



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, 11 June 09

at the Patton Township Building Meeting 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  
Roy Harpster                      Kathy Matason

Staff: Director Ronald J. Woodhead                      Recreation Supervisor Sports & Fitness Jeff Hall  
Parks Supervisor Greg Roth                      Recreation Supervisor Programs & Special Events Beth Lee  
Aquatics Supervisor Todd Roth                      Office Manager Diane Ishler  
COG Executive Director James Steff

Guest: Todd Smith, ELA Group; Alan Popovich, Architect; Tom Fountaine, Borough of State College Manager; Virginia and Cathy Suhey, neighbors of Welch Pool; Carol Oliver and Laurene Phillips, Centre Region Tennis Association.

**II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the 14 May 09 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Conway. All in favor.

The minutes of the 27 May 09 Special Meeting at Welch Pool were approved on a motion by Mr. Harpster and seconded by Ms. Matason. All in favor.

**IV. ACTION ON VOUCHERS**

The May 2009 vouchers were approved on a motion by Mr. Harpster and seconded by Mr. Hurley. All in favor.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

*A. Tennis Facility Report*

Mr. Woodhead reported that the Authority was charged by the COG Parks Capital Committee to consider a presentation by the Centre Region Community Tennis Association and then make a recommendation to the Parks Capital Committee. He stated that the Authority heard their presentation in May and now the Board may wish to consider a recommendation. The tennis presentation was previously posted on the CRPR website so it could be reviewed by all. In the agenda a four-part recommendation was listed by staff for initial consideration. Mr. Woodhead asked that members discuss and then recommend this month or next month. Ms. Mascolo asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Hurley indicated he finds the recommendations by the staff to be interesting. He thought the presentation was wonderful and liked some of the points that were presented by the tennis group, such as

tennis as a life long sport, etc. He would be interested in finding out more information about what CRPR and the finance group would have to say about what the impact and outcomes of the tennis facility would be. He is not endorsing moving forward with a structure at this time, but would support tennis courts being built. He would like to pursue this with more research.

Ms. Matason asked if there was a history of providing indoor sport facilities? She also asked if we would be starting down a slippery slope by setting a precedent if we agreed to build this indoor facility. Mr. Woodhead indicated that we do not have any indoor sports facilities; we use the school district facilities. He also agreed that it may be a slippery slope since other groups have also been requesting indoor facilities (soccer, etc.).

Ms. Mascolo would like to see six outdoor courts built, but is not sure of the possible funding for indoor facilities. Ms. Conway would like to gather more information.

Mr. Harpster asked if the group had looked into buying land and putting up their own structure as a club-type operation. Ms. Oliver replied that they did look into buying land but found that it would cost approximately \$800,000 just for the land (approximately 3 acres). CRPR / COG already owns the land that is going to be developed into a regional park. In addition, if it was a club owned / operated facility, they would be subject to taxes. She said it would then become a sport for only those who can afford it.

Mr. Hurley asked if there are other municipal covered structures. Ms. Oliver stated that there are three listed in the proposal.

After further discussion, Ms. Conway made the motion:

*“That the Authority Board hereby,*

- 1) thanks the Association for their efforts and their support of public tennis,*
- 2) endorses the indoor tennis facility concept, while also acknowledging the on-going discussions regarding an indoor, multiple-sport facility in the region,*
- 3) recognizes the need for additional study of the proposal and the remaining concern about the financial obligations to the municipalities with respect to constructing and operating any indoor facility,*
- 4) recommends that the COG Parks Capital Committee consider the group’s proposal and formulate a process, in cooperation with the Authority, for evaluating / studying the issue and, if a municipal operation is warranted, studying possible locations.”*

Mr. Hurley seconded. Mr. Harpster asked who will be on the Committee to look at it. Ms. Mascolo indicated that committee would be the COG Parks Capital Committee. Ms. Oliver asked if the Authority would like someone from the Tennis Association to participate on this committee. It would be the COG Parks Capital Committee that would determine the committee makeup. The motion was approved.

#### *B. Park Forest Pool Construction*

Mr. Todd Roth explained that the Park Forest Swimming Pool opening day would be a free swim day; beginning at 11 - 11:15 AM when the gates would open and then a ceremony at 11:45 AM on June 13, 2009. There will be a First Splash where everyone jumps in. The American Legion, who donated the flag and flag pole, will raise the flag as part of the ceremony. There will be ticket drawing with the winners being the first two people to go down the slides. Mr. Woodhead indicated that the project looks like it will come in about \$3,000 or \$4,000 under budget. There will be some change orders coming through, but not an increase in dollars. The state started to process the approved partial payment from the construction grant of \$350,000. After the meeting, the Board members visited Park Forest Pool for a tour.

