

MINUTES

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

April 25, 2007

The following were in ATTENDANCE:

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Scott Duncanson
Susan Parry
Sandra Haskins
Robert Pelles
Greg Mahon

Donna Paul, Township Representative
Peddrick Young, Liaison
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 and Mr. Edwards were absent with excuse.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Park of the Month – Pete’s Field

Ms. Parry advised the Board that she did a drive-by and everything looks great.

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that he spoke with the President of Lower Allen Baseball. The pavilion looks nice with the new siding. There are continuing issues with the parking with the Pizza Grille.

As was the case last year, Lower Allen Baseball is not holding games at Pete’s Field, just practices, which results in fewer team and cars. While the concession stand looks better. Improvements inside the restrooms are still desired.

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that she received the same information from Jim Chianos. In addition, landscape work and rebuilding of the old tennis backboard was completed.

LIAISON REPORT

Pizza Grille Parking Situation

Mr. Young advised the Board that he stopped at the Pizza Grille for lunch one day, and both the owner and his wife approached him regarding the parking situation. They are looking at the possibility and how to go about putting in crosswalks. Mr. Young directed them to contact Mr. Flint or Mr. Eby. When Mr. Young arrived at the Township Building, they had already been in touch with Mr. Flint and discussed the situation.

Mr. Young suggested installing the signs stating that pedestrians in the crosswalk have right of way under state law. Mr. Young learned from Dan that he has already been in contact with PENNDOT and there might be some coming. There is no cost involved; it's a matter of PENNDOT's budget.

West Shore Recreation Board

Mr. Black asked Mr. Young to address the Commissioners concerns with the idea of West Shore Rec moving their facility out of the location on Lisburn Road and Lower Allen Township and establishing their headquarters at the Senior Center in Newberry Township.

One of things mentioned by Mr. Black to West Shore Rec is the availability of the Radar site in Beacon Hill, and applying for a grant from DCNR to build their headquarters within the Township. This would keep West Shore Rec centrally located. Mr. Black's research shows that the Boroughs of New Cumberland and Lemoyne, and the Township of Lower Allen makeup the majority of the seniors in West Shore Recreation Board's jurisdiction.

One of the concerns raised by the Commissioners was the unreliability of a location that is not only outside the Township but also in another county as well as accessibility. Apparently the building is not readily accessible for wheelchairs, etc.

It was suggested that the Lower Allen Rec & Parks Board make a recommendation or voice its concern with West Shore Rec Board.

Mr. Young advised the Board that the West Shore Rec Board does not utilize any parks in the Township. At one time, there were summer programs. Those programs were eliminated from every park. The Township is getting less and less in services from West Shore Rec, but West Shore Rec Board wants to discuss with the Township the possibility of the Township being the site for a skate park.

One scenario discussed by the Commissioners is to withdraw from West Shore Rec resulting in a premium on Township residents to utilize the services.

Mr. Young asked the Rec & Parks Board request numbers from West Shore Rec as to how many Township residents utilize West Shore Rec programs. The Township's monetary support has increased over the years. In response to Ms. Parry's question, Mr. Young advised that the

Township's contribution is based on per capita, with the Township's contribution being approximately \$30,000 annually.

Mr. Young clarified that West Shore Rec uses the Township's venue but they do not provide services to Township residents in the form of programs specific to the Township.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Mr. Duncanson advised that a letter would be drafted for review and approval by the Board of Commissioners expressing the Rec and Parks Board's concern with regard to West Shore Rec's potential move Newberry Township as well as request demographics of Lower Allen Township residents who avail themselves of West Shore Rec programs.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF REPORT

Mrs. Paul reported the following on behalf of the Parks Operational Staff:

1. Peter's Field pavilion siding project was begun the second week of March and completed during the third week.
2. Bollards were added to the Peter's Field parking area on Rosemont Avenue.
3. Tennis nets were installed on the Wass Park tennis courts. Bible Baptist School uses the courts for practice and home matches from March 5th to May 7th.
4. Ball field maintenance was completed on all Township fields in preparation for spring season.
5. Tree contractor completed tree trimming at Highland Park Playground.
6. New Yetter Field banner was added to the new fencing around the Yetter Field ball field.
7. Picnic table repair at LACP.
8. Maintenance work on upper level of Barn.
9. Daily Barn restroom cleaning and floor maintenance.
10. Fun Fort equipment repair.
11. Repaired ball field fencing.
12. Daily trash and debris pick-up throughout LACP and Dog Park.

