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Lower Saucon Township  
Parks & Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2014

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1. **Meeting Called To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Dave Spirk at 7:00 PM.
2. **Roll Call**

**Present** – Dave Spirk, Tom Butera, Alan Hall, Gary Gorman, Priscilla Oren, members; Matt Smith, Jr. Council member; Jack Cahalan, Staff Liaison.

**Absent** – Bill Ross and Katrina Schreefer
3. **Approval of April 2014 Minutes** – Jack that there was no quorum on the field trip that we made to the Dravec parcels on May 5, 2014 so there are only notes for review. Dave moved for approval of the April 7, 2014 minutes, second by Gary. All in favor.
4. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items** – Nothing
5. **Projects**
  - **Town Hall Park** – Jack said that the Council President, Ron Horiszny, said that the firemen at Se-Wy-Co Fire Company had made a request to him that the Township re-install the sand volleyball court that use to be on the Town Hall property. Jack said that he was told that it used to be in the area where the detention basin is located. If the Board is in favor of this he can ask the planner to look into where would be the best spot to locate it. Up near the upper tot lot might be a good spot as the young kids using the tot lot can play in the sand when it is not in use. Priscilla made a motion, seconded by Tom to move ahead with the planning. All in favor.
  - **Southeastern Park** – Jack said there was nothing to report on Southeastern Park
  - **Steel City Park** – Jack said that the construction has been postponed until 2016. Jack said that they finally did get the approval from PennDOT for Riverside Drive. Someone asked if the Township had heard from the residents about the delay? Jack said he had not heard from anyone, probably because we have been explaining what the delay is all about.
  - **Heller Homestead** – No update
  - **Polk Valley Park** – Jack said that the Director of Finance has ordered the tot lot equipment, which we expect to have installed in July. We chose to go with the package deal of equipment and installation by one contractor, which we got through the NJPA co-op purchasing, instead of having our Public Works install it for safety and liability reasons. We are still trying to figure out how we can purchase the pavilion, its erection, and the paving of the concrete pad in one package like the tot lot and still be able to get the Meramec pavilion that we like. Public Works will be going out there to do the grading work for both structures and will install the pathways. Jack said that we got permission from DCNR to modify the grant we received for the composting toilets from 3 to 2 toilets and to move the second unit from Polk Valley Park to the Reading Drive Trailhead site due to the cost projected for a solar model as the park has no electricity.

Jack said that a Council Member asked at the last meeting that we look into expanding the Dog Park. Jack explained the issues that we have with the wet ground in the spring that forces us to close the Dog Park, just like we do with the athletic fields, to protect the turf. The users are

never happy and this year some of them jumped the fence and broke the gate trying to get into the Dog Park. In one case, we had to threaten to call the police to get them to stay out. The Public Works guy who takes care of the facility suggested that we have an alternate site that we could use if the main field is closed for maintenance. The Board was in favor of making a motion recommending that the Council consider expanding the facility. Jack suggested that they hold off on a recommendation until he can get more information. He suggested that we may do a survey of the Dog Park users and the public to see if there is a demand for additional space.

- **Kingston Park** – Jack said that this park is finished. There were a couple of minor problems with the composting toilet (screeching fan, leak in the bathroom units, and condensation on the interior walls) that have been corrected by the manufacturer. Jack suggested that we hold our July meeting at this park as there are picnic tables in the pavilion.
- **Easton Road Fields** – Jack said that Public Works is ready to go on this project as soon as we get the driveway permit from PennDOT. Public Works has been held up because they are putting in a new parking lot at the Hellertown Library and had to deal with a sinkhole that opened up on Skibo Road.
- **Grants** – Jack said that the Township is submitting grants to DCNR and to Northampton County for funding to help defray the cost of acquiring a property that was previously a golf course.
- **Saucon Rail Trail** – Jack said that he is working with volunteers who want to install a meadow and do some invasive plant removal at the Reading Drive Trailhead.
- **Draveczech Parcels** – Jack handed out aerial maps showing the Draveczech parcels and the GPS routing of the walk that he and Chris Garges took on the trails. We followed a well-defined trail up to the crest of the hill overlooking the Smith property and barn and you can see by the GPS route that we strayed off our property a bit. There was an additional trail that went out to the cleared utility easement to the east and you can see by the GPS that this also runs off the property we own. We will be asking the Township Engineer to go out there and, using these GPS coordinates, clearing mark the property boundaries on these trails so we do not go onto the adjacent private property. The rest of the main trails fall into the property boundaries for the parcels that we own. The bottom trail crosses the property that we have the conservation easement on. We still need to go out there and clear some downed trees and mark all the trails.

Jack said that there is a problem with the parking lot. He said that we were hoping to install a parking area within the 50' easement that we have along the access road but the Solicitor looked at the agreement and said that it doesn't provide for any parking area so we would have to negotiate that with Mr. Draveczech. Jack said that we think the best option would be to ask the Township to purchase the area for the parking lot from Mr. Draveczech.

- **Volunteer/Scout Projects** – Roger said that a local Boy Scout has been approved to construct a kiosk at the Reading Drive Trailhead. He is assisting him with the plans and a local resident has agreed to contribute the funds to pay for the materials for kiosk. Jack said that we have two Scout groups that have adopted the gardens at Kingston and Town Hall Park.

## 6. Old Business:

- **Friends of Park** – No update on this.
- **Act 115 of 2013** – Jack distributed the handout on this legislation and said that we discussed this previously but the Board took no action on the recommendation that staff had made to both

the EAC and Parks & Recreation that they recommend to the Council that they consider setting aside up to \$250,000 per year from the Open Space EIT collections to use for projects such as the Draveczech Parcels and for other properties that were acquired with open space funds. Gary made a motion to make the recommendation which was seconded by Allan. All in favor.

7. **New Business**

- **Draft Filming/Photo Shoot Agreement** – Jack handed out this agreement, which we produced with the Solicitor after we were contacted by a troupe who wanted to film at the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse. We would ask the group to put up security to protect the Township from any damage caused by the filming.
- **Request to Expand Dog Park** – Covered under Polk Valley Park.
- **Review Site Plans (Macarro Lot Line Change, Vallone Lot Line Change)** – Board did not ask to review these plans.

8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

9. **Next Meeting:** Monday, July 7, 2014 at 6:00 pm at Kingston Park