

Minutes

Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Business Meeting

August 3, 2009

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** 7:10 pm Steel City Park
2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Dave Spirk, Chair; Tom Butera, Donna Bristol, Scott Schanzenbach, Bill Ross, members; Jack Cahalan, Staff Liaison.

Absent: Sheri Herman, John Sweeney
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for the Parks & Recreation Board meeting on June 1, 2009 were approved. There were no minutes from the July meeting as there was no quorum.
4. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items:** None
5. **Projects:**
 - **Town Hall Park** - No update
 - **Southeastern Park** - No update
 - **Steel City Park** - Toured facility. Jack had copy of Conceptual Sketch Plan which was reviewed as we inspected facility. One of the issues was the parking. The area along Riverside Drive is all grass and has no signs indicating that you can park there. Some of the P & R Board members attempted to park at the Steel City Fire House and were chased off by fire company personnel. Another issue was the condition of the mulch under the playground equipment nearest to Riverside Drive. There was very little mulch and weeds have grown up under the equipment.
 - **Heller Homestead** - Maintenance garage to be demolished this summer.
 - **Polk Valley Park**
 - a. Received one (1) response to RFP for Agronomist/Turf Management Specialist – There was a short discussion on the proposal received from Del Val Soil & Environmental Consultants. Jack pointed out that while their total cost quotation (\$7,740) is high, approximately 75-80% of the tasks would be done only one-time in the first year to gather baseline information. Jack said that the Township Planner advised that their quotation is sound and realistic. Jack said that he would like a recommendation from the Board that he could take to the Township Council to see if we could get some of these tasks approved for this year and also approved to put in the 2010 budget. The Board voted 4-1 (Donna voted no) to make this recommendation to Council.

- b. Remainder of pervious trails has been completed. PW will be adding topsoil to landscape trail edges
 - c. Still waiting for permit from DEP for the footbridge over Polk Valley Run for connector rail. Will be looking into alternate idea to bring trail further down road to park entrance. If this is feasible (have to meet with Northampton County about County Bridge on Polk Valley Road), then no footbridge (and DEP permit) is needed
 - d. Met with Herman's on barn addition to be demolished this summer
 - e. Still trying to arrange meeting with DCNR on scope of services for DCNR grant – want ADA trail to Dog Park
 - f. Staff and consultants still working on draft Pest Management Policy.
 - g. Staff working on design approvals for park entrance sign and bulletin board.
 - h. Bid package for Phase II improvements going out
 - i. Dog Park opening planned for Saturday, September 12th at 9:00 AM. The Board discussed this and requested that it either be held on a Friday afternoon or on Sunday so it would not conflict with the Fall soccer schedule that begins on September 12th.
 - j. Aeration and slit seeding of multi-purpose fields scheduled for September
- **Kingston Park** - Design Plan for Kingston Park approved by Council at June 3rd meeting. Hope to install parking lot and trails this year
 - **Grants** - no update
 - **Volunteer/Scout Projects** - Scouts working on projects with EAC at Polk Valley Park. Girl Scout working on Native Plant Garden at Town Hall

6. Old Business:

- **Draft Pest Management Policy** - being finalized by consultants & staff
- **Draft Policy for Use of Township Parks & Athletic Facilities** - no update
- **RFP for Agronomist/Turf Management Specialist** - covered above
- **Polk Valley Park Connector Trail** - covered above
- **SEPTA Rail Trail**
 - a. Held meeting with SEPTA legal counsel and engineers on June 23rd and resolved major issues. Hope to have draft lease before Council in September
 - b. SEPTA has removed tanks but will only be removing environmental hazardous material from signal boxes, electrical cabinets etc. and will be leaving them in place
 - c. SEPTA has placed Jersey barriers at road crossings to block access by motor vehicles to trail. Also added additional barriers on Saucon Creek bridges that do not have railing or broken railing
 - d. Council appointed Donna Bristol and Chris Stromski as Township representatives to the Trail Advisory Committee at July 15th meeting. Will be holding first informal meeting of Township and Hellertown representatives on August 12th at 5 PM. Working on Inter-municipal Agreement that will formally establish committee. Ironton Rail Trail members will be helping with start-up.
 - e. Township has ordered appraisal of trailhead property in Lower Saucon Township.
 - f. Shared information on surfacing the trail with three (3) other municipalities

7. **New Business:**

- **Rail Trail Advisory Committee** - covered above
- **Fall field schedule - PVP** - Jack brought up the soccer scheduling for the Fall at Polk Valley Park and said that it has doubled since last year and that it appears that soccer will be using the fields for practice and games. Scott Schanzenbach stated that they are using it for practice was because lacrosse was allowed to use it for their practices. Jack asked Scott if soccer was still using the Grist Mill fields for practice? He said that they have been turned into smaller side fields for the smaller players. Scott indicated that there numbers are growing and they are searching for new places to practice and play (they are trying to get in touch with the owner of the old elementary school on Wassergass Road to use those fields; the field at Reinhardt school may be doubtful this year; no fields are available at the SVSD). Bill Ross said he thought that the multi-purpose fields would be too big for the U-12 group. Scott also said that next year the SVSD is going to start a girls soccer program and he heard that they will be asking to use the park for practices & games
- **Hellertown - Lower Saucon Skate Park** - Dave stated that he had spoken to Gail Nolf, the Hellertown Borough Council President, and she agreed that the Borough's Water Street Park would be the best location for a Skate Park that could be a joint project between the Borough and the Township. There was a discussion about liability, problems that had occurred in other municipal skate parks (Nazareth, Perkasio, Quakertown). Jack handed out an email from Gail Nolf that had a list of "skate equipment" that she had gotten from one of the skateboard members. The Board voted unanimously to recommend to the Council that the Township work jointly with Hellertown Borough on a skateboard facility in Water Street Park.
- **Dog Park Opening** - covered above
- **Review Site Plans** - did not review the Meadows Grove Land Development

8. **Adjournment:**

Jack stated that our next meeting in September will be on September 14th due to the previous Labor Day holiday. He will not be at the meeting. The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Jack Cahalan