



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 Mar 2010
at the COG Building, Forum Room

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Roy Harpster called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M.

Board members attending (5 of 6):

Donna Conway Chris Hurley Donna Ricketts
Roy Harpster Kathy Matason (Sue Mascolo 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

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

II. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Greg Roth told the Board/Authority that the Fogleman Field Complex (in College Township) was selected as a "2010 Field of Distinction" by the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO). This organization is the state-affiliate of the Sports Turf Management Association that focuses on the quality and safety of the athletic fields across the nation. Mr. Roth, Parks Supervisor, and Mr. Ted Weaver, Asst. Parks Supervisor, accepted the award on behalf of CRPR in February. Mr. Roth recognized College Township for developing the park in 2003, to Centre Soccer Association for providing funding assistance to further improve the facilities, and to Mr. Weaver who is responsible for overseeing turf maintenance at the parks. Mr. Roth displayed the plaque presented to the agency by KAFMO.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Tetzlaff, umpire and member of the SC Area Softball League, presented his ideas on the lack of potential liability at Hess Softball Complex, in so far as concern for liability exposure was discussed at various meetings. He distributed a copy of the ASA's Liability Release Form that each player (on an ASA member team) must sign before being able to play. He indicated that this same form could be used by CRPR to limit their liability at Hess and at the other parks where leagues are playing. Roy Harpster reflected, however, that not all the leagues, players and park visitors across the region belong to ASA.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 11 Feb 2010 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Hurley and a second by Ms. Conway.

V. ACTION ON VOUCHERS

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

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 the bulk of their meeting was spent with the Patton Township Director of Finance and the Township Manager discussing the prior Park Planning Committee meeting, the new regional parks and the funding questions. The discussion included a question about a regional comprehensive park plan to know what fields were being developed by all the municipalities in the Centre Region so that funds could be put to the best use. Mr. Hurley explained that this was not a criticism of Parks and Recreation but rather a question that could make things easier when decisions must be made. Mr. Woodhead indicated that a Regional Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan was not formally prepared - but that the required information of a PROS Plan has been collected during the planning for the regional parks. Mr. Harpster explained how parks were acquired, developed, and then turned over to CRPR for maintenance and programming. He explained that most of the municipalities are putting their park efforts into the regional parks. He also indicated that Harris Township is not building any more fields but is concentrating on the regional parks and on open space and walking trails since that is what their residents are requesting. Mr. Woodhead related that the Bernel Road parksite in Patton Township has not been ruled out as an eligible regional park. Ms. Conway indicated that the Borough would not be developing new parks because they do not have space. She likes the regional parks but would be interested in information as to what park development is happening in other townships.

- *Borough of State College*: No report

- *Harris Twp. Park & Recreation Committee*: Mr. Harpster reported that Harris Township met with Liberty Hill officials to get ideas about what should be included in the development of the 4 acre park there. He also reported that the Elks Club in Boalsburg has decided to open their pool to the public for the 2010 summer (with published fees), since Welch Pool will be closed this summer.

- *Ferguson Township*: No report

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

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee - Ms. Hetrick reported that the committee met on 17 Feb 10. They reorganized by re-electing Rick Marboe as the Chair and Jennifer Shuey as the Vice Chair. Also, the committee was updated on the progress of the Spring Creek Educational Building.

COG Parks Capital Committee - Mr. Harpster reported that the Capital Committee discussed Hess Softball Field Complex in depth. Solicitor Williams is continuing discussions with the Hess family and with Mr. Dreibelbis. The next meeting is Thursday, 18 March 2010, where they will focus on funding strategies before resuming work on completing the Whitehall Road Master Site Plan.