#### *C. Welch Pool Renewal*

1 ) *Resolution Approval* - While the Authority previously endorsed the Master Site Plan, Resolution 3-2009 approval is required by the state for the grant reimbursement. Ms. Matason moved to approve Resolution 3-2009 and Mr. Harpster seconded. All in favor.

2) *Project Planning Status* - Mr. Smith reported on the comments and recommendations for the Welch Pool Construction Plan from the State College Borough Design Review Board and the State College Borough Planning Commission. The preliminary plan review was on March 25 and the plan was revised based on those comments. The Design Review Board reviewed the final plans on May 27, 2009. Their

request was two fold:

A) plan to be approved by staff,

B) recommends the following for consideration:

- 1) Authority to consider using bollards to eliminate use of the service drive for drop off. Mr. Smith indicated that the plan is to make provision for the bollards on the outside of the drive but not put them in. A chain would be used until the site is up and running. If the bollards are necessary, they could then be installed.
- 2) Continue the sidewalk through the service driveway for improved pedestrian safety. The plan is to keep the sidewalk at curb level and create what resembles a speed bump so that the drivers would feel a difference alerting them to the fact that they should not be driving on this service driveway.
- 3) Educational signs should be erected to educate the public about the Bio-swale, what it is and does. It was recommended that this not be installed due to the vandalism. If the Board wants to do this, Mr. Smith recommended that the school district could take the students out to the swale for learning opportunities. Ms. Conway said unfortunately Mr. Smith is right about the vandalism; it seems like a good idea except for the vandalism. Mr. Hurley thought it was a great suggestion and moved that the Authority suggest to the school district that they provide the sign for educational purposes. Ms. Matason seconded. The motion passed 4 yes and 1 no.
- 4) Plant additional shade trees throughout the facility
- 5) Continue to investigate solar power for heating the pool. Mr. Smith indicated that economics of the operation and the orientation of the roofs are not good for solar heating, plus there would have to be a boiler back up system installed anyway. With regard to the payoff time, the Director reminded everyone that the pool is only open three months per year.
- 6) For the proposed relocation of the bike path, the Design Review Board recommended that if the bike path is relocated, the Authority should engage an arborist or forester to design a woodland restoration plan that would better manage that stand of trees. They also suggested removing all Norway Maples as they are an invasive species.

Planning Commission recommendations (after they reviewed the Design Review Board recommendations:

- 1) Recommended that staff approve the plan.
- 2) The letter from Herman Slaybaugh, Zoning Officer, indicates that the easement between State College Borough and the State College Area School District, which includes the bike path, is not included in the approval of the plan.

The site plan has been sent to the PA DEP and they are currently reviewing the plan specifically for stormwater management. Mr. Smith indicated that he is not expecting any problems with their review.

Mr. Woodhead requested, based on this progress that the Authority provide direction to staff and consultants with respect to the bikeway relocation, as part of the planned pool renewal. He mentioned the letter from the Borough of State College to Mr. Smith from Mr. Herman Slaybaugh that speaks for the Authority to be a good neighbor. Mr. Hurley asked Mr. Woodhead for his take on the recommendations in the letter for the bikeway? Mr. Woodhead was looking at the recommendations and thinks that there could be some plantings that would help both the neighbors and pool patrons. He recommends that the bikeway be relocated according to the plan, with the additional plantings to provide a visual barrier for the pool patrons and the neighbors. Mr. Hurley asked if the last sentence in the Borough letter is a recommendation that we not relocate the bikeway for these neighbors. Mr. Smith indicated that the letter was a two-fold recommendation. If the path is realigned as the plan stands, then they strongly recommend an arborist or forester be hired to provide a woodland restoration plan to provide an effective screen and buffer. The second is to relocate the bikeway.

Mr. Fountaine explained the position of the Borough. The best recommendation is to slightly alter (bump out) the proposed bikeway route behind the Suhey property if it does not adversely affect the pool plan. The second part of the recommendation is that a screen be installed. Ms. Mascolo asked what is meant by a screen; is that a fence or plantings? Mr. Fountaine indicated the type of screen is not mentioned

and could be made from a variety of things including fence or plantings. Ms. Matason asked for a clarification of the property line. Her understanding, after looking at the site, is that there is an issue of encroachment. The Suheys have been using the land for years, but it does not belong to them. Ms. Matason asked if they were right in where they placed the property line? Mr. Fountaine indicated that there is no doubt that the property in question is public property, but if the neighbors could be accommodated without causing undo problems for the pool project, that maybe the slight change in the bikeway could be done.

