
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2017

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order by David Spirk at 6:01 p.m. at Steel City Park
2. **Roll Call**
Present – David Spirk, Chairman; Tom Butera, Vice Chairman; Atom Kallen, Frank Thompson, Members; Nicholas Snead, Thomas Spirk, Junior Members; Kal Sostarecz, Assistant to the Manager.
Absent – Niloofar Aflatooni, Bill Ross, Katrina Schreefer, Members; Ronald Horiszny, Council Liaison.
Also Present – Donna Louder, Council Member
3. **Approval of August 7, 2017 Minutes** – Mr. Thompson moved for approval of the August 7, 2017 minutes, second by Mr. Butera. Motion passes 4-0 (Niloofar Aflatooni, Bill Ross, Katrina Schreefer, absent)
4. **Presentations**
 - **Introduction of Junior Council Members** – Sydney Oskin, Nicholas Snead, Thomas Spirk
 - **Girl Scout Cathleen Zeigafuse – Bird House Proposal** – Cathleen proposed to build birdhouses to be placed in our parks; she presented three sample birdhouses which she built, and provided informational handouts as to which types of birds were likely to use each birdhouse. The board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each birdhouse, and ultimately decided that sample #1 would be the most preferred. Mounting method was discussed and the consensus was that mounting them on posts would be more ideal than to trees. The color of the houses should be lighter so as not to heat up in sunlight. Cathleen would fundraise for the cost of materials. Township Public Works assistance is requested to erect the posts, and a question was posed as to whether Township funds are available for the posts themselves. If not, Cathleen may be able to fundraise for their cost as well. The birdhouses would be erected in late winter in time for nesting season. Cathleen would be willing to maintain the houses for some time, and volunteers would be sought to help in the future. They requested to place between ten and twenty birdhouses in total among the parks. The decision was to place ten (10) at Woodland Hills Preserve and six (6) at the other parks. Locations will be decided at the next meeting.

A motion by Mr. Spirk, second by Mr. Kallen, that the Parks & Recreation Board recommend to Township Council to allow Cathleen Zeigafuse to build and install sixteen (16) birdhouses at various Township parks, with specific locations to be decided at the October 2, 2017 meeting.
Motion passes 4-0 (Niloofar Aflatooni, Bill Ross, Katrina Schreefer – Absent)
5. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items** – Kareen Bleam, 4289 Fritz Avenue, relayed several concerns regarding the Steel City Park:
 - The playground equipment is rusty and is unsafe for children to play on. Mr. Sostarecz will take photographs of the equipment and forward to Public Works.
 - In her opinion, the park looks nothing like the picture posted in Town Hall. Mr. Spirk stated that the design of the park is based upon citizen comments at an initial meeting many years ago, and that some changes have been made by Council since that time.
 - There are no cones by the ditch (swale) to warn people that it's there. Ms. Donna Louder, Council Member, stated that it was just seeded and there will ultimately something around it.
 - The grass that was installed is horrible. Ms. Louder stated that it was a fast-growing variety of grass which was needed to keep the soil in place. Mr. Spirk stated that the grass will be worked on over time and it is a similar process that was used in our other new parks.
 - Water is everywhere – there are puddles of muddy water that end up on Riverside Drive. Mr. Spirk stated that the stormwater management is part of the Northampton County Conservation District's NPDES permit.

- The Township should have hired someone to complete the park in a timelier manner. Mr. Spirk stated that it was a council decision to utilize Township forces to complete the work.
- The park should be open; she has received conflicting information. Ms. Louder stated that the park is “unofficially” open, but that a grand opening is tentatively planned for October 7th (since changed to October 4th at 6:00 p.m.)

6. Projects

- Dravec Property – No Update.
- Steel City Park – Recently completed items include: the detention basin was converted into a vegetated swale, the parking lot was paved, and park furniture was installed. To be completed soon will be striping of the parking lot, painting the swing set, and electric outlet installation.
- Polk Valley Park – No Update
- Easton Road Fields –No Update
- Woodland Hills Preserve – Work is starting on implementing the Management Plan in preparation for a grant submission. Work would be completed in 2018.
- Kingston Park – Ella’s Garden – Township Planner met with Dr. Kingston at the garden; he is pleased with how it is progressing and a couple of weeds and invasive species were identified to be pulled out, which has been completed. The fall cutting will be taking place and we will see how well it flourishes in the Spring.
- Little Free Libraries – Mr. Butera is nearing completion of building the first LFL and provided photographs. He will bring it to the next Board meeting, and then to the following Council meeting along with the completed program proposal, for their approval.

7. Special Event Requests – None

8. Old Business

- Town Hall Park Fitness Stations & Pavilion Roof – A grant is being applied for new fitness stations at Town Hall Park, as well as replacement of the roof on the pavilion. Work would be completed in 2018.
- Community Day – The Hellertown-Lower Saucon Community Day, held on August 19th, was a great success. The Community Day Committee will be starting work on next year’s edition and will be looking to the township for assistance in planning and implementation. The Parks & Recreation Board should play a key role in this event and will discuss this further.

8. New Business

- Mission – The Parks & Rec Board will discuss the creation of a mission statement at upcoming meetings.
- American Cancer Society – “Bark for Life” Event – Mary Ann Grant of the American Cancer Society would like to make a presentation at the October 2, 2017 meeting regarding an event they would like to hold in Spring 2018 at the Polk Valley Dog Park. She is welcome to do so and Mr. Sostarecz will extend the invitation.

8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Butera; second by Mr. Thompson at 7:07 p.m. Motion passes 4-0 (Niloofar Aflatooni, Bill Ross, Katrina Schreefer, absent)

(Following adjournment, several in attendance walked the perimeter of the park to see how it is progressing.)

9. Next Meeting – Monday, October 2, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at Lower Saucon Town Hall