



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, 9 July 09

at the Tom Tudek Memorial Park, Pavilion #2

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
Roy Harpster Donna Ricketts

Staff: Director Ronald J. Woodhead Recreation Supervisor Sports & Fitness Jeff Hall
Asst. Park Supervisor Ted Weaver Recreation Supervisor Programs & Special Events Beth Lee
Aquatics Supervisor Todd Roth Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center Molly Hetrick
Office Manager Diane Ishler Senior Center Director Barbara Lindenbaum
COG Executive Director James Steff

Guest: Todd Smith, ELA Group; Alan Popovich, Architect; members of the State College Area School Board; members of State College Borough Council; State College Borough staff; neighbors of the Welch Pool; Centre Daily Times reporter

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

The Welch Pool Renewal discussion was moved to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate the presentation in response to the Authority's proposal to relocate the bikepath for the Welch Pool Renewal by Dr. Rick Madore, President of the State College Area School District Board of Directors.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

C. Welch Pool Renewal

Ms. Mascolo stated that the meeting would continue with the Welch Pool Renewal and turned the meeting over to the Director. He referred to the copy of the Welch Pool Master Site Plan distributed to the Authority and stated that it was the updated version that reflects the prior approval of the Authority, so it can be finalized for approval by PA DCNR (prior to the bidding process).

Ms. Mascolo asked Mr. Todd Smith to review the various Welch Pool plans as related to the bikepath relocation. Mr. Smith referred to four drawings displayed (copies were distributed). The plan consisted of the existing site with the bikepath, the proposed and approved plan with the bikepath, and Alternate #1 and Alternate #2, both school district routing suggestions. He explained the three possible bikepath routes.

Ms. Mascolo asked Dr. Madore to proceed with his presentation. Dr. Madore reminded everyone that the final easement decision would be between the Borough of State College and the State College Area School District (not involving the CRRA). Dr. Madore related that there were three priorities that the District was

considering with respect to the proposed bikepath relocation:

- 1) to protect assets of the district;
- 2) safety of the citizens;
- 3) the recommendations from the Borough Design Review Board, the Borough Planning Commission, and the letter from the Borough Zoning Officer, Mr. Slaybaugh.

Dr. Madore was hoping to come to some agreement so that the relocation of easement and bikepath for the Welch Pool could be voted on by the State College Area School Board on Monday night. He indicated that the two alternate routes now before the Authority meet the three considerations he mentioned. The assets he referred to were trees in the forest area that were important to save. He noted the trees and showed the Board computer-images of these trees. Regarding the safety issue, he had talked to the Police who felt a more gentle curve might better slow the bike traffic down on the bikepath. If the curve was not put in, they were concerned about the bikes coming straight down at fast speeds and coming out of the trees right onto the sidewalk & street causing safety issues for the pedestrians and bikers. He indicated that he did not have the legal words to present on Monday night but if the Authority did agree to the change, he felt the issue could still be presented for approval at the Monday night meeting. Mr. Harpster asked where the curve was on the drawing. A question was also asked as to the width of the bikepath. The current path is only 8' but the understanding was that the regulations had changed and it needed to be 10' wide. Dr. Madore would have the path be 8' and hoped for a variance to leave it at 8'. Dr. Madore would also like the Authority to endorse a woodland restoration plan and he would like the Welch Pool Renewal to proceed. A question was asked that if the trade-off was going to be moving the pool fence to the top of the stormwater dam, how much additional space would that give the pool? A discussion followed and questions were asked about the trees and the space lost or gained. Questions were asked as to the extra costs that would be involved to move the bikepath with the curve. Mr. Smith replied that adding the bump out curve would not add significant costs, but regardless the new bikepath must comply with current regulations and guidelines.