Ms. Cathy Suhey agreed that they had been enjoying the use of the property. She indicated that they are not too concerned with the pool expansion but that putting the bikeway closer to them along with a fence for the pool would create a tunnel that would not allow anywhere for bikers to go if they had to leave the bikeway, a matter of safety. She also indicated that the bikeway would be too close to their property. Ms. Mascolo asked how far it was from their property to the bikeway? Mr. Smith said that with the bikeway location on the plan it would be 28 feet from their property. The current bikeway is 36 feet from their property line. Mr. Smith distributed maps that illustrated the location of the bikeway. Ms. Suhey presented pictures of the property from her porch and indicated what they were requesting in the change of the planned bikeway. Mr. Hurley asked Mr. Smith what impact the slight change in the bikeway would have on the pool plan. Mr. Smith used the plan to show the sanitary easement and that moving the bikeway as requested by the neighbors would create more of a bowl and could amplify the noise for the neighbors. However, bumping out the path out slightly would not increase costs. Mr. Hurley indicated that it didn't seem like it would make a big impact if it was changed slightly. Mr. Smith explained that it might be true, but that everything would have to meet the current regulations for bikeways including steepness, grading, and curve radius. Mr. Hurley asked if the Planning Commission was taking any ownership with this change. Mr. Fountaine replied that the Planning Commission was asking if the pool project would be adversely effected. If it did not adversely affect the pool plan, maybe it could remain at its present location or slightly changed to accommodate the neighbors. Ms. Conway asked what square footage is involved and how much square footage is lost to the pool if we change the bikeway plan slightly at the Suheys? Discussion followed that included the type of tree that would be planted for buffer plus whether trees were being saved if the bikeway was changed slightly by the Suhey property. After some thought maybe the slight change could be approved, Mr. Harpster asked what about the other neighbor, Mr. Heimer. What concession was he asking for? Ms. Cathy Suhey said that he wanted the bikeway to go along the tree line (further from his property) and he was unable to come to this meeting. Ms. Mascolo asked if action should be taken on the bikeway relocation. Mr. Woodhead said that he requests guidance on this now. He also noted that the Board's recommendation would go to the school board; it would be the School Board and the Borough Council who would decide the issue since they are the entities in the bikeway easement agreement. Mr. Hurley asked, if a motion was made to keep the bikeway where it is, would it still have to go to the School Board and the Borough? Mr. Woodhead indicated that if it was left intact where it is there would be no need to meet with the School Board or the Borough - but that if the bikeway was retained at the present location, the pool project would not be able to utilize a lot of ground that is leased. More discussion followed. Mr. Hurley restated that the issue was not whether the bikeway would be relocated because that is needed but whether the slight curve change at the Suhey property is acceptable. Discussion included what trees might be saved if the bikeway was slightly changed at the Suheys. Ms. Conway moved that the bikeway be kept as it has been designed, with relocated bikeway, on the pool plans and that an arborist or forester prepare a woodland restoration plan to effectively buffer the neighbors. Mr. Harpster seconded. The motion carried 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstained.

3) *Architect's Update:* Mr. Popovich explained the process for the Welch Pool bid and the challenges that have been encountered. The delays have caused a time crunch to the point of moving the opening date to mid-Summer 2010 or maybe not being able to open in Summer 2010. The hope is that the Borough of State College will approve the relocated bikeway on Monday, 15 Jun 09. He indicated they are still shooting for a 90% completion by next week so they can still submit the Preliminary Design to Centre

Region Code and to PA DCNR for approval. They will also be sending the estimated costs associated with the project to show that it is within budget. He indicated that the start date has been moved to late-September, 2009. The window of opportunity for the construction of the drop-off and accessible parking on the school property is mid-June through the end of July 2010. There are many hurdles that have to be overcome to even come close to the altered project dates. Ms. Matason asked Mr. Woodhead how much more time we are going to lose with the bikeway discussion. Mr. Woodhead indicated that it is a real concern because we do not know when a decision will be made. Discussion followed and the Board decided to ask Betsy Dupuis if she could represent the CRRA in this ongoing discussion of the relocation of the bikeway. Ms. Matason moved that the Authority authorize Attorney Betsy Dupuis to serve as counsel for the bikeway relocation. Mr. Hurley seconded. All in favor.

