
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2014

1. **Meeting Called To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Dave Spirk at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.
2. **Roll Call**

Present – Dave Spirk, Tom Butera, Bill Ross, Priscilla Oren, Katrina Schreefer, Alan Hall, members; and Jason Cherry, Jr. Council member; Jack Cahalan, Staff Liaison.

Absent – Gary Gorman

Guests: Rett Oren, Kyle Bambu
3. **Approval of June Minutes** – Priscilla moved for approval of the October 6, 2014 minutes, second by Bill. All in favor.
4. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items** – None
5. **Projects**
 - **Town Hall Park** – Jack said that the sand volleyball court will be installed next spring.
 - **Southeastern Park** – See discussion under Volunteer/Scout Projects
 - **Steel City Park** – Jack said that the construction has been postponed until 2016.
 - **Heller Homestead** – Jack said that the FBLA organization at the high school is considering doing the plantings around the parking lot next spring.
 - **Polk Valley Park** – Jack said that the playground structures have been completed with the rubberized mulch surface and Public Works is starting to install the concrete pad for the pavilion which should be completed this year. Jack said that they will have capacity for electric outlets in the pavilion in anticipation of us bringing in electric service to the park in the future.

Dave said that he would like us to put on a future agenda a location for a snack shed. Jack said that we will look at the area that Dave suggested with the planner and will put it on a sketch and bring that back for discussion at a future meeting.

Bill said that two weeks ago he had a parent who was attending a soccer game who was walking down the hill to sit at the field level and fell down. Fortunately, he was not injured. He said that he feels that there should be steps on the two fields out at the park that have the hills. He said it's an incredibly steep hill and the footing is not very good. He said that the Board members who haven't seen this should go out and walk down the hill. Dave said that the fields have ADA compliant pathways. You can't put up 6 x 6s like you would at a golf course at a public park. They have to be ADA compliant with railings, height, width, etc. You have to have a landing area every so many steps. It would be a big undertaking to put steps in out there. Priscilla asked about just putting in a railing? Dave said you can't put anything in unless it's completely compliant. Bill said it's a long way down to the fields using the pathways and nobody uses them; they go right down the hill. Dave said that because of the site that was chosen for these fields they had to be connected by circuitous paths. Priscilla said it is long but she does it because she won't go up the hill. Bill said that it's even pretty tough on him at the end of a

game when he has to carry all the equipment up those hills. Tom asked what would the installation of steps cost? Dave said \$20,000-\$30,000. The cost of the planning, the installation of footings going down into that slope; railings alone cost \$175 a foot; it would be a very big job. Dave said that the site chosen for the park is beautiful but it is very difficult to get around because of the steepness. He said that we have had this conversation before and he does not see something like this working or happening. It would be an engineering feat to do it. Bill agreed that there are paths at the park but they are not convenient. Priscilla said she feels that there are ways to get to the fields – they are longer but there are. Bill said there should be signs that tell you how to get to the fields. Dave said that the pathways were installed to get you from point A to point B as efficiently as possible. Jack said that they are purposely long to meet ADA requirements. Bill said he understands all that but the reality is that the people do not use the pathways; they use the hill to go up and down. Jack said that he will see that this discussion is in the minutes and that everyone sees it.

Jack asked if the Board was interested in pursuing the kickboard idea? Bill said that from the photos you gave us that looks like the Field #5 where lacrosse plays. Between the games he referees and the ones he coaches out there, he has yet to see the kids kicking balls into the fences. Bill said that the kickboard is a good idea but if we are doing it, it would have to be strong enough for both soccer and lacrosse balls. Jack said he will do more research and then he will bring this back.