Mr. Mark Whitfield, State College Borough Public Works Director, stated that the curved bikepath plan looks like it goes through the closed depression that exists on the site (which would impact stormwater runoff). Mr. Smith stated that none of the alignments will interrupt or disturb the stormwater flows. Mr. Hurley asked Mr. Smith if they took the trees into consideration when they initially did the plans. Mr. Smith said that they did not mark the trees that they thought should be removed - but they did examine the trees. Some of the them should be removed due to safety issues (i.e., leaning towards the pool). The bikepath, as approved, meets or exceeds all the current bikepath regulations. Dr. Rick Marboe, as a former chair of the CRRA, stated his concern that Alternate #2 moves too far into the area needed for the pool area. He also stated that with the number of people who will be using this pool, we need to have as much space as possible. He thinks that a date should be set for the decision to be made. Dr. Madore then explained that in looking at the plan there were areas of space not being used that could be used to better maximize space for the facility. He suggested moving the pool perimeter fence to the top of the stormwater dam, closer to the sidewalk along Westerly Parkway, and extended further out around the southeast corner of the pool. Mr. Smith explained that they could not move the fence any further in the front due to Borough regulations and safety, and he explained that he had initially talked to Borough engineers who asked that they not put any structures (including fenceposts) on the dam. Dr. Madore said they had checked with the Borough Engineer who said they had no problems with a fence on the dam. Mr. Whitfield had telephoned the Borough engineer during the meeting, and then explained to the Board that the engineers did not say that "nothing" could be placed on the retention dam, but that they could not put anything there that would compromise the wall.

A neighbor asked why the (SE) corner was not being utilized more; she also mentioned survey stakes that were in the ground. There was a discussion about the various stakes and Mr. Smith discussed the placements and the reasons. He also indicated that some of the those survey stakes for the bikepath had been relocated or removed by others. There was some discussion about the back fenceline and the stormwater and bikepath easements. Ms. Lori Paterno asked about the back fence where there seems to be

a lot more lawn space that could be included. Mr. Smith said that if the fence was moved to the top of the dam, the back corner lawn area would be available for pool patron use. Ms. Cathy Suhey indicated that the cross country team uses the top of the dam, along with equipment storage and vehicle access. Ms. Kim Faulds asked how much square footage would be lost with Alternate #1 and Alternate #2 and when the public would learn about the schedule for the pool project.

Ms. Conway stated that she could see that Dr. Madore put a lot of work into this presentation, but the Authority has also been putting a lot of time into doing the right thing for Welch Pool. She asked if this was the final SCASD issue or if the District was going to be coming back for additional pool issues? Mr. Rosenberger, Borough Council, spoke in favor of the proposed bump-out in the bikepath, an alternative which routes the path furthest from the Suhey property. He felt since the location of the pool fence and bikepath do not have anything to do with where the pool is located, he hoped that the pool project could move forward.

Mr. Popovich explained the updated Welch Pool schedule that he distributed. He indicated that if we could not come to a decision about the bikepath, the plan could be sent to DCNR with the alternate routes. DCNR must approve the plan before we can proceed to bid. With the state budget uncertainties, it is not known when we might hear back from DCNR. He stated that mid-August would be the earliest it could be put out for bid and October 12 for breaking ground. He indicated that due to the positive bidding environment, we want to have the bidding underway ASAP - rather than waiting until next year. With the new schedule, he indicated that there is a very good chance that Welch Pool will not open during Summer 2010, pending the winter weather.

