



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, 14 May 09

in the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Barn

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

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

Board members attending (6 of 6):

Sue Mascolo	Donna Conway	Chris Hurley
Roy Harpster	Dr. Donna Ricketts	Kathy Matason

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

Guests: Kathy Ulincy, COG Finance Officer, Dr. Rob Brooks, Director Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center; Carol Oliver and the following individuals from the Centre Region Community Tennis Association: Margie Swoboda, Joan Nessler, Michael Harper, Lavrene Phillips, Dottie Colton, Bill Saxton, Terrence Guay, Barbara Snow, Cheree Jones, Bea Kegall, Kathy DiMuccio, Karen Fisher-Vanden, Mary Schmidt, Bobbie Hayes, Casey Oliver, Elizabeth Goreham

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Mascolo and Mr. Woodhead asked Mr. Hall to introduce the special presentation before we moved to the approval of the minutes and vouchers. Mr. Hall introduced Carol Oliver representing the Centre Region Community Tennis Association. She is also one of the CRPR tennis instructors. In January 2009, the Centre Region Community Tennis Association was formed and now has 300+ members. Ms. Oliver made a PowerPoint presentation asking the Board to consider building a tennis facility as part of the Whitehall Road Parkland plan. Each Board member had received a complete work up of the reasons why a tennis facility was a good idea, the costs, the potential revenues, that tennis is a life long sport, etc.. She explained that other sports have supporters that are willing to build indoor facilities and the tennis association was hoping that Parks & Recreation would see the benefit and be willing to consider supporting a tennis facility. The idea was supported by USTA who would help with the design, fund-raising, and there are grants available to help with the funding of the project. The USTA supplied funding for the proposal and for the organization to become a non-profit. Once the funding is complete, the tennis association then wants Parks & Recreation to maintain / operate the facility. She then shared some examples of people who played tennis with Parks & Recreation and have moved on to the high school tennis team or that are still playing tennis years later.

Three different types of facilities were researched: bubble, frame & fabric, and metal. The USTA suggests the metal which lasts longer. The tennis association recommends a structure that would stay up year round. They determined that the bubble would not be acceptable. Mr. Woodhead thanked the group

for the presentation and booklet; the Authority will be reviewing this at their June meeting so they can make a recommendation to the COG Parks Capital Committee. Their presentation also suggested designs for the inside of the facility. Ms. Mascolo thanked the group. A question was asked about the process. A recommendation will be made to the COG Parks Capital Committee; over the next 7-8 months this committee will be deciding on the plans for Whitehall Road Parkland. There will be public meetings where people can express their opinion related to those plans.

Mr. Woodhead then introduced Ms. Kathy Ulincy, the new COG Finance Officer.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 2 Apr 09 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Conway and seconded by Mr. Hurley. All in favor. The minutes of the 9 Apr 09 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Conway and seconded by Dr. Ricketts. All in favor.

IV. ACTION ON VOUCHERS

The March and April 2009 vouchers were approved on a motion by Ms. Conway and second by Mr. Hurley. All in favor.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Boards & Committees: Issues & Updates by Board Members

- *College Twp. Parks & Recreation Committee*: No report
- *Patton Twp. Rec. Advisory Committee*: Mr. Hurley reported that they reviewed the final draft of the park survey that will be sent out to residents. They also had an update on Phase 2A of the Circleville Park project. On May 19, they will be going on a parks tour of the two regional parks and two pools.
- *Borough of State College*: No report
- *Harris Twp. Park & Recreation Committee*: No report
- *Ferguson Township*: No report
- *State College Area School District*: Dr. Ricketts brought copies of the SCASD Summer Schedule for Community Education.

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee - Ms. Hetrick reported that the Advisory Committee formally approved the waiver of fees for Spring Creek Day and the recommendation to nominate Millbrook Marsh Nature Center for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. The College Township Council approved the Spring Creek Education Building "Land Development Plan." Mr. Marboe will be at the June meeting to update the Authority on the Spring Creek Education Building development. Ms. Mascolo asked Ms. Hetrick to report on recent grant award. Ms. Hetrick reported that a \$3,000 grant application was approved by the Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau to revise and reprint 20,000 Millbrook Marsh Nature Center brochures.

COG Parks Capital Committee - Mr. Woodhead relayed that the committee is talking about the funding strategy for regional parks. Since only the preliminary numbers are available for Oak Hall, solid numbers for development are not available to help with the funding solution. The committee is discussing whether to phase the project or to borrow and complete it all at one time. After they decide how to fund the parks, they will discuss how to allocate the costs to each municipality.

