

MINUTES

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

March 28, 2007

The following were in ATTENDANCE:

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Scott Duncanson
James Kaiser
Susan Parry
Robert Edwards
Robert Pelles
Sandra Haskins
Greg Mahon

Donna Paul, Township Representative
Trudy Metzler, Recording Secretary

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2007 Meeting

Ms. Parry moved to approve the Minutes from the February 28, 2007, Recreation and Parks meeting as corrected. Mr. Pelles seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Park of the Month – Highland Estates Playground

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that he called Jennifer Nelson advising her that the Highland Estates Playground would be discussed. Ms. Nelson could not attend this meeting but had three comments regarding the playground.

The biggest issue is the perimeter fence. Mr. Duncanson stated that the Board has identified this item as a priority for several years. Mrs. Paul advised the Board that the fence is still in the Budget for 2007.

The other two items are:

1. Three benches are in the park; one is new the other two are old and weathering.

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that this is an item for the park tour to determine if the benches need sanded and sealed or replaced.

2. The kiosk is in need of some repair. This is also an item for the park tour.

Eagle Scout Project at Yellow Breeches Park

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that he visited the Yellow Breeches Park. Casey Johnson and his volunteers did a lot of work last week. When walking the path along the creek, one can see a park starting to develop. Mr. Duncanson commended Casey and his volunteers for the work they have done and advised the Board that there is another weekend planned for more improvements.

Casey updated the Board on the project. April 14th and 15th are the next days planned for additional improvements.

Regarding stream cleanup, Mr. Edwards stated that he would check with the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association regarding a stream cleanup day.

LIAISON REPORT

There was no Liaison Report.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF REPORT

On behalf of the Parks Operational Staff, Mrs. Paul advised the Board that crews began the month doing Wass Park and Peter's Field bleacher repairs including removal of the top row of seats that had been a safety concern, adding new boards and sealing the new boards. Work also began on the Yetter Field fencing project.

At LACP, the garage walls were painted, new wall shelf and cupboard were built and installed, as well as a general organizing of the maintenance garage area. Park picnic tables were brought in for repair and painting. Barn restrooms were opened and cleaned daily.

Additional items completed at LACP were:

1. Picked up dog trash daily.
2. Repaired broken tables.
3. Water pipes in back room of Barn were insulated to prevent freezing.
4. Mopped lower Barn floor.

5. Small tractor cleaned.
6. Clearing snow and ice around Barn and CPYSL entrance.
7. Cleared parking lot of ice and snow.
8. Chipped away ice at gate to Dog Park.

Other projects include:

1. Work on ballfields has begun.
2. Installation of siding at Pete's Pavilion.
3. Installed 4 x 4 bollards along Rossmont side of Pete's Field to keep vehicles out of the grass area.
4. Continuing parking issue at the Pizza Grille.
5. Wood carpet to be added to Fun Fort area in April.
6. Possible removal of sandbox in April.

Ms. Parry stated that she was contacted regarding mulch for the Dog Park, as it has been very muddy. Mrs. Paul advised that she would contact Parks for Pooches since they usually plan a spring cleanup day. Township staff delivers the mulch and Parks for Pooches fills holes, spreads mulch, etc. Parks staff has advised Mrs. Paul that they have an over abundance of wood chips.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Easter Egg Hunt

Mrs. Paul reminded the Board that the Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday. Mr. Mahon agreed to be the Easter Bunny. The Egg Hunt begins at 10:00. Volunteers should arrive by 9:00 a.m. This year, Officer Curtis of the Township Police Department, will be in attendance talking with the children.

Gardeners Gathering

Mrs. Paul inquired if there were any marketing options the Board would like to pursue.

Ms. Parry advised the Board that she attended the Garden Expo and distributed flyers for the Gardeners Gathering. She spoke with the Patriot News and they gave her some excellent ideas. It was suggested that several departments within the Patriot News be contacted in order to get coverage.

