
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Business Meeting

February 6, 2006

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** 7:06 pm

2. **Roll Call:**

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

Absent: Scott Schanzenbach

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the last meeting on January 9, 2005 were reviewed. Dave Spirk requested that the minutes be amended to include a reference to the Board's request that the Council be notified that they support the efforts to consolidate recreation activities with Hellertown Borough. The minutes were approved with this amendment.

4. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items:** Resident Al Hoffert asked to speak to the Board about the property owned by the Hellertown Borough Authority in the Township. Mr. Hoffert stated that the Authority purchased the old Hinkle farm property, which is located off of Silver Creek/Lower Saucon Road, years ago using state "Project 70 Funds". He stated that he and his friends use to hunt and fish on the property before it was purchased by the Authority and, once they purchased it they blocked the entrances and posted it for no trespassing, and, at one point, the township police were called to ticket people who were parked along the road. Mr. Hoffert said that he has been in touch with the DCNR in Harrisburg and it is his understanding that if Project 70 funding is used to purchase property (like the Thomas Iron Site in Hellertown) it must be open and accessible to the public. Dave Spirk stated that he lives nearby and has observed hunters on the property. The Board thanked Mr. Hoffert for this information and asked the Manager to look into this and report back at a future meeting.

5. **Projects:**

- a. **Town Hall Park** - Jack advised that the oak tree has been planted in the playground area. The Saucon Valley Lacrosse organization approached us about using the multi-purpose field.
- b. **Southeastern Park** - nothing to report
- c. **Steel City Park** - Jack reported that the township is still finalizing the acquisition of the .21 acre parcel adjacent to the park.
- d. **Heller Homestead** - Board members asked about restrooms in the Heller Homestead Park. Jack indicated that an engineer's report this past year delineated the flood plain in the park and would prevent any permanent structures being constructed near the maintenance garage.
- e. **Polk Valley Park** - Jack said that the park is still on schedule for a 2008 opening and the Township Planner from Boucher & James will be working on the landscaping design plan for the park and he will ask Judy Goldstein to come to a future P & R meeting to discuss this with the Board. He also reported that we are finalizing the acquisition of the 11 ½ acre site adjacent to the park and then we will begin working on development plans for this parcel.
- f. **Grant Programs** - nothing to report
- e. **Volunteer/Scout Projects** - nothing to report

7. **Old Business:**

- a. **Saucon Region Recreation and Open Space Plan** - Jack handed out copies of Chapter IV, Recreation and Park System Profile, of the final Saucon Region Recreation and Open Space Plan that were just released by the consultant Harry Roth. There were several questions about the budget revenue figures for Upper Saucon Township. Jack advised that there will be one more meeting of the steering committee this month and then in March there will be a joint meeting of both township Planning Commissions where Harry Roth will formally present his report.

8. **New Business:**

- a. **2006 Field Use Schedule** - Jack handed out the schedule for the 2006 Field Use Confirmation and pointed out that the Saucon Valley Lacrosse organization will be utilizing the Multi-purpose Field at Town Hall Park this year.
- b. **Goals & Objectives** - Jack went over the 2006 budget funding for each park area and said that he would put together a chart to bring to our March meeting so we could finalize this to give to the Council. Peter asked if there would be any interest in a skate park at one of the parks? There was a discussion about the lack of activities for teens in the township. Bill Ross stated that he supervised a program for teens at a community center in New Jersey and he would be interested in exploring whether we could start something like that here this summer using Seidersville Hall. He stated that it could start out one night a week and have activities such as ping pong, pool, games, dancing indoors and basketball, etc outside on the court. Peter advised that he will work with Bill and try to gauge interest among the student body in something like this through the Student Advisory Committee.
- c. **Orchard View Recreation Fee** - Jack indicated that the township has received a \$5,586 recreation fee from the developer of Orchard View subdivision. The Board voted unanimously to recommend to Council that this fee be deposited in the Polk Valley Park fund.
- b. **Review Site Plans** - (Churchill Estates Minor, Penn's View Estates) There were no comments.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by Jack Cahalan