

MINUTES

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

March 26, 2008

The following were in ATTENDANCE:

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Scott Duncanson
James Kaiser
Susan Parry
Robert Pelles
Greg Mahon
Richard Grove

Wendy Hayden, Township Representative
Danna Lutes, Recording Secretary

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Park of the Month – Highland Estates Playground

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that he had spoken with Donna Rummell, President, Highland Neighbors Association. Mrs. Rummell expressed two concerns:

1. Speeding not just at the park, but throughout the neighborhood as a whole. The residents reported there are no speed limit signs at all in their neighborhood and would like speed limit signs posted.

Ms. Hayden reported that a Traffic Committee meeting would take place in the future on this subject.

2. Security lighting at the pavilion. The neighborhood had its Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday. During preparation for the Egg Hunt, Mrs. Rummel's husband came across papers or wrappers that appeared to be illegal drug related. Older kids have been seen congregating at night in the pavilion.

Mr. Duncanson advised Mrs. Rummell that the pavilion is on the scheduled for a security light to be installed in 2010. Mrs. Rummell indicated that if the lighting could be expedited, it would be appreciated.

Ms. Hayden suggested that possibly the lighting could be installed this year and the water fountain postponed until 2010.

Mr. Duncanson will speak again with Mrs. Rummell and Ms. Hayden will check into the possibility of delaying the water fountain installation to 2010 in order to install pavilion lighting this year.

Ms. Hayden advised the Board that the Highland Estates pavilion would be painted in 2008 along with some general maintenance items.

LIAISON REPORT

There was no Liaison Report.

Mr. Duncanson commented that Mr. Black had previously requested the Board's input regarding the Liberty Forge Zoning Amendment. The Board never received a copy of the Zoning Amendment. Mr. Duncanson advised that he would e-mail Mr. Black inquiring the Board's input is still needed.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF REPORT

Activities

Egg Hunt

Ms. Hayden advised the Board that the Egg Hunt went very well. However, there should be more eggs for next year.

Mr. Duncanson suggested color coordinating the prize coupon for the different age groups.

Gardener's Gathering

Ms. Hayden inquired if the updated flyer for the Gardener's Gathering would soon be available. Mr. Duncanson distributed a draft program for the Gardener's Gathering. He stressed that it was not ready for distribution. He hoped to have the flyer ready by April 1 for distribution.

Planning for July 4th Picnic

Ms. Parry advised that the donor letters are ready to be mailed.

Ms. Parry further advised that the Committee attempted to have the Keystone Cloggers perform; however, they had a conflict. Ms. Parry asked if any Board members had any suggestions for half-hour entertainment..

The next Committee meeting is April 23 at 6:15 p.m.

Girl Scout Project Update

Ms. Hayden advised the Board that the Girl Scout recently met with Mr. Vernau at LACP to determine the best site for her butterfly garden project. Ms. Hayden believes the project has been approved.

Parks Operational Staff

Ms. Hayden advised the Board that:

1. Park crews installed signs for the Yetter Field sign project.
2. Sheds at Peter's Field were cleaned.
3. Sticks and debris picked-up in all Lower Allen parks.
4. As part of the Barn upgrade for 2008, a new microwave and two new refrigerators were purchased.
5. Tennis nets were put-up at Wass Park for the high school season of tennis which began March 4.

Other Parks related items completed during the month were:

1. New golf hitting signs were made in-house for the golf area at LACP.
2. Golf carts were brought to the shop for maintenance.
3. Basketball backboards were checked for necessary repairs.
4. Small shed for Field #1 at LACP repaired.
5. Barrier built to protect shed from hit balls at Field #1, LACP.
6. Finalized ball field schedules and materials to be sent to softball/baseball leagues.
7. Small shed from Yetter Field was brought in for painting.
8. New backboard for Highland Park tennis court.
9. Improvements to concession stand at LACP were completed to comply with Department of Agriculture regulations. A wash sink and a small hand sink were added.
10. New door was put on ball field shed, Field #1, LACP.
11. Barn tables and benches were repaired, LACP.
12. General park maintenance at LACP and Dog Park.
13. Painted and touched up barn restrooms, LACP.
14. Installed bollard chain to control parking between the Pizza Grill and Peter's Park parking lot during baseball season.

OLD BUSINESS

Regional Skate Park – Feasibility Study

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that he had a copy of the Feasibility Study if anyone needed to review it.

Mr. Duncanson introduced Todd Miller from West Shore Recreation Commission and inquired if Mr. Miller wished to provide an update prior to the Board's discussion.

Mr. Miller advised the Board that the Skate Park Focus Group meeting took place. A representative from Lemoyne Borough also attended and volunteered to raise funds between now and 2009 for the installation of the recommended skate spot indentified in the Feasibility Study at Lemoyne Memorial Park. Lemoyne Borough will be applying for a grant in 2009 and the gentleman will be trying to raise the matching funds.

There was also a meeting with the local representative from DCNR along with Newberry Township and officials from York Haven Borough, Lewisberry Borough and Goldsboro Borough. Newberry Township and York Haven Borough are working together on a project with a grant from DCNR for restroom facilities for the skate park that is already in their Master Plan.

Mr. Miller advised the Board that Lewisberry is not interested in putting-in the recommended park in the Feasibility Study in its Borough Park. However, Lewisberry is willing to possibly financially support either Goldsboro or Newberry Township to further their efforts.

Mr. Duncanson asked for comments from the Board regarding the Feasibility Study.

Mr. Kaiser's concern was kids being able to access Lower Allen Park.

Ms. Parry stated that as far as the phasing, the Township would be wise to do the outreach soon in terms of it being an amphitheater/skate mix. When doing the Master Plan for LACP, folks were not keen on the amphitheater as they understood that it would create noise for the neighborhood.

Mr. Grove inquired if Wass Park is still being considered. Mr. Duncanson responded that from this study it did not make the final cut. Mr. Duncanson stated that he preferred the Wass Park location because it is in more of a neighborhood setting. There had been discussion about entering into talks with the Methodist Home, but he was not certain the skate park at the back of Wass Park was the best location. If Wass Park was considered, would the skate park be better located close to the street. Would the Township also consider lights for the skate park. He suggested it might be worth looking at Wass Park to see how things could be relocated in order to put in a skate park.

Mr. Grove expressed his feeling that there are a lot of kids in the Wass Park area that would use a skate park. LACP is great for planned/structured events, i.e., ball teams, Easter Egg Hunts, etc. but it is not a good spontaneous get-together location.

Extensive discussion ensued.

It was the consensus of the Board to pursue the Wass Park location and possibly put a structure or two in the Park to determine if the facility would be used. Wass Park will be further looked at during the Park Tours.

NEW BUSINESS

Potential Letter of Support – Planning Project for Passive Park at 2233 Gettysburg Road

Mr. Duncanson referred to the request from Jan Faust, Assistant Manager, regarding a letter of support for the passive park being planned next to the new municipal services building.

The parcel is approximately 4-acres on both sides of the creek. There is potential for a trail underneath the railroad tracks. - a trail connector in order to reach the apartments and up to Orchard Drive and Carlisle Road without having to go under the narrow railroad bridge. The park would be passive with the possibility of walking trails, a small pavilion, restored riparian buffer, education opportunity, green space, etc.

The Board directed Mr. Mahon to prepare a letter of support to DCNR but to forward the letter to Ms. Faust by April 15, 2008.

ADOURN

The Recreation and Parks Board Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

*******The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is at 7:00 p.m. on
Wednesday, April 23, 2008*******