Regional Park Planning Committee - Mr. Woodhead reported that at the Special Meeting on 2 Apr 09, the Oak Hall Parkland Master Site Plan was approved to move forward. At the 21 May 09 combined meeting, the first part of the meeting will be to approve a recommendation to the General Forum for approval of the Oak Hall Parkland Master Site Plan. He also reported that the Oak Hall Parkland construction grant application for 2010 has been submitted. Thirteen firms submitted proposals for

Master Site Development for Whitehall Road Parkland. The Regional Park Planning Committee will meet on 21 May 09 to discuss the selection process to be followed to select those to interview and to determine the firm that would be awarded the contract.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

April 2009 Activity Report - Mr. Woodhead indicated that the agency is \$27,000 ahead in program and operational revenue for the first four months of 2009 as compared to the same time last year. He thanked the staff for their work to make this happen.

2010 Program Plan - This is the first step in the annual budget process. The Program Budget for 2010 is due to COG Administration within a week. It does not contain the dollars for 2010 but does contain what the agency proposes to do - so there are no surprises when the detailed budget process begins. A draft copy of the program budget should be available at the meeting in June.

2009 CCCF Endowment Payment Report - Mr. Woodhead referred to the payment report of endowments currently held by Centre County Community Fund. Donations to the funds have increased the funds; however, it was noted that during these economic times the value of and proceeds from the funds have decreased.

CRPR Maintenance & Storage Area Report - Mr. Woodhead reminded the Authority that the COG Parks Capital Committee has asked them to provide information about the equipment inventory and the space available so the Parks Capital Committee can make a recommendation to the General Forum. Mr. Roth, Parks Supervisor, provided a report of the space available as compared to the space needed. Because there are pictures that go with each site, Mr. Woodhead explained that he is thinking of making the report web-based and available to the Authority.

State Grant Opportunities from PA Dept of Environmental Protection for MMNC - Mr. Woodhead attended a meeting that explained about the application process for the stimulus package grants (for energy related programs). He explained that the agency is researching how to apply for these funds for the nature center's "Spring Creek Education Building." Since the grant application deadline is before the next Authority meeting, he asked for approval to prepare and submit an application. Mr. Hurley moved that the Authority authorize the Agency Director to submit a grant for the Spring Creek Education Building. Mr. Harpster seconded. All in favor.

Supervisor Highlights:

Greg Roth, Parks Supervisor - Mr. Roth reported that they have mowed about 350 acres each week, planted Remembrance Trees, worked on ballfields, helped Todd Roth with the pools, and prepared the parks for reservations. The PCC crew has been working on the installation of playground equipment and working on the boardwalk at Millbrook Marsh. Mr. Hurley asked if the gypsy moths were affecting the trees in the parks. Mr. Roth answered that he did not think the infestation was bad this year.

Barbara Lindenbaum, Senior Center Director - Ms. Lindenbaum reported they are getting ready for the 21st Annual County Senior Games. They have added some "mental games" this year.

Molly Hetrick, Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center - Ms. Hetrick related that spring programs are well underway but the rainy weather is causing group scheduling problems. The new staff are doing very well. Approximately 100 youth are participating in programs during the day and scout programs at night. Ms. Hetrick is getting ready for the camps for summer (all full).

Beth Lee, Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events - Ms. Lee explained that Bike-In Movies are being held again this year in cooperation with the sponsors. She is currently hiring summer staff and promoting all programs.

Jeff Hall, Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness - Mr. Hall stated that 11 adult softball teams have registered and there are four girls softball teams in the 9-12 grades. He explained that adult teams were having trouble getting sponsors. Other programs are tennis, Start Smart soccer and basketball and a new non-competitive program called Heavy Hitters. The Pitch Hit & Run sectionals will be held at Spring Creek Park. On Sunday, 17 May 09, the Hershey Track & Field meet will be held.

Todd Roth, Aquatic Supervisor - Mr. Roth is almost finished hiring his seasonal staff of about 120 positions. He is working on the programs and special events and trying to get the pools open. He thanked the parks maintenance employees who helped get Welch Pool ready. He is also helping to coordinate Park Forest Pool to have the facility ready to open as scheduled. Mr. Roth also related that more season pool passes have been sold this year (almost double).

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau - Ms. Hetrick already mentioned the \$3,000 grant approval.
PA Conservation Corp (PCC) - The Governor announced that the Authority was again awarded the grant worth \$103,000 in partnership with the Mount Nittany Conservancy. This will be the 8th consecutive year that the Authority has been selected from the competitive application process.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. A Proposal to Nominate A Portion of MMNC to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands:

Dr. Rob Brooks, Director, Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center was at the meeting to answer any questions that the Authority members might have about the Ramsar Convention and what nominating Millbrook Marsh Nature Center to be included would mean for Millbrook. He said that this was a special opportunity to gain a lot of visibility for the nature center. In previous years, this organization focused on the big nature centers but now is looking at smaller ones. He spoke to Ramsar and they were glad to hear from us. It would cost no money, nor would there be oversight, but signs would be provided.