Regional Park Planning Committee - Mr. Woodhead indicated that two community meetings were held (Sports Groups on 16 Feb 2010 and a Community Meeting on 23 Feb 2010). These meetings were well attended and the summaries are posted on the CRPR website. He was encouraged by the concern for all sports and the positive responses from all the groups. Mr. Woodhead asked the sports group leaders to send a letter of support from their sport's group including the potential support that could be donated from their group to help keep this process moving forward. This discussion will be tabled until a funding strategy is determined by the municipalities. Mr. Hurley asked Mr. Woodhead if the staff has any idea of what the funding strategy will be. Mr. Woodhead indicated that when the same discussions were being held by the pools, the first cost estimates were thought to be too high, so the reduced costs were then proposed and approved. He thinks the numbers for the regional parks should be reduced from \$15 million to an amount everyone can live with. Mr. Harpster indicated that he thought the meeting at Mt. Nittany Middle School went very

well.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS - none

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

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

Nature Center Street Address Change - Mr. Woodhead reported that the address for the Nature Center has changed to 548 Puddintown Road per College Township due to 911 addressing. The house will remain 614 Puddintown Road.

Welch Pool Renewal -Mr. Woodhead reported that the Welch Pool construction was on schedule despite the weather and no change orders have been proposed for action. He highlighted the updated Roster of Potential Change Orders included in the packet. He understood that Allegheny Power would relocate their electric poles as a community service (which, we later learned, was not the case). Mr. Woodhead indicated he is pleased with the progress that has been made. He also related that the two cast bronze plaques are finished and ready to be mounted at Welch. Both plaques were on display at the meeting.

Update on Nature Center Project - Mr. Woodhead reported that DCNR has approved the bid documents and the bids will be opened 17 Mar 2010 at 3 PM at the COG Building (the opening was later changed to 22 Mar 2010). A special meeting of the CRRA will be held 25 Mar 2010 to approve the bids (later changed to 29 Mar 2010 at the COG Bldg) at 12:15 PM. Mr. Woodhead indicated that the five construction contracts would have to total under \$786,000 to be within the available budget.

2010 Fund "Starting Balances" Report - Mr. Woodhead reviewed the Starting Fund Balance Report and credited the staff with great work to complete 2009 with such positive figures.

Supervisor Highlights:

Beth Lee, Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events - Ms. Lee is promoting the programs for spring, working on the Summer Active Guide, hiring new summer staff and emailing the e-newsletter (71 new people signed up). The Flashlight Easter Egg hunt will be held 31 Mar 2010 at the Millbrook Marsh, and the "standard" Easter Egg Hunt on 3 Apr 2010 at Orchard Park .

Jeff Hall, Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness - Mr. Hall reported that for spring there are 9 fitness classes with 138 participants, volleyball has 18 participants, 40 parents & kids are participating in the Start Smart programs. There are two divisions of adult volleyball leagues, an adult basketball league, and the adult softball league will be starting soon. In addition, 14 different groups have requested field space so far.

Todd Roth, Aquatic Supervisor - Mr. Roth reported that swims lessons are proceeding nicely. He is hiring the summer staff for Park Forest pool and for our responsibilities at the High School pool. Mid-State Construction is back trying to finish the 'punch list" at Park Forest Pool. Security consultants will be presenting video security estimates that will be presented, hopefully, at the next meeting. The work at Welch is pretty exciting as the construction continues.

Virginia Shawley, Senior Center Supervisor - Ms. Shawley reported that the assistance provided at the Senior Center for income tax preparation is almost finished and a new program is about to start. Reservations are being accepted for the bus trips and another Zumba Gold class is about to start. The seniors are interested in challenging the other senior centers to Wii bowling games.

Molly Hetrick, Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center - Ms. Hetrick reported that the Nature Center camps are full or almost full and she is hiring spring and summer staff. The school programs for the spring are almost full.

Greg Roth, Park Supervisor- Mr. Roth reported Slab Cabin sledding hill and the Blue Spring ice rink are closed for the season. The Nature Center Wetlab is almost finished and the crew is getting ready for spring. The PCC crew is finishing furnishing the Wetlab and then will be moving to installing playground equipment.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

Nature Center Advisory Committee Appointment - Mr. Ralph Wheland from Ferguson Township was appointed to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Board for a 2 year term to expire 31 Dec 2011, on a motion by Ms. Matason following a second by Dr. Ricketts. Mr. Wheland will represent the Centre Region Planning Commission.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING has been scheduled for
Thursday, 8 Apr 2010, 12:15 PM at the COG Building Forum Room.

*These minutes were approved by the Board on Thursday, 1 Apr 2010 (Special Meeting).
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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