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Lower Saucon Township  
Parks & Recreation Board

Business Meeting

June 4, 2007

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1. **Meeting Called To Order:** 6:40 pm Steel City Park

2. **Roll Call:**

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

**Absent:** Bernadette Fong, Steve Zaharakis

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the Parks & Recreation Board meeting of May 14, 2007 were reviewed. Dave Spirk asked that the statement attributed to Bill Ross in the minutes indicating that the Park & Recreation Board supports the use of only 2 out of the 3 fields each year at Polk Valley Park be changed to indicate that this is Bill's opinion as he doesn't think this can be done and he can't support it. The minutes were approved with this change.

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

5. **Projects:**

- **Town Hall Park** - no update
- **Southeastern Park** - Jack reported that they have still not seen any growth of the grasses and wildflowers in the meadow and he has taken pictures of the meadow growth and sent them off to Larry Weaner and asked him to look into this.
- **Steel City** - Jack walked the Board members around the Park and explained some of the improvements that they are working on with the planner.
  - the small parcel acquired by the Township on the northeastern corner will fill in the missing piece of the square and will be used for parking and future permanent restrooms
  - there will be paved pathways from the parking area to all of the park play areas to allow for handicapped access
  - we are looking to expand the baseball playing area to make it as regulation as we can. One of the suggestions that Jack had was to reduce the amount of the paving in the basketball court and swing the court around so that it runs parallel to Riverside Drive. This would increase the amount of playing area in the left field of the baseball field. There would have to be some protective barrier between the telephone pole and pavilion in center field
  - we will install a new backstop, fencing, benches for the baseball field
  - the baseball infield will be cleared of sod and kept as dirt so that it can be better maintained
  - we looked at the playground equipment near the swing set and agreed that it is too small and inadequate. Michaelann still feels that the playset in the upper part of Town Hall Park should be moved here to replace this structure.
  - we will look into lights for the basketball court like at Town Hall Park
  - we will have the turf treated so that it looks better

- **Heller Homestead** - Jack advised that the Township has asked the Saucon Valley Community Center to evaluate the use of the Heller Homestead Park for an additional site for the Summer Recreation Program.
  - **Polk Valley Park** - There was a short discussion about the meeting that was held with the sports groups. The Board felt that to maintain the playing fields the Township should establish a policy that is used in other municipalities where someone at the Township calls off any play on the fields if it is raining. We discussed the need for an agronomist. Jack said that he will identify individuals who can provide these services and will make a recommendation to the Council. Dave said that Mark Smodis who owns Lawn Magic is a certified agronomist. It was suggested that we contact local golf clubs and see who they use. We will also look into having the fields aerated with equipment that Hellertown Borough has. Scott said that his soccer group measured the fields and they are not wide enough to utilize for side-by-side games.
  - **Grants** - no update
  - **Volunteer Scout Projects** - Jack advised that Bill Sweeney from Jacobsburg State Park will be coming on June 11, 2007 to meet with him and the Girl Scout to tour the Nature Trail/Loop and help with the content of the interpretive signs.
6. **Old Business:**
- **Polk Valley Park Update** - covered under projects report
  - **Follow-up on Meeting with Sports Groups** - covered under projects report
  - **Use of Heller Homestead by SVCC Summer recreation Program** - covered under projects report
7. **New Business:**
- **Steel City Park Improvements** - covered under projects report
  - **Hellertown Pool Pass Reimbursements** - Jack handed out the 2007 policy
  - **Goals & Objectives** - still need to work on
  - **5-Year Plan** - still need to work on
8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
9. **Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the July meeting should be changed from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Southeastern Park starting at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Jack Cahalan