Mr. Hurley asked that if there is no resolution to the bikepath issue, will that prevent us from going ahead? Mr. Popovich said we can go forward using alternates for the bikepath. Mr. Hurley then asked for clarification. He stated that at the last meeting the Authority took into consideration the request to move the bikepath away from the Suhey property and voted to keep the bikepath as shown in the design and to move ahead. If we have already approved a plan to move ahead, why are we considering it again? Ms. Mascolo indicated that it is because the School Board wants to change the bikepath route. Mr. Hurley did not want to have another meeting where we again talked about this and the project doesn't move forward. Ms. Conway indicated that if we are going to save some trees and it is not going to make much difference that we consider Alternate #2 on the bikepath - and also have more consideration on moving the fenceline to expand the pool lawn area. Mr. Smith indicated they would be happy to talk to the Borough Engineer again concerning moving the fence to the top of the dam, but they will keep the fence where it is along the parkway. Dr. Ricketts asked if we could move the fence in the back corner? Mr. Smith said that if the fence was moved to the top of the retaining wall then we could probably move the fence in the corner to provide more space. Ms. Conway asked if we agree with the School Board and they approve this bikepath version, does the land development plan then have to be reviewed by that Board again, and could this plan then come back to us again for further clarification? Dr. Madore said that the lease says they would have 30 days to review the plan, but he would try to have it reviewed quickly, although he could not guarantee the plan would be approved quickly. Dr. Ricketts asked for the staff's recommendation. Mr. Woodhead said that the staff recommends what the Authority has approved. Mr. Harpster moved that the Authority stay with the plan the way it has been approved. Ms. Mascolo seconded. A meeting attendee asked a point of clarification. She said that she thought the Authority had already approved that the Welch Pool would be delayed. Mr. Popovich indicated that the Authority was told at their June 11 meeting that the project would have to be delayed. Ms. Rebecca Hirsch spoke in favor of moving ahead with either of the alternate bikepath routes. Mr. Harpster then changed his motion to "as designed - but route the bikepath around the White Oak Tree." Mr. Rosenberger urged the Authority to be more flexible. Dr. Madore then showed laptop computer images of the trees in question to the Authority. Mr. Harpster withdrew his motion. Ms. Conway moved that the Authority accept the SCASD Alternate #2 for the bikepath with further consideration to moving the pool perimeter fence to the top of the dam, and that the Authority should know if that is acceptable to the School Board by July 27, 2009 or sooner. Ms. Ricketts seconded. All in favor.

The meeting was suspended for 5 minutes, then resumed per the agenda.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

B. Park Forest Construction

Mr. Woodhead indicated that the Park Forest Pool successfully passed the DCNR inspection by Mr. Wes Fahringer, which is a necessary part of their close-out for the grant project.

Mr. Woodhead then referred to the change orders that were endorsed by the Authority previously but the amounts had since been revised, which necessitate Board endorsement again. Mr. Hurley moved that the Authority endorse the revised change orders listed on the agenda. Dr. Ricketts seconded. All in favor. Those change orders were:

Swimming Pool Contract: CO# SP-04 Add piping and valve to assure slide piping winterization (under concrete deck) was initially an amount of \$6,347.54, but the final amount was \$3,725.32

Swimming Pool Contract: CO# SP-05 Add elevated concrete deck under the slide run-out was initially an amount of \$3,431.99, but the final amount was \$2,866.11

Swimming Pool Contract: CO# SP-06 Reconfigure pool boiler piping was initially an amount of \$1,524.87, but the final amount was \$1,558.14

Swimming Pool Contract CO# SP-07 Plumbing and valves for future UV filter installation with an amount of \$2,132.59. This amount did not change.

Dr. Ricketts moved that the Authority endorse the following Change Orders previously approved by the Director. Mr. Hurley seconded. All in favor. The Change Orders are:

General CO #G-12 Contract Time Extension by 28 days No amount change.

General CO #G-13 Modify retaining wall at slide steps Add \$3,291.07

General CO #G-14 Add drain line for planting bed Add \$1,188.16

Plumbing CO #P-10 Contract time Extension by 28 days No amount change

Plumbing CO #P-11 Reset / re-pipe the filter room surge tank; provide credit to omit exhaust air balancing in bath house Net Add of \$374

Electrical CO #E-09 Accept reuse of existing light fixtures in pavilion in exchange for additional labor and concrete required for the pool light pole bases. No amount change

Electrical CO #E-10 Contract Time Extension by 28 days No amount change

Electrical CO #E-11 Add extra circuit to pavilion Add #173.80

Swimming Pool CO #SP-03 Contract Time Extension by 28 days No amount change.

