



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 Feb 2010
at 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
Roy Harpster	Kathy Matason	(Dr. Ricketts was absent w/ prior notice)

Staff: Director Ronald J. Woodhead	Recreation Supervisor Sports & Fitness Jeff Hall
Park Supervisor Greg Roth	Recreation Supervisor Programs & Special Events Beth Lee
Aquatics Supervisor Todd Roth	Recreation Supervisor Nature Center Molly Hetrick
Office Manager Diane Ishler	Senior Center Supervisor Virginia Shawley
James Steff, COG Director	Tiffany Barto, Parks Caretaker II
Sam Thompson, CRPR Intern	

Guest: Rick Tetzlaff, an umpire and member of the SC Area Softball Assn.

II. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Ms. Mascolo turned to Parks Supervisor Greg Roth for the special recognition. Mr. Roth introduced Tiffany Barto, Parks Caretaker II for CRPR. Mr. Roth recognized Ms. Barto for her recent achievement as a "Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist" (PCH) by the PA Landscape and Nursery Assn. He explained that most people who take the test the first time fail but Ms. Barto passed with an average score of 94% on all four sections. She is the only PA Certified Horticulturist that is working for a municipal government. She has worked as a seasonal Parks Caretaker for CRPR since 1998 and year-round/full-time since 2007. Tiffany's PCH certification plaque will hang in the CRPR offices.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 14 Jan 2010 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Harpster a second by Ms. Matason.

V. ACTION ON VOUCHERS

The January vouchers were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Hurley and a second by Ms. Conway.

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 the Patton Township Rec. Advisory

Committee held its officer elections: Chris Hurley was re-elected Chairman and Judy Minor was elected Vice-Chair. They reviewed the list of projects for 2010. They also reviewed the parks plan to be sent to Board of Supervisors involving Circleville Park, Greenwood, Oakwood, Woodycrest, tennis & basketball court overlays, a species survey at Grays Woods Park, then Master Planning there, Graysdale Park safety bed edging /rebuilding, preparing a "way finding map" for Patton Woods.

- *Borough of State College*: No report

- *Harris Twp. Park & Recreation Committee*: Mr. Harpster reported that the Committee met with the Harris Township Supervisors to review their 2010 Work Plan. They also must name the new park at Liberty Hill. On Wednesday, 17 Feb, the Committee is meeting with the staff of Liberty Hill to discuss facilities in that new, 4-acre park.

- *Ferguson Township*: No report

- *State College Area School District*: No report.

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee - The committee has not met.

COG Parks Capital Committee - The Parks Capital Committee had their reorganizational meeting on 1 Feb 2010. They will meet for their regular meeting on 18 Feb 2010. Mr. Harpster indicated that the staff met Tuesday with the SC Area Softball Assn concerning Hess Softball Field Complex. Although nothing was finalized, the meeting was a good start on discussing the various issues there.

Regional Park Planning Committee - Mr. Woodhead reported that draft minutes of the planning meeting held 1 Feb 2010 were distributed to assist committee members as they update their elected officials in their municipality. On Tuesday, 16 Feb 2010, a meeting will be held with Sport Group Leaders. So far, 11 sports groups have indicated they are coming to the meeting. On Tuesday, 23 Feb 2010, the second Community Meeting on Whitehall Road Park will be held at the Mt. Nittany Middle School. To help promote the meeting, it will be advertised in the CDT.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Mascolo reported that she had a call from Carol Oliver (Centre Region Community Tennis Assn. and p/t tennis instructor for CRPR), asking if a second presentation could be made by their group to the CRRRA/CRPR Board. A discussion followed since all of the Board/Authority members were either contacted or there was an attempt to contact them. Ms. Conway indicated she would like to compare Ms. Oliver's numbers to those generated by CRPR. The staff were asked if CRPR had lost many tennis participants due to lack of courts. Mr. Hall indicated that when CRPR lost the use of the High School courts during the summer, the tennis numbers dropped. The discussion continued and included the tennis courts and the building currently on the draft Whitehall Road Parkland Master Site Plan. The consensus of the committee was to not have another presentation at this time - since there are bigger questions that must be answered (vs. the details of the tennis group proposal).

Mr. Woodhead spoke about another communication that was received about the scattering of ashes from cremation in the municipal parks - since the scattering of cremated remains is not mentioned in the Municipal Park Ordinances. Mr. Woodhead informed the Board/Authority members that the municipalities are currently reviewing their park ordinances to clarify and decide about persons being allowed to carry firearms in the parks. He suggests that since they are reviewing the ordinances, perhaps they should also include this issue. The state is also looking at this issue in general. Mr. Woodhead asked the Board/Authority members whether they wanted the staff to send a recommendation to the municipalities that they review the practice of scattering ashes and decide what (if anything) they want to do. A discussion followed with one member indicating they are not concerned at all about this practice of scattering ashes while other members were totally against it. Mr. Harpster moved to turn this issue over to the municipalities for them to decide. Ms. Matason seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 1 with Ms. Conway dissenting.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Intern Introduction - Mr. Hall introduced Mr. Sam Thompson, the CRPR Spring Intern.

