

Centre Regional Recreation Authority
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary - DRAFT
Wed., 16 Sept 09, 4:00 PM at the MMNC Barn

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL: (12 of 16 Appointed Members)

Dr. Rick Marboe, Chair	Mary Alice Graetzer	Don Epp	Mark McLaughlin
Jennifer Shuey, Vice-chair	Kathy Matason	Robert Ayer	Diane Kerly
Steve Maruszewski	Jackie Melander	MJ Kitt	Holly Fritchman

CRPR Staff: Molly Hetrick, Greg Roth, Melissa Freed (Program Coordinator), Justin Plank (Intern)

2. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING SUMMARY

• **19 Aug 09 Meeting Summary:** Motion by Jackie Melander, Second by Bob Ayer

3. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

• **Summer & Fall Program Update: Ms. Hetrick**

Molly reported the summer programs were wrapped up successfully and camps finished with a very successful Wonderful Wetlands Camp. Interns Lana and Justin did a great job with programs and planning for the summer. Justin will remain on as a CRPR Intern for Fall. Fall programs are prepared and beginning, staff is being hired for the Fall group programs and the program schedule for field trips is filling up quickly this year. Molly is beginning to work with the students who will plan the Historic Harvest Festival, in its seventh year!

• **Facilities Update: Mr. Roth**

Greg reported a 200 foot extension was added to the boardwalk, the prices are being reviewed for the electrical work in the Wetlab, and that the lab should be use-able by the 2010 program season, if not sometime this fall.

• **Thompson Woods Subcommittee Report: Mr. Roth**

Greg reported that a crow was found in Thompson Woods Preserve that is being tested for cause of death, but otherwise the trail maintenance and issues with the fences have been resolved for the time being.

• **Program Subcommittee Report: Ms. Shuey**

Jennifer reported the Subcommittee has been working on some strategic planning for the nature center and reviewing our current program menu to determine the best way to move forward for the future. It was determined that camps are what we do best that supports operations for the center, so additional camps will be added in 2010. To cover these and additional programs, more interns will be needed. The intern model for summer 2010 will be based on the model used by Shavers Creek to maximize the time and efforts of the interns to best support the center.

4. CAPITAL PROJECT REPORTS

• **Letter from PEDA (Grant request not funded)**

Discussion of this letter focused on the excellent efforts of those who prepared the grant and looking to the future now that the grant decision has been received. With the revised scope building plans, the cost of the building is within the range of pledges and allows for progress.

• **Education Building Project Update and Authority Actions: Dr. Marboe**

Rick reported the revised scope plans were presented to the Centre Region Recreation Authority at their September 10 meeting and this project was well received and was given approval to continue. The CRRA Chair questioned if Alan Popovich was able to handle the details of this project in addition to Welch Pool Renewal and Alan responded that he was, especially because Welch Pool was in progress already. Documents will be prepared by HP Architects for bid in November, with the hope that locking in the bids before the holidays will allow for an early 2010 start.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

• **2010 Budget Proposals - Overview and Updates: Ms. Hetrick**

Molly shared the budget overview for 2010 and gave highlights for the upcoming year, which matches the plans explained by Jennifer as suggested by the Program Subcommittee. The

municipal contributions were less this year and additional funding is based on the increase planned from offering additional summer camps. Additional interns were added to increase the amount of offerings at the center at an affordable cost. Marketing and outreach will also be increased to spread the word about the nature center.

- **Update on the “Wildlife Research & Education Center”:** Ms. Hetrick

The committee reviewed the material released for this new education center and discussed how this project might impact the nature center. Mark McLaughlin shared that this construction may duplicate some of the services currently provided at Shavers Creek, but additional information is needed. Members also noted that the project start date is three to five years away.

- **CRRA approval of easement with D&E Communications to install by horizontal boring an underground fiber service for the College Township Building along PSU lands leased to CRRA:** Ms. Hetrick

Molly explained the provided plans and shared that staff from CRPR was involved in this process and asked Dr. Brooks to review the plans based on the conservation easement. All parties determined that impact would be minimal to the marsh and the Authority Board approved an easement agreement.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: Wed., 21 Oct 09 at 4 PM at the COG Building Forum Room

Meeting Summary by Molly Hetrick