

MINUTES

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

April 23, 2008

The following were in ATTENDANCE:

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD

TOWNSHIP STAFF

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

Donna Paul, Township Representative
H. Edward Black, Liaison
Thomas Vernau, Township Manager
Trudy Metzel, 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 – Pete’s Field

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that Highland Baseball and Lower Allen Baseball are using Pete’s and Church Fields and Trinity Girls Softball has moved to Lower Allen Community Park. Mr. Duncanson inquired if the concession stand is being used at Pete’s and Church Fields. Mr. Vernau advised that the concession stand is used only for games. Mr. Vernau further advised that he would check on the parking situation.

Mrs. Paul advised the Board the following general maintenance has been performed:

1. Shed was cleaned.
2. Bollard was installed between the Pizza Grille and Pete’s Park to block parking.

Mr. Duncanson inquired if there was an update on the grant for handicapped access. Mr. Vernau advised that the grant has been approved but did not know the amount. Mrs. Paul advised that she will check on the amount and advise the Board.

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Black advised the Board that the Commissioners have finished their Strategic Planning Sessions. The Commissioners were informed about a grant that the Township was previously

told would not be awarded but is now in line for an award. It is for the trail connecting Shireman Manor with Wass Park.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF REPORT

Activities

Grant Award

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that the amount of the grant awarded for the trail at Wass Park/ Shireman Manor is \$26,000. The project is \$52,000 with the grant being a 50/50 match.

Gardener's Gathering

Ms. Parry advised the Board that the sub-committee met two weeks ago. Sandy Haskins is going to pickup donations from both Highland Gardens and Ashcombes. Ms. Parry will pickup donations at Royers and Rosehill. Ms. Parry will be bringing the surveys and Ms. Haskins will be bringing the tickets for the give-aways.

Mrs. Paul advised the Board she has two pre-registered but is certain there will be other children attending the fairy gardens. Mrs. Paul further advised that she has received quite a large number of phone calls and e-mails regarding the plant swap.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Planning for July 4th Picnic

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that plans are moving along nicely. A follow-up letter would be going out the beginning of May to possible donors.

The next Committee meeting is April 28 at the Community Barn

Music in the Park

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that donations have been coming in and to date \$1,930.00, including grant monies, has been received. Commerce Bank paid for the children's entertainer.

Adopt-A-Park Program

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that the Adopt-A-Park Program is an agenda item for discussion at the Board of Commissioners meeting on April 28, 2008.

Township Newsletter

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that the Rec Beat article is due May 8.

Water Line to the Dog Park

Mrs. Paul advised the Board that park staff will be installing the water line to the Dog Park sometime in May. Parks for Pooches has donated funds toward project.

Parks Operational Staff

Mrs. Paul advised the Board of the following tasks worked-on/completed in March:

1. Preparations were made for baseball/softball opening season.
2. Four banners were installed on the outfield fencing at Yetter Field.
3. Warning track at Yetter Field was rolled.
4. Ball field material was taken to Yetter Field in preparation for Trinity High School opening games.
5. Information was gathered for electric to be added to Yetter Field in preparation for a possible scoreboard.
6. New siding was added to the shed at Yetter Field.
7. Backing was cut for backstop protection on five ball fields.
8. Ball field maintenance for the spring season was completed on all Township fields.
9. Batting cage was installed at Field #1, LACP.
10. Thorough clean-up of debris was completed in March at Wass Park.
11. Tennis nets were put-up at Wass Park for use for the Bible Baptist School competition.
12. 2008 Final Ball Field Schedule was forwarded to all league managers.

Other Parks related items completed during the month were:

1. Peter's Park shed cleaned.
2. Installed bollard chain to block parking lot between Pizza Grille and Peter's Park.
3. Repaired bench at Wass Park
4. Gathered information for electric installation at Yetter Field.
5. Repaired bench board at Highland Park Playground.
6. Inspection of all Township park playground equipment.
7. Investigated damages at Yellow Breeches Park.
8. Two new refrigerators and a microwave purchased for LACP Barn.
9. Arrival of 27 new tables to be used in the Barn, LACP.
10. Five (5) Barn rentals during the month of March.
11. Protective boards on shed at Field #1, LACP were stained.
12. All mowing equipment was serviced and returned to LACP.
13. New blowers and a push mower purchased for Parks and LACP.
14. Installed new golf hitting signs in golf area, LACP.
15. Successful Easter Egg Hunt at LACP.
16. Daily cleaning of Barn restrooms as well as floor cleaning, LACP.

17. General park maintenance at LACP (tree trimming, picking up litter, Dog Park clean-up, etc.)
18. Snow posts taken down at LACP.
19. Put up horseshoe stakes at LACP.

OLD BUSINESS

Regional Skate Park – Feasibility Study

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that the Skate Park Feasibility Study was discussed at the last Board of Commissioners meeting. The Commissioners discussion was similar to the discussion of the Recreation and Parks Board. There was some concern that the skateboarding community pitch-in toward this effort. There was no motion since Lower Allen Township is in Phase 2.

Mr. Duncanson reminded the Board that Wass Park will be looked at during the Park Tours in June and July to possibly start with something smaller then move toward something larger. The Commissioners were intrigued by a combination effort (skate park and amphitheater).

Mr. Black advised the Board that he had the occasion to meet with the new head of the Methodist Home and they may have some interest that the Feasibility Study identified off to the side of Wass Park. The Methodist Homes feels their children could use the skate park as well as the public. Mr. Vernau advised the Board that there will be a meeting with the Methodist Home. He will also let Mr. Reed know that the park tour of Wass Park will be on June 25 and possibly he can meet with the Rec Board at that time.

Extensive discussion ensued.

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

Mrs. Paul thanked Mr. Mahon for the letter of support on behalf of the Rec Board and for the timely manner in which the letter was received.

NEW BUSINESS

Conversation Park Overlay District Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Duncanson advised the Board that the Commissioners, Zoning Board and Planning Commission were looking for feedback from the Rec Board concerning the recreation aspect of the proposal. There are items on how to treat open space, how to define open space, different uses, etc.

Mr. Black advised the Board that there are unique concepts set forth in the ordinance regarding the types of recreation that are considered recreation, that those areas would be included in the density calculation of the overall area for the gross density of the development, and some

consideration regarding pay-to-play fees that would be made available to the public therefore considered public facilities.

Mr. Black stated he does not wish that the Red Board take its time to give consideration to the entire ordinance. He would like the Rec Board to focus on just the recreation aspects. The Board of Commissioners would appreciate a recommendation as to the types of recreation that are proposed, if they feel those types of recreation are applicable to public recreation, could a play-for-pay facilities be public recreation, and if the golf course ceases operation how does the Township safeguard the space.

Extensive discussion ensued.

There will be a discussion at May's Rec & Parks meeting as to what constitutes proper recreation and proper open space and reach a consensus which will be conveyed to the Board of Commissioners.

LACP Nature Trail –Potential Naming as Memorial for George and Rita Garstad

Mr. Grove moved to recommend naming the LACP Nature Trail after George and Rita Garstad, with the monies generated for the Nature Trail to be placed in a fund to be used for the Nature Trail improvements as deemed appropriate. Ms. Parry seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Pelles moved to change the May 28 Recreation and Parks Meeting to the LACP at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Parry seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Ms. Parry reminded the Board that the Gardener's Gathering is on Saturday, April 26.

ADOURN

The Recreation and Parks Board Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

*******The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is at 7:00 p.m. on
Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at the LACP Barn*******