Mr. Woodhead reviewed the “punch list” of items to be resolved:

- 1) Concrete spray pad for tot area was incorrectly installed causing water to run out of the area instead of recycling. A short term correction will be made with the long term correction being made after Labor day at the contractor’s expense.
- 2) The aim of the pool lights will be adjusted as soon as the concrete cures enough to hold the equipment needed to adjust the lights.
- 3) The stormwater situation. The stormwater system worked on the Park Forest site but the heavy rain had water coming from the Park Forest Middle School area. Talks will be held with the State College Area School District to see if a solution can be reached. Mr. Popovich related that a neighbor that is located in a lower area was also affected by this storm run off.

Ms. Mascolo indicated that Mr. Steff suggested we officially approve that the Welch Pool Master Site Plan move forward. Accordingly, Mr. Hurley moved that the Authority authorize the staff and consultants to move forward with the Welch Pool Master Site Plan as revised (bikepath and fenceline). Ms. Conway seconded. All in favor.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 11 Jun 09 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Conway. All in favor.

IV. ACTION ON VOUCHERS

The June 2009 vouchers were approved on a motion by Ms. Conway and seconded by Mr. Hurley. All in favor.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Boards & Committees: Issues & Updates by Board Members

- *College Twp. Parks & Recreation Committee:* No report.
- *Patton Twp. Rec. Advisory Committee:* Mr. Hurley related that Patton Township is sending out additional surveys and it is hoped that this phase of Circleville Park will be finished by the end of July. Mr. Woodhead indicated that the new stormwater system at Circleville helped with the stormwater at Park Forest Pool during the storm.
- *Borough of State College:* No report
- *Harris Twp. Park & Recreation Committee:* Mr. Harpster reported that the Harris Township manager is still working with the owners to purchase Hess Field.
- *Ferguson Township:* Ms. Mascolo related that the Dog Park is to be sheltered and have a handicap accessible walkway.
- *State College Area School District:* No report.

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee - Ms. Hetrick reported there was no new business from that committee.

COG Parks Capital Committee -The committee met 18 Jun 09 and discussed the status of the Oak Hall Master Site Plan, finalized the Interview Selection Committee process for the Whitehall Road Master Site Plan, and continued to discuss funding options for the regional park developments.

Regional Park Planning Committee - The Park Planning Committee will meet at the Boalsburg Fire Hall on 13 Jul 09 to interview the four firms selected for interviews by the appointed committee.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

June 2009 Activity Report - Mr. Woodhead referred the Board to the activity report included in their packet. Mr. Todd Roth reported that the pool passes have already surpassed the passes sold all of last year. He indicated that every day he receives compliments regarding the new Park Forest Pool.

Winter & Spring 2009 Program Report - This report was distributed at the meeting.

2010 Program Plan - A copy will be provided at the next meeting.

Supervisor Highlights:

Barbara Lindenbaum, Senior Center Director - There were 235 participants in Senior Games, the power assist doors will be installed at the Center on Monday (13 Jul), and the seniors had a great trip to Lancaster.

Jeff Hall, Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness - Mr. Hall reported that there are 84 youth and 20 adults in tennis and more people are signing up.

Beth Lee, Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events - Ms. Lee reported that the numbers at camp are great and that they were out of craft supplies by 1:00 PM on Children's Day at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of Arts. She related that the 44th Peanut Carnival would be held on 30 Jul. She is starting to plan for fall.

Ted Weaver, Asst. Parks Supervisor for Greg Roth, Parks Supervisor - the main focus has been on mowing and safety renovations of the playground equipment.

Molly Hetrick, Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center - She reported that camps at the Nature Center are

going very well; the bass fly fishing camp and the canoe camp are over and the trout fly fishing and another canoe camp are ahead.

Todd Roth, Aquatic Supervisor - Swim lessons are going well and there were 360 participants on the swim teams. The pools close in 61 days (Welch will remain open through Labor day) so he is concentrating on keeping everyone as safe as possible.

The 2008 Auditor's Report will be moved until the next meeting (13 Aug) for discussion and action.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS - none

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM on a motion by Mr. Hurley and a second by Mr. Harpster.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING has been scheduled for
Thursday, 13 Aug 09, 12:15 PM, at the COG Building, Forum Room**

These minutes were approved at the Board meeting on 13 Aug 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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