



Centre Region Council of Governments

CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
CENTRE REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY

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Serving the Borough of State College and the Townships of College, Ferguson, Harris and Patton

Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting

Thursday, 8 Jan 09, in the COG Building - Forum Room

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Chair Sue Mascolo called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M.

Board members attending (5 of 6): Sue Mascolo, Donna Conway, Chris Hurley, Dr. Donna Ricketts, Kathy Matason

Absent with prior notice: Roy Harpster

Staff: Director Ronald J. Woodhead Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness Jeff Hall
Aquatics Supervisor Todd Roth Parks Supervisor Greg Roth
Senior Center Dir. Barbara Lindenbaum Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center Molly Hetrick
Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events Beth Lee
Office Manager Diane Ishler

Guest: James Steff, COG Executive Director

II. BOARD ORGANIZATION

Re-appointment - Mr. Woodhead related that Sue Mascolo was reappointed by the Board of Supervisors for another 5 year term as the representative for Ferguson Township. Her term expires 31 Dec 14.

Board Election of Officers - Mr. Woodhead conducted the election of officers. Mr. Hurley moved that 2008 officers remain officers through 2009: Sue Mascolo, Chair; Roy Harpster, Vice Chair; Kathy Matason, Sec.; Donna Conway, Treas. Ms. Conway seconded. All in favor.

Meeting Schedule - Mr. Woodhead asked the Board members to consider the suggested meeting schedule for 2009; once approved it will be publicized. Mr. Hurley moved to approve the suggested meeting schedule. Ms. Conway seconded. All in favor. The Board will continue to meet the second Thursday of each month.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Conway. All in favor.

V. ACTION ON VOUCHERS

The December vouchers were not available until the day of the meeting. The Board members asked that the approval be postponed until the February meeting.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Boards & Committees: Issues & Updates by Board Members

- Patton Twp. Rec. Advisory Committee: No report
- Borough of State College: No report
- Harris Twp. Park & Recreation Committee: No report
- Ferguson Township: Ms. Mascolo was appointed for another 5 years to the CRRA/CRPR Board
- College Twp. Parks & Recreation Committee: No report
- State College Area School District: Dr. Ricketts brought the Community Ed school program booklet for our information. Dr. Ricketts also set up a meeting for CRPR staff with Mr.

Pavlechko to discuss the school scheduling process.

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee - Ms. Hetrick reported that the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center section of the 2009 Fee Policy was formally endorsed by the Advisory Committee. Mr. Popovich then made a presentation concerning the proposed Spring Creek Education Building. Ms. Mascolo suggested and the Board agreed to send Senator Corman, who is now Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, another letter with respect to the release of the previously approved capital funds (\$1.25 million) for Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

COG Ad Hoc Regional Park Committee - The committee did not meet in December. Mr. Woodhead related that it appears the name of the Ad Hoc Regional Park Committee will change to the COG Parks Capital Committee. Ms. Mascolo asked what that meant for this Board. Mr. Woodhead related that the COG Parks Capital Committee would work with the CRRA and CRPR. The CRRA/CRPR role will be the same - mainly operational and the COG Capital Committee would be involve large capital projects. Mr. Steff explained about the COG Articles of Agreement and that it included the committees and their responsibilities. For the COG Parks Capital Committee, there are four main items: 1) identify regional parks; 2) the strategy for building the regional parks; 3) cooperate with the CRRA/CRPR Board; and 4) consider future requests for regional parks. Mr. Steff indicated he would send a copy of the notes he had listing these responsibilities. Mr. Woodhead explained that the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Regional Park Committee will be a joint meeting with the CRRA/CRPR Board on 15 Jan 09 to discuss the Welch Pool Renewal. Mr. Hunsacker and Mr. Popovich will present the draft Master Site Plan to the group. There will also be a Community Meeting that evening to present the proposed plan.

