
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Business Meeting

January 8, 2007

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** 7:01 pm Town Hall

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Bill Ross, Chair; Dave Spirk, Vice-Chair; Michaelann Berger, Tom Butera, Bernadette Fong, Scott Schanzenbach, members; Jack Cahalan Council Liaison.

Absent: Steve Zaharakis

3. **Nominations:**

- Chair - Bill Ross was nominated for Chair. Motion was made and seconded to have Bill continue as Chair for another year. Motion carried unanimously.
- Vice Chair - Dave Spirk was nominated for Vice Chair. Motion was made and seconded to elect Dave as Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the Parks & Recreation Board meeting on December 4, 2006 were reviewed and approved.

5. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items:** Lenny Szy and Lee Weidner from the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society were present. Lenny stated that he believes that he has located the foundation remains of what was a hexagonal school house building located along Easton Road near the East Branch of the Saucon Creek just before the intersection with Lower Saucon Road. Lenny's research on the building indicates that it would have been in use as a schoolhouse between 1833 and the 1880's when the nearby Union School was built across Easton Road to the west. Lenny stated that he is unsure of whose property the remains are on: PennDOT or Tom Butera. He would like to go onto the property and clean it up and eventually have access to a little park area with a suitable historical sign with a picture and history of the building. Tom Butera indicated that if the building was on his property he would not object to Lenny going onto the property to clean up the area but would want some sort of release signed. Jack stated that if it was in the PennDOT right of way they would have to deal with PennDOT for any access to the site. We could refer them to Lou Chunko, the PennDOT Maintenance Supervisor who could answer some of his questions. Jack recommended that Lenny do as much research as he could on the site and take pictures, etc. Jack stated that he would arrange to have Chris Garges go out and GPS the location of the remains so we can determine whose property it is on. Jack also advised that Lenny or the LSTHS could work with the County or State for a historical marker at the site.

6. **Projects:**

- **Town Hall Park** - no update
- **Southeastern Park** - no update.
- **Steel City** – no update
- **Heller Homestead** - no update
- **Polk Valley Park** - Jack stated that the Township still hopes to reach a settlement with the contractor so that we can get them off the property and be able to bid out the maintenance, fertilization work and begin working on the remaining landscaping, planting trees, and planning the walking trails. Jack advised that the Township is in the process of preparing a combined bid for grass mowing with Hellertown Borough. After a short discussion, a motion was made to recommend to the Council that the Township hire

an agronomist who could check monthly on the condition of the turf and advise the Township on need for reseeding, germicide, pesticide treatments to ensure that the turf is in the best possible condition for opening in 2008. A motion was also made to forward a recommendation to Council that the issue of a recreation building at the park be kept as a priority on the list of recreation needs in the township. Jack reported that there is still no finalization on the acquisition of the adjacent Nor-Car property.

- **Grants** – no word yet on the DCNR grant application submitted for the trail connector between the school district campus and Polk Valley Park
- **Volunteer Scout Projects** – no update.

7. **Old Business:**

- **Status of Polk Valley Park** - covered under projects report
- **Kingston Park Conceptual Sketch Plan Update** - Jack handed out copies of the marked up revision to the conceptual sketch plan that arose from comments from the Historical Society members who were in attendance at the December 6th Council meeting. Jack advised that they made recommendations for a new entrance/exit off Limpar Lane, a revised parking arrangement for cars and busses, the elimination of some of the walking trails, and the movement of the port-a-johns from behind the schoolhouse over to the park side. The members had no objections to these changes but did agree that they would object to any elimination of the walking trails. Jack stated that we will be setting up a meeting out at the site with the planners to allow everyone input on these recommendations.

8. **New Business:**

- **Meeting with Saucon Valley Community Center to Discuss Recreation Programs** – Jack stated that he met with Erin Siegfried from the Saucon Valley Community Center and discussed programs for 2007. The recreation programs in the parks and the pre-school program at Seidersville Hall are funded and ready to go for the summer. He discussed the need for an after school program for teens and Erin agreed to work up a proposal for the 2008 budget review.
- **Meeting with Youth Sports Groups to Discuss Use of Polk Valley Park fields** - Jack stated that during 2007 he will arrange a meeting of our Board with all of the sports organizations to discuss the usage, maintenance, scheduling of the playing fields. One of the items that the Saucon Valley Partnership has on its list of projects will be to look into whether it would be feasible to explore a regional recreation body that would manage and maintain all of the athletic fields and the borough swimming pool that we all share. There are grants from the state DCNR that would pay for a shared recreational supervisor who would administer the facilities and programs
- **Review Site Plans** - Plans for Chaffier, Thompson & Filler Major; Hidden Meadows Major were reviewed with no comments
- **2007 Goals & Objectives** – Jack said that he will bring this back to complete them by the end of April.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by Jack Cahalan