
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Business Meeting

July 10, 2006

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** 7:07 pm Steel City Park

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Bill Ross, Chair; Dave Spirk, Vice-Chair; Bernadette Fong, Scott Schanzenbach, members; Jack Cahalan Council Liaison.

Absent: Michaelann Berger, Tom Butera, Steve Zaharakis

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the Parks & Recreation Board meeting on June 5, 2006 were reviewed and approved.

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

5. **Projects:**

- **Town Hall Park** - Jack advised that they still trying to save oak tree in playground. We thought it died but it may have been the drought and a lack of watering that caused it to drop its leaves. It has budded again. We are going to have a deep root fertilization done and we are going to have the soil and mulch around it analyzed to see if there are any contaminants. Jack also reported that 12 elm trees were planted along the fitness trail
- **Southeastern Park** - Jack reported that consultant Larry Weaner inspected the meadow growth in June and indicated that everything is germinating correctly. The meadow will be mowed at a height of 5" from July until September which will keep down the weed growth. Jack stated that the Saucon Valley Lions Club has been given planted two (2) red maples in the park with plaques to honor deceased members Bob Gilman and Leonard Repash. The trees are near the playground equipment and will provide shade for children and parents sitting on the benches.
- **Steel City** - Jack advised that we have still not finalized the acquisition of the .22 acre property from Stasko family due to problems with the estate settlement. Jack stated that the Saucon Region Comprehensive Recreation & Open Space Plan recommended that handicapped parking be provided and that pathway access to the park facilities be provided. Board members felt that the park was in good condition. They asked that some additional grading be done around the pavilion to bring the grass up to the level of the concrete pad.
- **Heller Homestead** - Jack advised that Boy Scout Troop 319 with 18-20 scouts camped out over night at Heller Homestead Park on the weekend of June 17-18.
- **Polk Valley Park** - Jack distributed copies of the letter received from David Oatis who is with the USGA Turf Management. The letter was given to Polk Valley Park contractor for reference. Jack stated that the contractor will be responsible for maintenance of park for 18-month maintenance period which probably will not begin until this fall and run through 2007. The park is not scheduled to be opened for use until spring 2008. The Township has asked the contractor to provide his plan for reseeding, fertilization, herbicide, insecticide, grass cutting with specific dates and specific schedules. Jack reported that there is still no finalization on the acquisition of the adjacent Nor-Car property. We are continuing to work with the school district on the trail connecting the school campus with the park property.

- **Grants** - nothing
- **Volunteer Scout Projects** - nothing to report

6. **Old Business:**

- **Status of Polk Valley Park** - covered under projects report
- **Saucon region Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan** - Jack advised that the Upper Saucon Township Planning Commission met and recommended its approval of the plan to their Board of Supervisors. The consultant now has to bring the plan before our Council and the UST Supervisors for final adoption.

7. **New Business:**

- **Conceptual Sketch Plan for Kingston Park** - Board members reviewed the conceptual sketch plan for Kingston Park prepared by Boucher & James. They were unanimously disappointed that their recommendation for play equipment was not included in the plan. Jack advised that the planners felt that the site was not conducive to this type of use. Members felt that visitors to the site would include young children and that the equipment would provide some activity for them. A Board member who is active with the Mom's Club felt that the site would be a destination for their group of mothers and children and this equipment would provide a play opportunity for them. The Board liked the layout of the plan, the pavilion and trail system. They were concerned that the plan contained extensive gardens and questioned if those could be maintained by township staff. They wondered if a fountain would be easier to maintain. Overall, they felt the plan looked good but appeared to be very formal and expensive.
- **Summer Recreation Programs** – Bernadette gave a report on the enrollments in the summer programs:

Summer Recreation:

Town Hall Park - **50** children

Southeastern Park - **30** children

Steel City Park - **15** children

FYI: The camp at Dimmick Park for Hellertown residents was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

Children's Programs:

Summer Art – (3-5 yrs. old) - **15** children (there are a few on the waiting list)

Summer Fun with Food – (grades 1 -5) - **2** children enrolled - Erin was making a few calls to hopefully increase the number of children.

Science Fun – (grades 1 -5) - **10** children enrolled

8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Jack Cahalan