*D. Nature Center Building - Grant Application*

Mr. Woodhead reported that a grant application for \$500,000 was submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for funding opportunities presented by the (federal) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This grant was for the Spring Creek Education Building. The results are to be announced by the end of July. Mr. Woodhead thanked Molly Hetrick for her extensive work on this initiative. Ms. Mascolo asked if it was true that we did not have sufficient local funds to build the Spring Creek Educational Building. Mr. Popovich said that they would have to do some changing of the current plan to be able to build just with local funds. The \$500,000 grant would allow them to build the building including the solar panels.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Municipal Boards & Committees: Issues & Updates by Board Members*

- *College Twp. Parks & Recreation Committee:* Ms. Matason reported that next Monday, 15 Jun 09, the committee will be making park visits.
- *Patton Twp. Rec. Advisory Committee:* Mr. Hurley reported that 1,750 surveys were sent out with a due date of 5 Jun 09 but the response rate was not satisfactory so an additional 1,000 may be sent out in August. He also reported that the expansion project at Circleville Park is currently three weeks behind.
- *Borough of State College:* No report
- *Harris Twp. Park & Recreation Committee:* Mr. Harpster reported that Harris Township is working with Liberty Hill on development of the 4 acre park to be located there.
- *Ferguson Township:* No report
- *State College Area School District:* No report

*Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee* - Ms. Matason said that everyone who worked on the \$500,000 grant application did a great job.

*COG Parks Capital Committee* - The committees next meeting is 18 Jun 09 when they will focus on finalizing the selection process for the Whitehall Road Parkland consultants.

*Regional Park Planning Committee* - The committee met on 21 May 09 to officially endorse the proposed Oak Hall Master Site Plan for the COG General Forum. Mr. Woodhead indicated that they are answering the municipal comments as they come in. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

## **VII. STAFF REPORTS**

*May 2009 Activity Report* - Mr. Woodhead indicated that YTD operational revenue is greater than last year - but there is also concern about the youth sports revenue at only 66% of last year.

*2010 Program Plan* - The eight funds that comprise the CRPR Program Plan have been completed and sent to COG Administration. Copies will be provided to the Board members once the plan is released by the COG Administration.

*CRPR Maintenance & Storage Area Report* - There is no additional information on the Maintenance & Storage Area.

*Senior Center Update:*

- A. *Power-assisted Entrance Doors - Installation Update* - Ms. Lindenbaum reported that the electric work for the electronic doors at the Senior Center should be finished by June 30. The electric doors are being funded by the Centre County Office Of Aging.
- B. *Commercial-grade Dishwasher - Grant Application* - Ms. Lindenbaum reported that the Senior Citizen's Club is donating \$2,500 toward a commercial grade dishwasher. The Senior Center plans to apply to the Centre County Community Foundation for a grant to obtain the rest of the funding necessary to purchase the dishwasher (rather than always using disposable plates and utensils).

***Supervisor Highlights:***

*Greg Roth, Parks Supervisor* - The parks maintenance crew is mowing grass and working at the Park Forest Pool - along with other necessary tasks in the parks.

*Barbara Lindenbaum, Senior Center Director* - The senior center had its second murder mystery and it was very successful. Senior Games registrations are in process with 230 participants so far. The games finish on 24 Jun 09 with a luncheon. Next week the Lancaster bus trip will take place.

*Beth Lee reported for Molly Hetrick, Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center* - Ms. Lee reported that this is the last week of programs for school children and the last week for Spring Season staff. Bass Fly-Fishing Camp begins 22 Jun.

*Beth Lee, Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events* - Ms. Lee reported that she is promoting the Park Forest Pool Reopening. In addition, she is getting camp staff ready for summer camp, training a staff that includes 20 Junior Leaders. Camp registrations are doing very well. Touch A Truck will be held June 25 at the High School South Building parking lot.

*Todd Roth, Aquatic Supervisor* - Welch Pool is running smoothly and everyone is working to open Park Forest.

*Jeff Hall, Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness* - The Start Smart sessions continue to be very popular. Also being offered are adult and youth tennis, and co-ed volleyball. There are 11 adult softball teams.

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS** - none

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM. The Board then proceeded to Park Forest Swimming Pool for a walk-through.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING has been scheduled for  
Thursday, 9 July 09, 12:15 PM, at Tom Tudek Memorial Park - Pavilion #2**

*These minutes were approved at the Board meeting on 9 Jul 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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