January 2010 Activity Report - Mr. Woodhead had nothing to add to the report.

Fall 2009 Program Report and Annual 2009 Program Report - Mr. Woodhead referred to these two reports as a look back over what had been accomplished.

2010 Goals & Projects -

2010 Goals - Mr. Woodhead asked the Board/Authority members to review the Agency Goals for 2010 and let him know if there was anything missing that should be included. Mr. Hurley asked how the staff decides on new programs. Mr. Woodhead related that new program ideas come in various ways: by listening to what the residents want, by seeing what other recreation departments are offering, by having instructors offering to teach a particular activity they would like to see started, etc.. He told the members that a new program is usually tried three times to get "off the ground." Mr. Hurley then asked if the staff ever attends workshops, etc. to get ideas. Mr. Woodhead indicated that the staff does attend workshops and conferences and they seem very worthwhile. Mr. Hurley then asked if Mr. Woodhead felt good about the quality of the agency. Mr. Woodhead indicated that, compared to other agencies across the state, that CRPR was one of the leaders in the state. He noted that people from across the state phone to ask how we do certain things. The 2010 Goals were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Hurley and a second by Ms. Matason.

2010 Parks Maintenance Project Plan - Mr. Woodhead explained that the Parks Maintenance Project Plan was a schedule of expected parks projects for the year. This report helps the municipalities know the plans for maintenance and repair. Ms. Mascolo requested that the Board/Authority members go on a park tour so they can see all the parks and where they are. Mr. Woodhead indicated that it would take several days to visit all the sites - but that we should try for a group of park tours if there is interest.

Welch Pool Renewal Updates -

- Mr. Woodhead referred to a "Listing of Potential Change Orders for the Welch Pool Renewal" that was distributed. He indicated that these were all the possible Change Orders that were known. While the operative words are, "The fewer the better," they could be funded from the 7% contingency budget. As part of that list, he referred to a map that was distributed showing the location of a void that was discovered under the Welch filter building when it was demolished. It appears the void was created by leaks from the pool piping in the bottom of the sump pit. It is being evaluated since it is under the location of the new lap pool. He also noted the invoice for extra engineering costs from the ELA Group related to the bikepath relocation and woodlot plan (in Summer 2009). Talks on the invoice are underway.

Supervisor Highlights:

Beth Lee, Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events - Registrations opened on 1 Feb 2010 for 13 camps; 306 registrations of almost \$45,000 have been processed. Of these registrations approximately 25% were online. She reported that the SCASD Summer Youth Fair is to be held on the weekend, Sat. 6 Feb 10 (due to weather, the fair was postponed until 13 Feb 2010).

Todd Roth, Aquatic Supervisor - Mr. Roth referred to the Pool Flyer that was included in the Board packet. He is working on completing the punch list for Park Forest Pool; has had discussions with computer staff and service providers for a video security system for both pools. The staff is also working on being pro-active for the expected parking crunch at Park Forest Pool by improving the signage and a map so visitors will know where they can park (at the adjoining school lots) and how to get to those locations.

Greg Roth, Park Supervisor - In addition to the ice rink, the sledding slope at Slab Cabin is open and heavily used. The crew is working on the project list and are getting ready to start a pilot project of recycling in 6 parks (Blue Spring, Nittany View, Circleville, Spring Creek, Fogleman and Tudek Parks) with funding from COG's recycling program to purchase the appropriate containers for each site.

Jeff Hall, Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness - There is a lot going on with fitness, indoor soccer, volleyball leagues, basketball leagues & youth Judo. He is also working on the equipment bids.

Virginia Shawley, Senior Center Supervisor - Ms. Shawley related that the seniors are really enjoying the new Wii game; she and Carol are preparing for the 22 Annual Senior Games by getting sponsors. The Senior Center is contemplating offering the AARP Walking Program and maybe making it part of the Senior Games. The center is again coordinating with VITA to provide free income tax preparation to seniors on Fridays (by appointment). The Gamma Gamma Sigma has partnered with the Senior Center and has been volunteering there.

Molly Hetrick, Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center - Ms. Hetrick reports she is processing the school requests for spring group programs and planning for summer.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Nature Center - Building - Current Project Schedule - Mr. Woodhead referred to the latest project schedule for the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Spring Creek Education Building. The Authority had previously approved the project to go out for bid upon approval from DCNR. Mr. Woodhead asked that the Authority remove that condition so that the bid notices can be published and a special meeting could be held on 25 Mar to review the bid recommendations. Mr. Hurley moved that the schedule be approved and to proceed with bidding. Ms. Matason seconded. All in favor. A special meeting will be advertised for the 25th at 12:15 PM. (Note: the location will be the College Twp. Building, 2nd floor meeting room - since the Forum Room was not available.)

B. Nature Center Advisory Committee Appointment- Ms. Hetrick indicated that the nomination for the Centre Regional Planning Commission representative to the committee should be provided for action at the next Board/Authority meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned unanimously following a motion by Mr. Hurley and a second by Ms. Matason.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING has been scheduled for
Thursday, 11 Mar 2010, 12:15 PM at the COG Building Forum Room.

*These minutes were approved by the Board on Thursday, 11 Mar 2010.
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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