
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2013

1. **Meeting Called To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Dave Spirk at 6:10 PM at Town Hall.
2. **Roll Call**
Present – Dave Spirk, Bernadette Fong, Gary Gorman, Priscilla Oren, members; Jack Cahalan, Staff Liaison.
Absent: Tom Butera, Bill Ross, Alan Hall
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the June 3, 2013 meeting were approved.
4. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items:** None
5. **Projects:**
 - **Town Hall Park** – Bernadette distributed a flyer that one of the parents in the Summer Recreation program was distributing. It spoke about a “unique play opportunity” that the kids had developed on their own in the grove of trees at the park and that the Township had told the kids that they were not allowed to play there because it had to be mowed once a week. The flyer asked the parents to contact the Township Council members and ask them to allow the children to play there. Jack said that he became aware of this issue when one of the parents of the kids in the program complained to the Director of Public Works that the Nature Trail area in Town Hall Park was filled with poison ivy and asked him to spray and remove it so the kids could play there. We advised the parent that it is a “nature area” and that it is not part of the park area that the SVCC is supposed to be using for the summer recreation program. They are supposed to be using the basketball court, playground, baseball field and the pavilion for the program. We spoke to the SVCC staff and they instructed their counselors about this. Jack said if the kids were getting the sticks that they were using to build their play village from the woods that is on private property. Priscilla said that she would be concerned that they would be getting exposed to ticks in that area. Jack said we had a similar problem up at Southeastern Park several years ago where the kids were being allowed to go off the park property into the woods and were using sticks like swords, etc. to fight battles which each other.
 - **Southeastern Park** – No update
 - **Steel City Park** – Jack said that they are awaiting approval from PennDOT about using the portion of Riverside Drive they need for this project. Once that is obtained they will be good to go on this project next year.
 - **Heller Homestead** – Jack said we could not go out there tonight due to the weather but if you have a chance, stop by the park and take a walk on the Nature Trail out there.
 - **Polk Valley Park** – Jack handed out the diagram showing the location of the pavilion, tot lot and proposed future location for the composting toilet. The pavilion will be a 30’ x 66’ Meramec type structure that will be going up at Kingston Park. The tot lot has two separate areas: one for the play structure and one for the swings as shown on the photograph. Jack said that they will be connected to the parking lot and the other pathways by additional ADA paths to all of the structures. We will use the rubberized mulch for the play structures and swings. Bernadette asked if we will have ADA swings? Jack said that if there is ADA access we better have an ADA swing there. He will check into that. Jack pointed out that the pavilion has two areas set aside for grills that the P & R Board wanted. Jack said if we can get this approved we can use the funding we got from Northampton County that covered the connector trail and the tot lot. We receive additional funding for Steel City Park. If everyone is okay with this, Jack said he would need approval from P & R to take this to the

7-24-13 Council meeting for final approval. Dave made a motion to recommend the approval of these structures. Second by Priscilla. It was approved 4-0.

Dave said that he wanted to talk about the dirt for the infields on the two ballfields at Polk Valley Park. Dave said that he has been talking to Mark Smith at the HLSLL and Mark gave him the information about the dirt supplier. If the Township would purchase and pick up the dirt sometime this summer, they will have volunteers from the LL come out and spread it. He will donate his equipment for this use. Jack said that if we are going to be using equipment we should try and get this done by September as soccer and lacrosse will be starting back up then and he believes that they use the baseball fields for their overflow practices. Jack asked Dave to give him the information and he will speak to Roger about the volume of dirt that is needed. Dave said that they would also like to do this out at the Easton Road Field for next year. Dave said that it does need to

Priscilla asked if there have been any further problems with parking and the horseback riding? Jack said no because soccer and lacrosse are not there over the summer.

- **Kingston Park** – Jack said that they trying to finish up the final landscaping for the composting toilet. They had to install a landing with steps and a railing to allow the ADA access from a ramp. They are awaiting PPL to turn on the electric for the toilet, lamppost and bollards. We are going to have Gary Hillegass install the concrete pad for the pavilion. The pavilion structure has been delivered and will be installed by Public Works. The park sign has been put up. Jack said is having an issue with the maintenance of Ella’s Garden. He is looking for volunteers who would adopt the park and do periodic weeding on the garden.
- **Easton Road Fields** – No update
- **Saucon Rail Trail** – Jack said that the Reading Drive Trailhead is finished. The picnic tables and trash receptacles should have been installed this week. We were able to reach the fundraising goal for the water fountain and that has been ordered and will be installed shortly. We are looking for a volunteer to work on constructing a kiosk for the trailhead.
- **Dravec Parcells** – Jack said he is waiting for a parking area plan from the engineer. Once we have that we will work on access to the site.
- **Grants** – Jack said we will be submitting an application for Act 13 funding for the three (3) Polk Valley Road/Reservoir Road properties. The remaining funds for their acquisition will come from Open Space funding. Appraisals have been ordered on the properties for the grant application which must be submitted by July 31st. Jack said that the properties comprise about 16 acres and would connect with Polk Valley Park and are adjacent to the school district campus. Once we have the appraisals, if the Township wants to pursue acquiring them we will start negotiating with the owners.
- **Volunteer/Scout Projects** – No update

6. **Old Business:**

- **Friends of Park** – no update

7. **New Business:**

- **Change in Date for Town Hall Cross Event** – Jack said this event was previously approved for October 3rd but the organizers need to move it back to September 28th. There are no conflicts with this change and no further approval is required.
- **Boy Scout Rocket Day at PVP** – Jack said this is an annual event that the Cub Scouts hold at the park. This year it will be on Saturday, July 20th. We don’t require them to go through the Special Event application. They only use battery operated igniters – there is no explosive or flammable materials used for the event. On a motion by Dave, seconded by Bernadette, it was approved 4-0.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

10. **Next Meeting:** It was decided there would be no August meeting. The next meeting will be on September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.