

MINUTES

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

January 23, 2008

The following were in ATTENDANCE:

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

Scott Duncanson
Susan Parry
Robert Pelles
Greg Mahon
Richard Grove

Donna Paul, Township Representative
H. Edward Black, Liaison
Thomas Vernau, Manager
Danna Lutes, Administrative Secretary
Trudy Metzel, Recording Secretary

Mr. Duncanson called the Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Kaiser was absent with excuse.

SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Lutes administered the Oath of Office to the Recreation and Parks Board Members.

Ms. Parry requested the current Board Roster. Mr. Duncanson advised that currently there are six members: Bob Pelles, Susan Parry, Scott Duncanson, Greg Mahon, Jim Kaiser as well as a new member, Richard Grove. Mr. Duncanson further advised that two members left the Board in December, there is only one vacancy. Sandy Haskins left the Board but will chair the Gardeners Gathering. Bob Edwards will be a member of the Sewer Authority. Mr. Grove is the newest member of the Board.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman: Ms. Parry nominated Scott Duncanson as Chairman of the Recreation and Parks Board. Mr. Pelles seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman: Ms Parry nominated James Kaiser as Vice-Chairman of the Recreation and Parks Board. Mr. Mahon seconded the motion.

Secretary: Mr. Pelles nominated Greg Mahon as Secretary of the Recreation and Parks Board. Ms. Parry seconded the motion.

Mr. Mahon moved to close all nominations. By a 4-0 vote, Scott Duncanson was elected Chairman, Mr. Kaiser was elected Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Mahon was elected Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Park of the Month – Wass Park

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that he spoke with a representative from the West Shore Teener Baseball Association. The Association is very pleased with the improvements made to Yetter Field at Wass Park. They have been so pleased with the improvements that they have taken some of the specifications and information put in place for Wass Park and presented to the Athletic Director and baseball coach at Cedar Cliff to determine if the West Shore School District would consider making similar improvements with fencing, etc.

LIAISON REPORT

Commissioner Black advised the Board that he had nothing specific but would like to have comments from the Board regarding the skate park study.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF REPORT

Activities

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that she is submitting donation letters to local businesses for the Easter Egg Hunt. The boy scouts will probably again be stuffing the eggs and putting together goodie bags. Due to Easter being early this year, the Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 15.

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that the Rec Beat article is due February 8 and recommends that the flyer for the Gardeners Gathering be incorporated as the Rec Beat article as well as National Trails Day.

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that the first planning meeting for the July 4th picnic is scheduled in February. Volunteers are needed.

Regarding scout projects, Ari Unger has met with Mr. Vernau at Lower Allen Community Park. Ari would like to do a project at the Natural Trail area with 2 or 3 benches and a message board/kiosk. Katie Clark would like to put in a bench a long with a butterfly garden. Mr. Vernau advised that locations for the benches have already been identified. The location for the butterfly garden has not yet been identified.

Preparation of Lease and Agreements for Softball, Baseball and Soccer Field Usage

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that requests for field usage for softball and baseball have started.

Regarding the Creekside fields, they will not be playable until at least the fall of 2009. West Shore Soccer is more than welcome to use the upper fields for games or practice. Preliminary work has begun on the fields. The boat launch area should not be affected.

Parks Operational Staff

On behalf of Mr. Chianos, Mrs. Paul advised the Board that parks crews mowed parks and right-of-ways in the lower end of the Township. All Township ball fields were prepped for the winter season. Leaf pick-up included Township neighborhoods as well as Township parks. General parks maintenance was also performed.

The following additional Parks work was worked-on/completed in November:

1. Repaired Highland Park playground picnic table.
2. Repaired fence by shed at pitching warm-up area (Yetter Field).
3. Repaired and painted rocking animals (Parks & LACP).
4. Trash bag box was made for the trash bags.
5. Cemented and chained picnic tables to Fernlawn Pavilion.
6. General Barn maintenance (restroom & floors cleaned).

The following tasks were worked-on/completed in December:

1. Cleaned-up storm related debris in LACP and Parks.
2. Cleaned upper and lower restrooms in the Barn.
3. Painted rocking animals and returned to Tot Lot Playground.
4. Painted trash barrels.
5. Repaired barn rental tables.
6. Changed spotlights on perimeter of the Barn.
7. Reorganized back storage room.

OLD BUSINESS

Regional Skate Park – Feasibility Study

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that in November there was a meeting for the skate park feasibility study that looked at the West Shore Rec service area, which includes Lemoyne, New Cumberland, Goldsboro, Lower Allen, Fairview and Newberry Townships.

West Shore contracted Friday Architects in conjunction with other to perform a feasibility study. The results of the survey taken early in the fall were reviewed.

Mr. Duncanson reviewed for the Board the results of the sites looked at and how they were ranked. The highest ranking sites were Lemoyne Memorial Park, an area part of Hillside Elementary in New Cumberland, New Cumberland Borough Park. In Lower Allen Township were Wass Park and Lower Allen Community Park. Shelly Park in Newberry Township was also ranked.

Regarding Wass Park, two areas were identified. However, both areas are outside the Park boundaries. One area is associated with Bethany Village and the other United Methodist Home. Extensive discussion ensued.

Lower Allen Community Park was identified as the large mixed-use park with transition skating and street skating. LACP was being looked at as having the most space available as well as a destination skate park. Mr. Duncanson emphasized that no location within the LACP was identified. Commissioner Black expressed his concern of kids on bikes and skate boards walking to the Park. In addition, the Master Plan for LACP does not depict a location. Commissioner Black also expressed his concern that these are West Shore various municipal usable facilities and does not want to see Lower Allen Township paying for two skate board parks that everyone is going to use. If these skate board parks come to pass, Commissioner Black recommended the Township stay very close with West Shore Rec to get them manage that project with all municipalities participating in the costs. When an application to DCNR for recreation funds is a joint application there are bonus points. Mr. Duncanson stated that currently it is in the feasibility study. Extensive discussion ensued.

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that a facility was not identified for Fairview Township which is one of the larger townships in the West Shore Rec service area.

Mr. Duncanson further advised the Board that the Feasibility Study is available on West Shore Rec's website.

This issue will be discussed at the next Rec and Parks meeting.

Adopt-A-Park Program

Mr. Duncanson inquired as to the status of the program. Mrs. Paul advised the Board that there is different wording. She will forward it to Mr. Vernau and Mrs. Faust, and from there it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Duncanson asked if it will come back to the Rec Board. Mrs. Paul advised that she will e-mail it to the Board.

Highland Park Playground Message Board Placement

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that the message board has been installed just off the path from Chatham Road into the Park.

WSREC Summer Playground Program Potential LAT Locations

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that following the skate park meeting in November, he spoke with Ms. Williams from West Shore Rec regarding the sites proposed by the Board. Every site seemed to have some pros and cons. Ms Williams advised Mr. Duncanson that the site West Shore Rec was considering was Rossmoyne Elementary School.

Rental Fees

Mr. Mahon inquired if the rental fees issue was resolved. Mr. Duncanson advised that the fees are being held for this year and will be reviewed in 2008. Mr. Vernau advised the Board that the Board of Commissioners would need fee increase information by the middle of November so it can be included in the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

New Board Member

Mr. Vernau introduced Rick Grove, the newest member to the Board. Mrs. Lutes administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Grove.

ADOURN

The Recreation and Parks Board Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

**The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is at 7:00 p.m. on
Wednesday, February 27, 2008**