
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Business Meeting

January 9, 2006

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** 7:05 pm

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: William Ross, Chair; Dave Spirk, Vice-Chair; Michaelann Berger; Tom Butera, Bernadette Fong, members; Peter Hertzog, Jr. Council Representative; Jack Cahalan Council Liaison.

Absent: Steve Zaharakis, Scott Schanzenbach

3. **Nominations:**

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

4. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the last meeting on November 7, 2005 were reviewed and approved.

5. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items:** None

6. **Projects:**

- a. **Town Hall Park** - Jack advised that we will be getting an oak tree for free from a development since the tree was planted next to a township sewer main. We will be planting it in the Town Hall Park playground for shade. We still have to get prices on the fence around the multi-purpose field. We are also looking into soccer/football goals for this field.
- b. **Southeastern Park** - Jack reported that Larry Weaner planted the meadow in the park in the fall. We have submitted a grant application through Rep. Karen Beyer's office for a \$5,000 grant to fund the construction of trails through the woodland and meadow areas utilizing crushed gravel and mulch
- c. **Steel City Park** - Jack reported that as soon as eminent domain process is finalized on the .21 acre piece of property adjacent to the park the township will be looking into plans for the use of this property. Could include a parking area, restrooms, etc.
- d. **Heller Homestead** - Jack reported that he received a request from a local Boy Scout troop to camp out at the park over the week-end of January 28-29th. Jack said that the troop camped out there in September but at that time we had the port-a-john still in the park for restroom facilities. Jack advised the scout leader that we removed the port-a-john in the winter and without restroom facilities he could not approve their use of the park. The cost for a week-end rental of a port-a-john would have been \$110 which was too expensive for the scouts.
- e. **Polk Valley Park** - Jack said that the Township Planner from Boucher & James will start working on the landscaping design plan for the park and he will ask Judy Goldstein to come to a P & R meeting to discuss this with the Board. He also reported that as soon as eminent domain process is finalized on the 11 ½ acre site adjacent to the park will begin working on development plans for this parcel and we will have Judy Goldstein come to P & R meeting to discuss and get recommendations. There was a discussion about the

Hellertown Farm property that is adjacent to Polk Valley Park. After some discussion about the need to preserve this property as open space, the Board moved unanimously to recommend to the Township Council that steps should be taken to obtain the development rights to this property. Dave Spirk said he understood that the township and Hellertown were looking into bidding out the grass cutting? Jack advised that the Saucon Valley Partnership had this on its list of cooperative purchasing ideas and were exploring whether there would be any cost savings if we went in with the school district on a combined bid. Dave suggested that we should approach this both as a combined bid but also with individual bids on each property.

- f. **Grant Programs** - discussion on grant for Southeaster Park
- g. **Volunteer/Scout Projects** - nothing

7. **Old Business:**

- a. **Saucon Region Recreation and Open Space Plan** – We discussed the Implementation Schedule that the consultant, Harry Roth, had distributed. The next meeting of the Joint Steering Committee will be on January 19th.
- b. **Amendment to Park & Recreation Ordinance** - Jack handed out copies of the Park & Recreation ordinance which Council amended in December to allow the township parks to remain open year round from dawn to dusk. Jack pointed out that the playing field with lights at Town Hall Park can remain in operation with the lights after dusk since the athletic team scheduled the use with the township's permission. Peter asked about the replacement of the nets on the basketball goals? He indicated that if we used a better quality of nylon or metal nets they would last longer.

8. **New Business:**

- a. **Proposed Donation of Land for Kingston Park** - Jack advised that a Dr. Kingston had donated the 2.2 acre parcel adjacent to the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse to the township and would like the property to be utilized as a recreational area or park in honor of his late mother, Ella Kingston. This is the same parcel that the township was in the process of acquiring. It will provide space for parking for the schoolhouse and can be used picnicking, have a small tot lot, etc. The planner will be working on a plan for its use and will discuss this with the Park & Recreation Board.
- b. **Review Site Plans** - (Churchill Estates Minor, Atiyeh Wassergass Road Land Development, Bethlehem Renewable Energy, McCloskey Avenue Minor, Saucon Meadows Major) There were no comments.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Jack Cahalan