
Lower Saucon Township
Parks & Recreation Board

Business Meeting

December 3, 2007

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** 7:00 pm

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Bill Ross, Chair; Dave Spirk, Vice-Chairperson; Tom Butera, Steve Zaharakis, members; Jack Cahalan, Council Liaison.

Absent: Bernadette Fong, Scott Schanzenbach

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the Parks & Recreation Board meeting of November 5, 2007 were reviewed. On a motion by Steve and a second by Tom the minutes were approved.

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

5. **Projects:**

- **Town Hall Park** - Jack said Town Hall Park has a nature trail that begins off to the left of the parking lot. This nature trail is mulched but has no interpretive signage.
- **Southeastern Park** - Jack spoke about the possibility of a Scout project at this park. Possibly a trail through the meadow.
- **Steel City** - Jack stated that based on the cost considerations for Polk Valley and Kingston Parks which are our priorities for 2008, it has been decided to hold off on the planning for the upgrades to Steel City Park until next year, therefore, we will put off the visioning meeting that we were planning on holding to discuss improvements to the park with sports and community representatives until 2008.
- **Heller Homestead** - Jack described the Nature Loop at the Heller Homestead Park Jack advised that they did put more mulch, laid logs along the trail this past summer. There are two entrances and it loops around. This summer there was a Girl Scout that had approached the Saucon Valley Conservancy to do a project on the trail. Jack met with her and Bill Sweeney from Jacobsburg Environmental Center and they were working on signs to indicate the flora and fauna that grows along the trail. There will also be an entrance sign near Freidensville Road. A bulletin board type of sign that would indicate the trail and have brochures that people could pick up and walk the trail.
- **Polk Valley Park** - Jack stated they he met with Roy Young, the Scoutmaster for Troop 319 and another Scout who is working on putting in some bird and bat boxes and other things out at Polk Valley Park. Jack spoke about the paved and grass trails planned for the park. There is also a proposed dog park. Jack spoke about some possibilities for Scout projects with M. J. Roche at Polk Valley Park. Jack spoke about a plaque they would like to put on one of the soccer fields in memory of Manny Tavormina. Opening Day is slated for April 1, 2008. That is a Tuesday and they discussed a Saturday or Sunday opening. Jack stated the opening is contingent on the landscaping and equipment installation. They talked about the final wearing course of the blacktop that needs to be done and he want to talk to the Public Works Director to see if that needs to be done prior to opening. Jack spoke about the phases of the work that will be done here. Jack reviewed the design plans for the first phase. They are planning that a lot of the landscaping, when grown, will provide natural backstops. There was concern about the balls

going over the edge of the soccer fields and having a lot of lost balls. They spoke about the types of trees being planted. It was mentioned that the School District is having a big problem with people driving on the fields and they discussed ways we could discourage this at Polk Valley Park. Jack stated that the authorization to advertise bids was going to go before Council on December 19th for approval and the packet will be prepared by Boucher & James for the bid specs. The signage will be up for the opening.

- **Kingston Park** - This park may also have some possibilities for Scout projects. There is a Scout now that is working on a project of putting a (non-working) privy at this park.
- **Grants** - no update
- **Volunteer Scout Projects** - M. J. Roche was present and wanted to discuss what projects might be available for Scout projects. Jack reviewed different options that could be done at Kingston Park, Southeastern, Polk Valley Park including signage, trails, etc. Jack also spoke about the Native Plant Garden at Town Hall and that that could use some work. It's a little overgrown. There could be more mulch done here and there had been talk about a possible water garden. There was a sketch done for this garden. If they come up with any projects they would like to do, they should get in touch with Jack and we can see if they are doable.

6. **Old Business:**

- **Polk Valley Park Update** - covered under projects report
- **Steel City Park Visioning Meeting** - will be put off until 2008
- **Update on Dimmick Park Master Site Plan Study Committee** - no update
- **Draft Parks Maintenance Plan** - covered under Polk Valley Park
- **Scheduling Use of Township's Fields** - covered under Polk Valley Park

7. **New Business:**

- **Leithsville Area 537** - Jack stated that he and Bill Ross want to go to the Council meeting tonight in Hellertown where they are discussing the Leithsville Area 537 proposed sewer line. There have been concerns that there would be man-holes in the Hellertown Borough sports fields along the Saucon Creek if the LSA ran their proposed sewer line through Hellertown. We are hoping they approve the line. There will be no man-hole covers in the parks or any disruption of the playing areas. They discussed the purpose and direction of the sewer line. Jack spoke a little about the concept of a Municipal Services Boundary for water/sewer services.

8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

9. **Next Meeting:** The next Park & Recreation Board meeting will be on January 7, 2008 at 7 p.m. at Seidersville Hall.

Submitted by Jack Cahalan