parks and Recreation Director Andrew Oles, over 800 former players, and past and current residents of the Roslyn Community. This request was brought forward by Roslyn Boys & Girls Club.

Commissioner Bowman called on Mr. Mark Penecale, Planning & Zoning Official.

Mr. Penecale said he is here to speak as a resident and not as an employee. This is the first application before the Board under the new naming policy in which there are criteria that includes the individual's contribution to the community. He provided Mr. Griet's soccer coach biography outlining the timeline over the years of Mr. Griet's commitment and contribution to the community. Petition was sent out accumulating just over 800 signatures in support of the Mr. Frans Griet field naming request. There is zero fiscal impact to the Township; however, we are requesting that a standard naming plaque that would read, "Frans Griet Memorial Soccer Field." Also, this request meets all criteria of the naming rights policy approved by the Board.

Commissioner Bowman commented that he supports this motion in honor of Mr. Griet. He asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Sanchez commented that Mr. Penecale put together a compelling case and he enjoyed reading about the “Secret to Frans’ Success.”

Commissioner Bowman asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any general comments relating to Public Affairs.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels the “public speaking rules are not being adhered to,” and she asked for the rules to be posted online.

Commissioner Bowman replied that the Board is only required to permit citizens to come forward to express any concerns and petition the Board with any grievances, but there is no requirement for the Board to respond instantly to those grievances or questions or necessarily agree with Ms. Lehmann’s generalized points.

Solicitor Clarke advised that one of the speaking rules is that, “Upon completion of comments, all speakers will be asked to be seated, at that time, the Committee Director, other committee members or other staff members may address the speaker’s comments.” The rules also say that, “debate will be discontinued.”

ADJOURNMENT: 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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