13. General maintenance of LACP Maintenance Shed (painting, organizing, etc.)
14. LACP snow removal from roads and sidewalks.
15. Painted Easter Egg Hunt sign for LACP as well as the Music in the Park sign.
16. Repaired ruts made by snowplows throughout LACP.
17. Fun Fort was refurbished with wood carpet the beginning of April.

Mr. Duncanson inquired if Mrs. Paul knew when the Highland Park tennis and basketball courts would be done. The fence of for the tennis backboard would be in 2008. Mrs. Paul advised that she did not know when the blacktopping would be done.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Easter Egg Hunt

Mrs. Paul congratulated Mr. Mahon for his excellent job as the Easter bunny. The egg hunt was a successful. The weather was perfect and there were approximately 300 children participating.

Mrs. Paul advised the Board of the recommendations for more eggs and goodies bags for next year's egg hunt. Mr. Duncanson stated that for next year the Board might have to think about limiting the number of eggs per child. Mr. Mahon stated at the youngest group there were a number of children who came away empty handed.

Discussion ensued.

Gardeners Gathering

Mrs. Haskins reported that she contacted all the presenters. The only thing needed is to assign Rec Board members who will be there to specific jobs.

Discussion ensued.

Fourth of July Picnic

Ms. Parry advised that inventory was taken. Games, need for volunteers, etc. were discussed.

Mini-Grant Program

Mrs. Paul advised that one application was received. Highland Park would like to perform additional beautification. The grant was approved.

The next deadline for mini-grants is July 1, 2007. An ad will be placed in the next newsletter.

Township Newsletter Deadline

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that the Township newsletter deadline is May 8, 2007.

Music in the Park

Mrs. Paul reminded the Board that Music in the Park is July 22, 2007 from 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Eagle Scout Projects

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that she was contacted by two scouts asking if there was anything they could do for their Eagle Scout project. Mrs. Paul provided them with the list discussed last month.

National Trails Day

Mr. Duncanson advised that in speaking with Casey Johnson, who made the trail improvement at the Yellow Breeches Park, instead of doing National Trails Day at LACP something would be done at the Yellow Breeches Park. Casey could possibly showcase the trail, fishing demonstrations, or possibly something with boating. Mr. Duncanson is in the process of finalizing a time, probably mid-afternoon.

Mr. Duncanson will finalize the details and get out some flyers.

OLD BUSINESS

Yellow Breeches Park Update

Mr. Duncanson commended Casey Johnson and his volunteers on the job they did on the Park. Photos were taken and will be distributed to Board members.

Adopt-A-Park Program

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that he received comments following last month's discussion. Those comments were reviewed.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board he would make the minor revisions and e-mail to the Board as well as Mrs. Paul. If there are no other comments or suggested revisions, Mrs. Paul would then present to Mr. Vernau and Mrs. Faust for review. If they had no revisions, it would then go to the Board of Directors. If there are additional revisions, it would come back to the Rec and Parks Board.

Ped/Bike Committee Update

Mr. Duncanson advised that at the last meeting extensive discussion ensued concerning a trail logo, signs, and a station at The 4th of July picnic and Music in the Park, etc. Stations at the events would opportunities to get the word out and receive public feedback.

Mrs. Paul further advised that Highland has decided not to apply for a grant for a kiosk, but will apply for another project.

Potential Community Service Projects List

Ms. Haskins inquired if clearing land for additional campsites at LACP along the nature trail was part of the Master Plan. She further inquired if the Board really wanted to clear land along the trail for campsites. Mr. Duncanson felt the intent was to carve out additional campsites, but to not extensively clear. Mrs. Paul commented that the area is right along the Yellow Breeches and is very wet and soggy. When it rains it puddles and because it is shaded and takes quite awhile to dry. Removing more vegetation will worsen the situation. It was the consensus of the Board to remove this item from the list.

Mrs. Haskins also suggested added two benches along the nature trail. Mr. Duncanson suggested that it be written to add benches along the nature trail or in other Township parks.

Mrs. Haskins inquired if developing a boat access at Beacon Hill land along the Yellow Breeches is feasible and/or doable at this time or is it something that for the future.

Mr. Pelles suggested that the project regarding butterfly gardens should read "Create a butterfly garden in a park or parks. Ms. Parry requested that it be required that anyone creating a garden or habitat, etc. to look at native species rather than invasive plantings.

Mr. Duncanson will revise the list and distribute to the Board. He suggested that when the Board does its Parks tours, projects could be added to the list.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business before the Board.

ADOURN

The Recreation and Parks Board Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.