Regional Park Planning Committee - This committee met on 10 Dec 08 and reviewed a draft concept plan and four draft layout plan. The consultants listened to all the discussion. During January another meeting will be held to review a final draft plan - to prepare for a community meeting in February. The test excavations on the site indicated that subsurface rock appears to not be a problem for the proposed field areas and for the septic field. In some areas the tests revealed that the topsoil is 6' deep.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

December 2008 Activity Report - Mr. Woodhead circulated a photo showing the progress on the Park Forest wading pool. Since the picture was taken, the roof has been finished and a lot of good work completed despite the weather. In the CRPR office, a lot of December has been preparation work for 2009. Ms. Lee explained that the Winter/Spring Leisure Guide was published in the CDT on 4 Jan 09. Since then, Mr. Hall reports, 526 registrations have been received for a total of \$17,166 with \$5,949 from the Internet. 505 of these registrations were residents and 23 were nonresidents.

Fall 2008 Program Report - Mr. Woodhead thanked the staff for the great job accomplished in the fall and he thanked the Board members for their support. The Annual Program Report for 2008 will be available at the February meeting.

2009 Budget - Mr. Woodhead, Mr. Steff and other COG officials met with the County Commissioners concerning decreases in budget support from the County to COG. The Senior Center usually received 50% of the shared expense from the County. Ms. Lindenbaum explained that the Senior Center requested \$76,194 from the County which included 50% of the salary and benefits for the full-time staff assistant. Ms. Lindenbaum distributed a chart illustrating the County shares in past years. Based on the number of people served, the Centre Region does not receive an equal amount of support compared to the other centers in the County. The County is willing to fund \$69,290 of this \$76,194 requested, leaving a shortfall of \$6,904 in the approved 2009 budget. The Senior Center staff made five suggestions in response to that shortfall:

- 1) offer modestly-priced games of chance / fund-raisers (the Buy Some Time program, etc.)
- 2) offer higher profile programs such as the new "Murder Mystery Luncheons"
- 3) offer extra bus trips (4 are already planned for 2009)

4) proceed with cooperative efforts in the community such as the Craft Fair, the Red Cross, Assisted Living, etc.

5) reduce expenses.

Mr. Woodhead asked if this approach was acceptable to the board. Ms. Lindenbaum indicated that the Office of Aging is ok with charging a little more for the special lunches. Ms. Lindenbaum also related that the Center will still offer free programs for people to enjoy. Dr. Ricketts asked which of the approaches she was going to use? Ms. Lindenbaum said all of them. The bus trips are the most lucrative. Mr. Hurley asked if this would be an ongoing problem; will the County continue to reduce their contribution? A discussion followed Mr. Steff related that Mr. Woodhead presented good information to the County; the County just did not have the money. Three of the COG agencies are receiving less money from the County. Dr. Ricketts asked if a shortfall is usually deducted from the capital reserve fund? Mr. Woodhead indicated that was done in the past but the reserves will be depleted sooner if we continue to do so. Mr. Steff asked if these steps taken to raise money were one time things or could they be used in the future? Ms. Lindenbaum indicated that they could be used but the center would also come up with new ideas.

Mr. Hurley moved that the Authority accept the strategy offered to the Board to deal with the shortfall in the Senior Center budget for 2009. Ms. Conway seconded. All in favor.

Supervisor Highlights:

The Supervisor highlights were omitted so there would be sufficient time for the other items on the agenda.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS - none

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Reappointments to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee -

Mr. Woodhead recommended that the Authority reappoint the following ten volunteers to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee for another two year term (expiring Dec. 31, 2010):

CRRA & College Township Parks & Rec. Comm.	Kathy Matason
Penn State University	Steve Maruszewski
ClearWater Conservancy	Jennifer Shuey
State College Area School District	Mary Jayne (MJ) Coon-Kitt
Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Ctr.	Rob Brooks, Ph.D.
Centre County Historical Society	Jackie Melander
Bald Eagle Archeological Society	Mary Alice Graetzer
At-Large Appointees	Holly Fritchman, Diane Kerly, Rick Marboe, Ph.D.