- **Kingston Park** – Jack said there is nothing new there.
- **Easton Road Fields** – Jack said this is still held up as we are waiting for the driveway permit from PennDOT and that is in danger of being pushed off until next year.
- **Grants** – Jack handed out aerial photos of the Woodland Hills Golf Course property which he said that the Township acquired on October 31st. He showed where the clubhouse and parking lot were and advised that that portion of the property was subdivided off from the golf course and has been purchased by a religious organization to be used for services. A smaller parcel fronting on Lower Saucon Road will also be sold off. Because we will not have the access from Lower Saucon Road, Jack showed on the aerial where the Township will open up new access to the property from Countryside Lane. We originally thought that this would be are only access point to the property but just this week we discovered that we also owned a piece of property up by the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse across from Limpar Lane that we obtained when the deed to the schoolhouse was transferred from the church who owed the property. It turns out that this property is adjacent to the golf course and will provide another access point to the property and will also allow people to park at Kingston Park, use the facilities there, and walk across to the golf course property. Jack said that PW will be opening up the access from Countryside Lane and will be mowing trials through the high weeds. He said he would keep everyone posted on this.
- **Saucon Rail Trail** – Jack said volunteers who planted the meadow are working on enlarging it.
- **Dravec Parcels** – Jack said he reported on the parking issue previously.
- **Volunteer/Scout Projects** – Jack said that Kyle Bambu, a Boy Scout from Troop 311 who is also one of our Junior Council Members, is here tonight to discuss the completion of the Meadow Plan that was prepared years ago by Larry Weaner as a potential Eagle Scout project. Kyle is 16 and has to complete the project by the time he reaches 18 so he has lot of time to complete it. Jack said that after Kyle contacted the Township he send him an email with two ideas for potential projects: the bird identification project that Priscilla & Rett worked on with

the scout at the Freemansburg lock on the D & L Canal and the Southeastern Meadow Plan. Kyle indicated that he was interested in discussing the Meadow Plan with us. Jack put the meadow plan on the table and said that it was prepared by Larry Weaner over 10 years ago. It consists of mowed trails through the meadow with several rock features, a gazebo, and a blind for viewing birds. Jack said that the Township can assist him with cutting the pathways through the meadow and then as a part of the project he could work with us in putting down something like wood chips for the trail surface. If we can get the trails in and then Kyle can work on some of the features on the plan that would be good. Jack said that he is here tonight to answer any questions we might have. Kyle said that he has to put his proposal together and then go before the Minsi Trail Council before it gets approved. There was a concern expressed that the execution of the entire plan may be too much for his project. Jack said that he could pick some of the features to work on such as the rocks and the bird blind and make it more manageable. We could assist him by having the rocks delivered to the site by PW. Dave asked what other projects did we suggest to him? Jack said he also suggested Priscilla & Rett's bird project for Polk Valley Park. Dave said that the bird blind may be the easiest of all these projects. Rett said there are good examples of bird blinds at Wildlands Conservancy and at Peace Valley Park in Nockamixon. Kyle said that he will look at these projects and would come back to another meeting to let us know the one he has selected.

Jack said that he had another idea for a scout project which he handed out. He said that PW had mentioned that the soccer players were kicking balls into the wire covering the spilt rail fence and damaging it and he found a kickboard project that another Boy Scout had done and wondered if the Board thought that this was something that was needed out there? If it was, we could make a recommendation to the Council, pick a spot for it and then if it was okayed put it out for a scout project.

6. **Old Business:**

- **Friends of Park** – No update on this.
- **Dog Park Improvements** – Jack said that PW will be installing landscape ties and spreading gravel around the bench areas as we can't maintain the grass due to the amount of foot traffic.

7. **New Business**

- **Soccer Kickboard at PVP** – Discussed previously.
- **2014 Agronomist Report** – Jack distributed copies of Dr. Linde's report on his inspection of the athletic fields at PVP and Town Hall and explained for the new members the process that we have been following with him for the past several years. Dave said that the Board should give ourselves a pat on the back for pushing to get an agronomist to inspect our playing fields on a regular basis. This costs us less than \$500 per year and it has been responsible for keeping our fields in great shape. Jack said that his report is distributed to everyone and is used to make changes or revisions to our Park Maintenance Policy which we then give to our lawn mowing and field treatment contractors to follow when they are maintaining the fields. Jack handed out copies of the policy showing in red the adjustments that Dr. Linde makes to the policy each year based on his inspections.
- **Review Site Plans** (At the Helm Major; Woodland Hills Place of Worship Site Plan) – No comments

8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

9. **Next Meeting:** Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall