

**Springettsbury Township  
Parks & Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
16 February 2015  
6:00 PM**

**In Attendance**

**Board Members:**

Sherry Nichols-Chair  
Sid Martin-Vice Chair  
Les Jones  
Andy Mears

**Absent:**

Steve Wolf  
John Kerchner

**Staff:**

David Wendel, Director of Parks & Recreation

**Attendees**

Charles Holdorf  
Amanda Holdorf  
Bob Laudeman  
Barbara Laudeman  
Jenny Laudeman  
Fred Siegel  
Bruce Wargo  
Diane Wargo  
Gregg Wargo  
Sarah Wargo  
Allen Wargo

**1. Call To Order:**

**Nichols**

Ms. Nichols called the meeting to order at 6 pm. She welcomed the Board and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Action on Minutes: (20 October 2014)**

Mr. Jones moved to accept the 20 October 2014 meeting minutes. Mr. Mears was second. Motion unanimously carried.

**3. Communication from Citizens:**

**Wendel**

Mr. Wendel reported that he received an email from James Martini, Director of Bands for Central York School District regarding his disappointment that the Township would not be able to accommodate a spring jazz concert at the Springettsbury Park Amphitheater on May 30. It was explained to Mr. Martini that based on our Park Ordinance the amphitheater can only be used for Township sponsored events. However, since holding a spring concert would be a great way to promote Sounds of Summer and get people excited about our upcoming concert season we would consider ‘affiliating’ with Central or co-sponsoring the event

which is permitted based on the Park Ordinance. Mr. Wendel advised Mr. Martini that the date selected May 30 would probably not work, however, any other weekend in April or May would. Since this would be a Township sponsored event it would need to be held on a date that enables the Township to support it. After addressing the matter, it was decided that May 17 would work. On January 19 Mr. Martini advised me that the date was no longer good for them due to another event conflict. No other dates were requested by the District; however, Mr. Wendel left the door open for the event to be held this year or next year.

#### **4. Communication from Board Members: None Reported.**

#### **5. Director's Report:**

**Wendel** Mr. Wendel reported on the following agenda items:

- **2015 Budget:** The departments operating budget for 2015 is slightly less than 2014 but will not impact our ability to deliver the same high quality programs our residents have come to expect and rely on. In regards to 2014, we generated \$242,544 in revenue, a new milestone which demonstrates the high interest in our programs and services as well as our success in recovering costs associated with our community events through our partnership development efforts. We reached new highs in partnership dollars and the number of partnerships established with the local business community. Overall, we recovered 52% of our operating budget.
- **Holiday Tree Lighting:** The event attracted upwards of 500 people and included bands from the Central York and York Suburban School Districts. The York Catholic girl's tennis team served cookies and hot chocolate donated by Bricker's Famous French Fries. The Marine Corps Reserve was on site to collect news toys and monetary donations. Overall, \$194.23 was collected as well as 175 new toys and 64 stocking stuffers. All were used to support families in need in York County. Santa made an appearance and handed out goodies bags and the event culminated with the lighting of the tree.
- **Sounds of Summer:** The board received copies of the partnership packet for the event and were encouraged to identify potential partners. Concerts will start on Sunday, June 7 and conclude on Sunday, August 2.
- **Summer Playground:** During the budgetary process directors were charged with reducing their budgets by 5% or finding options to offset with revenue increases. Rather than scale back any of our programs, specifically Summer Playground, a registration fee was recommended and established at \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. The fee recommended was in part based on the research of fees established in other municipalities in York County and outside of the area. The decision to establish a fee was not done arbitrarily but after considering all options. In the end, the fee will help in program sustainability and is very reasonable when compared with fees established by other communities in York County. At this point, our fee will be the lowest in York County and match that of York City.

- **2014 Annual Report:** In the past, the annual report covered the period of September 1 through August 31. The idea was to have the report prepared as part of the budgetary process. However, it was decided to have the report cover a normal calendar year from January 1 to December 31 to provide a more accurate reflection of the services provided. As a result, the completion of the report has been delayed but will be ready to present at the March meeting.

#### **6. Old Business:**

##### **Creative Playground**

Mr. Wendel reported that a couple of playground vendors have responded to our request for design options. Will discuss presentation schedule at March meeting.

#### **7. New Business:**

##### **Bocce Courts**

Mr. Laudeman presented a proposal to develop bocce courts at Springettsbury Park, specifically the southwest corner near the former YAUFRR building. He gathered information on bocce courts located in East Hempfield Township and Skippack Township. The presentation included site and construction options. Mr. Laudeman is involved with the York County Special Olympics and has had contact with other organizations with an interest in bocce. Mr. Wendel recommended meeting with our landscape architect to walk the site, review site options and develop a preliminary budget for 2 to 4 bocce courts. The findings will be presented and discussed at our March meeting. Funding for the project would be raised by user groups/organizations interested in bocce.

##### **Naming of New Parks (Orchard Hills Subdivision)**

Mr. Wendel reported that the Township has accepted both mini parks located in the Orchard Hills subdivision, Phase 1 in 2012 & Phase 3 in 2014. Now that the Township owns the parks they should be named. The board recommended naming the park west of Witmer Road, Harvest Hill Park and the park located east of Witmer Road, Orchard Hills Park. The names coincide with the streets in which they are located.

**Mr. Jones moved to recommend the naming of the parks located in the Orchard Hills subdivision as Harvest Hills Park (West of Witmer Rd.) and Orchard Hills Park (East of Witmer Rd.). Mr. Mears was second. Motion unanimously accepted.**

##### **Tennis for Kids**

Mr. Wendel addressed the request for funding from the Tennis for Kids organization in the amount of \$1,422. Annually, they have requested the Township to cover some of the expenses related to their program held at Springettsbury Park. Past support was provided in lieu of the Township providing tennis instruction which it did over 15 years ago. This included hiring staff, purchasing supplies and other materials related to the program. It was recommended that financial support no longer be provided to Tennis for Kids since the Township is working to find ways to sustain its own programs and has established a fee for summer playground. Moreover, we do not support any of the other non-profit sports organizations that use our facilities. The board recommended that no further contributions be made to support Tennis for Kids so we can focus on sustaining our own programs.

**Mr. Jones moved to recommend discontinuing financial support to Tennis for Kids. Ms. Nichols was second. Motion unanimously accepted.**

**8. Announcements:** Next meeting Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6 pm

**9. Adjournment:** Ms. Nichols adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.