Regarding WHP, Bob Carey cannot attend the Gardeners Gathering as he is on the radio that day. Ms. Parry suggested Mr. Carey be called and asked to mention the Gathering while on the air.

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activities is collecting a list of activities to do during the week of the Gardeners Gathering.

Mr. Duncanson asked Mrs. Paul to advise the organization of the Gardeners Gathering and ask that it be included in the list of activities being distributed.

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that she had submitted the event to local TV stations via their websites.

Discussion ensued.

July 4th Picnic

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that the second meeting took place today. At the next meeting the flyers will be updated. Volunteers are needed and welcome.

OLD BUSINESS

Adopt-A-Park Program

Mr. Duncanson reminded the Board that Mrs. Paul was going to obtain feedback from Township staff.

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that she first met with Gary Frazer and Jim Chianos. Mrs. Paul then met with Tom Vernau and Jan Faust. Everyone is in support of the concept, but there are a few wording changes they would like in the description. Mrs. Paul reviewed those changes.

Discussion ensued.

Ped/Bike Committee Update

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that Brent Lenker gave an excellent presentation to the Board of Commissioners on March 12, 2007. There was very good feedback from the Board of Commissioners and it appears the Commissioners are generally in favor of the plan. The next step would be to receive public feedback. In the interim, more detail needs to be done on the trails. Hopefully, something can be done in conjunction with National Trails Day or Fourth of July picnic in order to obtain feedback.

Kiosk Issue

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that she met with Gary Frazer and Jim Chianos. While kiosks are not in the budget for this year, both supported the idea and especially like the uniformity. Mrs. Paul further advised that Highland has decided not to apply for a grant for a kiosk, but will apply for another project.

NEW BUSINESS

Potential Community Service Projects List

The following is a draft of potential service projects:

1. Revise/update guided nature trail brochure for LACP Nature Trail.

The current brochure was prepared in 1988. The Youth Chairman of the Appalachian Audubon Society has advised that their Youth Services is looking for a project. The Audubon Society has agreed to update the brochure.

2. Develop trailhead at LACP Nature Trail with kiosk/interpretive exhibit/sign at Fernlawn Pavilion.

The Appalachian Audubon Society is also interested in possibly developing an interpretive exhibit for the kiosk at that location.

3. Install joint kiosk/interpretive exhibit/sign for LACP Nature Trail and YBC Boating Access Area at LACP.

The Audubon Society has expressed concern about the condition of the existing kiosk. Ms. Parry advised that if the Audubon Society is a registered non-profit organization, they could apply to the state through the Conservation District for a mini-grant up to \$2,000 that would cover the cost of the kiosk.

4. Develop common species list of birds, mammals, and fish that inhabit LACP.

The Audubon Society will also compile a list of common bird species known to the Park. The Society is hoping to team with a scout troop or some other group to help with the kiosk.

5. Develop, measure, and sign a 5k cross-country course around the perimeter of the park at LACP.

6. Install a few benches along LACP Nature Trail.

7. Revise/update General Information Kiosk along access road at LACP to include large map of park with a "you are here" designation.

8. Clear land of additional campsites at LACP along nature trail

9. Continue development of passive recreation opportunities at Yellow Breeches Park.

10. Similar to Yellow Breeches Park, develop boat access trail at Beacon Hill land along YBC.
11. Install bat boxes in parks prone to mosquitoes along the YBC (LACP, Yellow Breeches, Creekwood, Beacon Hill land along YBC).
12. Create a butterfly garden in the park (LACP, Yellow Breeches, Creekwood, and Beacon Hill Radar).

Mr. Duncanson encouraged input from other Board members to expand possible projects.

PA Parks and Recreation Society Citizens Symposium

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that he and Mrs. Paul attended the PA Parks and Recreation Society's Citizens Symposium, which was very interesting.

Mr. Duncanson thanked the Township for allowing them to attend.

Millers Bridge

Mr. Edwards inquired as to the status of Millers Bridge. Mrs. Paul advised that she is not familiar with the issue but would check into it.

ADOURN

The Recreation and Parks Board Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.