Dr. Ricketts moved to reappoint these volunteers to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee. Mr. Hurley seconded. All in favor.

B. 2009 Pool Operations Policy - In December a draft of the 2009 Pool Operations Policy was distributed to be approved at the January meeting. The Operations Policy contains the rules for the pool and provides staff with the appropriate authorization. There were no changes made to the copy distributed in December. Mr. Hurley moved the 2009 Pool Operations Policy be approved. Ms. Matason seconded. All in favor.

C. Park Forest Pool Construction Updates:

1) Mr. Woodhead noted the copy of the letter by Solicitor Terry Williams provided to the two neighbors on behalf of the Authority concerning the waterline easement.

2) Mr. Woodhead asked the Authority to endorse two Change Orders for construction that he has already approved.

CO #G-06 add \$1,394.21 to remove a (large) dead oak tree in the waterline easement (on Ferguson Township property) no stump removal

CO #E-05 add \$654.50 to add two security lighting fixtures on a motion detector switch along the side of the filter room.

Mr. Woodhead also asked the Authority to restore the previously-declined installation of the Leisure

Park and path at the rear of the pool complex. It is an additional cost of \$15,800 and is contingent upon a written proposal from the contractor at the original price of \$15,800. He related the funds would come from the project contingency fund. Ms. Mascolo asked if we had any funding for umbrellas, chairs, and other niceties? Mr. Woodhead indicated we did. Dr. Ricketts moved to endorse the two approved change orders and approve the installation of the Leisure Park. Ms. Conway seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Woodhead also asked the Authority for permission to solicit bids for the Ultraviolet Water Filter for the tot pool, if needed. If this avenue is pursued, the bid results would then come back for Authority approval. Dr. Ricketts moved to approve permission and Ms. Conway seconded. All in favor.

- D. Welch Pool Renewal** - Mr. Woodhead presented the most-recent version of the draft agreement for *Shared Parking for the Welch Pool*. This revision was intended to address some of the concerns of the school district staff; it has not been reviewed by Solicitor Terry Williams. Some changes are the number of required spaces - a confirmation by State College Borough changed the reduced the number of parking spaces to 106 regular spaces plus 5 ADA spaces. The farthest parking would be 387 feet from the new pool gate, on the south side of the parkway and would require safe pedestrian and vehicle access to the pool. Mr. Woodhead explained he was not asking for an official endorsement at this meeting but it will be discussed at the joint meeting with the COG Ad Hoc Committee on 15 Jan 09. The goal is to move forward on the project by finishing the MSP and receiving the necessary approvals, plus be able to start the bid document process. He also wants to present the revised agreement to Mr. Poprik so it can be discussed by the School Board on Monday evening. Dr. Ricketts was interested in making the road crossing safer.

Mr. Steff related that shared parking location is a big deal, especially if you are in another township and have to drive to the pool. Discussion will continue next week at the joint meeting.

With regard to school district planning, Dr. Ricketts indicated that the third community dialogue for the District-wide Facility Master Plan is 12 Feb 09, 7 pm at the Mount Nittany Middle School.

- E. PA Open Records/Right to Know Compliance** - COG created an Open Records Policy to stay within the new state law. The COG Policy will be considered by the COG General Forum in late January. Since the Centre Regional Recreation Authority is an agency of the COG, it was suggested that the Authority also adopt the COG policy. Mr. Hurley moved that the Authority adopt the COG Open Records Policy. Ms. Matason seconded. All in favor.

X. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Greg Roth brought a piece of rusted steel from the Welch Pool filter room they had just replaced.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM on a motion by Ms. Conway and seconded by Mr. Hurley. All in favor.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING has been scheduled for
Thursday, 12 Feb 09, 12:15 PM, at the COG Building Forum Room**

The draft minutes were corrected and approved at the Board meeting on 12 Feb 09.

They will now be distributed to Municipal Managers, SCASD and posted on the CRPR website.

Meeting summary prepared by Diane Ishler, CRPR Office Manager

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