

**Springettsbury Township
Parks & Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
20 January 2014
6:00 PM**

In Attendance

Board Members:

Sherry Nichols-Chair
Sid Martin-Vice Chair
Les Jones
John Kerchner

Not Present:

Andrew Mears
Steve Wolf

Staff:

David Wendel, Director of Parks & Recreation

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 November 2013)

Mr. Martin moved to accept the 20 November 2013 meeting minutes.
Mr. Kerchner was second. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Communication from Citizens: No citizen comments to report.

4. Communication from Board Members:

Jones

Mr. Jones reported that the Friends of Camp Security are working on a plan for an archaeological study of Camp Security and plan to have a comprehensive plan and schedule for the Board of Supervisors to consider by April. Steve Warfel will be conducting the study which will consist of some digging in various areas where "hot spots" were reported. They are looking for a waiver from the "No dig" policy/ordinance of the Township.

The Friends of Camp Security would also like to place some signage in and around the site so the public is aware of what is happening. They would cover the cost of the signage. Both of these matters are being addressed by the Friends of Camp Security with the Township Manager.

5. Director's Report:

Wendel Mr. Wendel reported on the following agenda items:

- **2014 Budget:** Budget was adopted at the December Board of Supervisors meeting. Operating budget set at \$481,000 which is slightly less (-0.52%) than our 2013 budget of \$483,500. The decrease should not impact our ability to provide the same level of services provided in 2013. Although not final, our revenues for 2013 will be approximately \$228,000 which is an increase of about 6% compared to 2013 totals of nearly \$215,000. Our cost recovery will be about 48% which is what we have been averaging in recent years. To recover nearly 50% of our operating budget for a department that lacks membership based services is well above the 25% to 30% national average.

No capital funds were dedicated for park related projects. Our subdivision recreation fund is depleted. Accounts have approximately \$30,000 with some funds dedicated to the power spraying and sealing of the Creative Playground.

- **2013 Annual Report:** The report was mailed prior to meeting. Shared comments made by Supervisors Schenck and Dvoryak at the Thursday, January 9 Board of Supervisors meeting. Report shows increases in the levels of participation and partnership development for community events such as Sounds of Summer, Saturday in the Park and Holiday Tree Lighting. Summer Playground reached another milestone with registration exceeding 1,100 youth. Increases were also found with some of our other community based services and with pavilion rentals and discount ticket sales.
- **Sounds of Summer:** Concert schedule finalized. Shared updated partnership packet with the Board. Plan to mail to 2013 partners by the end of the week. Will identify new partners and seek grant opportunities. Have already been approved to receive \$2,000 from PA Council on the Arts and hope to receive another \$5,000 from the Dawn Foods Foundation. After submitting our closing report for the 2013 Sounds of Summer, our Dawn Foods contact in Springettsbury indicated they would again support our application for funds. They described the report has "impressive" and want to help us "Keep the Arts Alive!" in Springettsbury.

6. Old Business: **Creative Playground Report:**

In the process of preparing a report for the Creative Playground. Plan to provide a draft at February meeting. Once completed and approved by Parks and Recreation Board will submit to Township Manager for review.

7. New Business: **Board Roles & Responsibilities:**

Mr. Wendel distributed literature taken from the Recreation and Parks Board Handbook, a publication from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society. The Board was asked to review at their leisure. Mr. Wendel emphasized that the one thing the Board can do that can have the greatest

impact on the Department and requires the least amount of their time and resources is to promote and spread the word about our great parks and services.

By increasing public awareness we will gain more public support and community pride which can help in program sustainability and when we seek funds for park projects. He also asked for the Board to participate, when appropriate, in meetings such as budget sessions to show their support for the Department. Mr. Wendel stated that it is imperative that a voice, other than his, needs to be heard to support Department initiatives. One voice will not get it done. By getting the board and community more involved we have a greater opportunity to preserve existing programs and pursue funding for park projects such as the replacement of the Creative Playground.

Electric Run Event:

Ms. Nichols shared an event idea that includes running, lights, music and flash mob style dancing. She thought it could be something our kids in Summer Playground could do and eventually grow to where they would perform at one of our community events.

Mr. Wendel viewed the websites Ms. Nichols shared in advance of our meeting. He stated that the events include elaborate light displays and very loud music. The events scheduled throughout the US were held in large metropolitan areas and large venues including fairgrounds and race tracks.

Ms. Nichols stated that we could start small with Summer Playground participants which may evolve into something bigger.

Mr. Wendel stated he was not sure how it could be incorporated into our Summer Playground schedule. If someone had an interest, maybe from a local dance studio, in coming to our parks to conduct such a program he would consider it.

8. Announcements: Next meeting Monday, February 17, 2014 at 6 pm

9. Adjournment: Ms. Nichols adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.