Mr. Hurley moved that the Centre Regional Recreation Authority endorse the nomination of the Millbrook Marsh (50 of the 62 acres leased for the nature center) to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, pending similar endorsements by the landowner (Penn State University) and the conservation easement owner (ClearWater Conservancy). Ms. Conway seconded. All in favor.

B. Park Forest Pool Construction

Contractor Schedule - Mr. T. Roth reviewed the schedule with the Authority indicating that the opening day for Park Forest Pool will be 13 June beginning at noon with the First Splash. Mr. Hurley asked if the pool will be done by then. Mr. Woodhead indicated that it would be tight but the pool is to be finished a few days before 13 June so they can set up and be ready for the first day. The Free Swim Day would be moved to that day for both pools. Dr. Ricketts moved that the pool schedule be approved as presented. Mr. Hurley seconded. All in favor.

Project Budget Update - The pool budget is slightly over budget by \$2,400 but Mr. Woodhead will be working that out with the consultants - and remain under budget. For the next pool project it would be nice to have a p/t person who could oversee the construction.

Change Orders - Mr. Woodhead asked the Authority to approve the following Change Orders that were previously signed by the Director:

Swimming Pool Contract: CO# SP-04 Add \$3,341.99 to add elevated concrete deck under the slide run-out.

Swimming Pool Contract: CO# SP-05 Add \$1,524.87 to reconfigure pool boiler piping.

Swimming Pool Contract: CO# SP-06 Add \$2,132.59 for plumbing and valves for future UV filter installation.

He asked that the Authority decline Change Order # SP-03; Mr. Woodhead is still discussing that proposal. Mr. Hurley moved to approve Change Orders # SP-04, SP-05, and SP-06. Dr. Ricketts seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Woodhead then reviewed change orders that are in process and will be proposed for action when all the details are finalized.

Mr. Hurley asked about the grit walkways. He was concerned that the grit will be getting in the pool and be carried all over the facility. Ms. Mascolo also thought this would be a problem. It was thought that the grit would not cause problems with the pool filters. Ms. Conway asked about the plants around the water meter pit. She thought we had already approved the planting. Mr. Woodhead indicated that the neighbors asked for a different variety of flowers.

C. Welch Pool Renewal -

Parking & Bathhouse Agreements - Mr. Woodhead reported that the two agreements were signed by the Authority officers and delivered C/o Ms. Dupius, Solicitor, to SCASD for their signatures.

Master Site Plan - Mr. Woodhead asked the Authority to officially approve the proposed Master Site Plan for Welch Pool as proposed and to authorize staff to: 1) obtain the PA DCNR review of the plan / report, and 2) request grant reimbursement (\$33,000 as announced in July 2006). Ms. Mascolo asked Mr. Roth to explain the plan. Mr. Roth explained each part of the pool plan. Mr. Hurley made the motion to approve the Welch Pool Master Site Plan and authorize the staff to obtain the PA DCNR review of the plan / report and request grant reimbursement for \$33,000. Ms. Conway seconded. All in favor.

Planning Status - Mr. T. Roth reviewed the buildings on the plans for the Welch Pool Master Site Plan. Mr. Woodhead indicated that Monday night the Borough of State College is reviewing moving the bikeway easement. The easement is between the School District and the Borough of State College. Todd Roth explained that we already have done some work that will not have to be done by the construction contractors. An example, with the help of the parks crew, an underground oil tank was removed that had been unused since 1984. They had a certified environmental company remove the tank so there would be no environmental problems.

Professional Services Agreement - A draft of the proposed "Agreement for Proposal for Architectural/Engineering Professional Services" with HP Architects for the Welch Pool construction was provided at the last meeting for review and comments. The Authority is asked to approve this agreement with total professional services fee of \$442,275 and reimbursable expenses of \$143,450 or a total of \$585,725. This total falls within the budget selected for Option #3. The reimbursable fees are increased due to increase COG review plan fees. Mr. Hurley stated he was hoping there were no grit walkways. Dr. Ricketts moved that the Authority approve the professional services agreement with HP Architects in a total amount not to exceed \$578,725, subject to final revisions by Solicitor Williams and the approval of PA DCNR. Mr. Hurley seconded. All in favor.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Matason. All in favor.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING has been scheduled for
Thursday, 11 June 09, 12:15 PM, at the Park Forest Pool
(changed to the Patton Township Building)**

These minutes were approved at the Board meeting on 11 Jun 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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