

**Springettsbury Township  
Parks & Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
17 March 2014  
6:00 PM**

**In Attendance**

**Board Members:**

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

**Not Present:**

John Kerchner

**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 January 2014)**

Mr. Martin moved to accept the 20 January 2014 meeting minutes. Mr. Jones 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 received authorization to apply for a grant through the National Trust Preservation Fund for \$9,565.00 for an archeological dig at Camp Security. The dig will focus on "hot spots" identified in past site surveys. Steve Warfel will conduct the archeological dig if approved. The total cost of the exploratory archeological investigations will cost \$19,130.00.

**5. Director's Report:**

**Wendel**

Mr. Wendel reported on the following agenda items:

- **Sounds of Summer:** Provided board with updated partnership packet and concert schedule. Sought funding through a variety of businesses that have foundations or grant programs including Dawn Foods, Highmark Blue Cross, Columbia Gas and First Energy. At this point, we have followed up with all of them and are waiting for a response. Additionally, we received \$2,000 from PA Council on the Arts. Will continue to seek partners until the concert season starts on June 8. The deadline for ad partners is April 28.

- **Spring Brochure:** This piece was mailed in mid-February. A summary of the programs offered for the spring session was discussed.
- **Storm Damage:** The ice and snow storms caused minimal damage in our parks. The most significant damage was caused by a large tree limb that toppled on to a piece of play equipment at Stonewood Park. The limb damaged a bench and suspension bridge railings. It appears we can repair the railings, but the bench is beyond repair and will need to be replaced.
- **Summer Playground:** The program is scheduled to start a week later this year due to the local school districts dismissing later because of the weather. The program will start the week of June 9 with staff training. Parks will open on June 16 and close on August 7. Need to hire at least 13 Park Leaders. Having some difficulty attracting qualified applicants. Hopefully, forthcoming newspaper ads and local college contacts will yield better results.

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

Mr. Wendel provided the board with a draft report that addresses the safety and accessibility concerns at the Creative Playground. The report highlights a variety of safety concerns that were identified in safety inspections/audits performed by several sources over the years including the Township Engineer and an independent CPSI from Leather's & Associates. Many hazards were identified including Priority 1 Hazards which can cause life threatening situations. (18) Priority 1 Hazards were identified and corrected; however, many other types of hazards still exist. In order to correct some of these issues, removal of more play equipment will be required further reducing the play value of the equipment. We are currently working on a grant through the DCNR for funding for new play equipment and site improvements. The grant is due April 16. We will need to seek authorization from the Board of Supervisors to apply for the grant. This will likely occur at the April 10 meeting. Once the meeting is confirmed, the Parks and Recreation Board will be notified and encouraged to attend to support their recommendation to replace the play equipment.

Mr. Martin moved to recommend replacing the play equipment at the Creative Playground based on the findings in the playground report. Mr. Jones was second. Motion unanimously carried.

**Natural Playgrounds:**

Ms. Nichols shared information on natural playgrounds. She indicated that the board should consider this type of playground as an option for those sites that may be appropriate.

**7. New Business:** No new business presented.

**8. Announcements:** Next meeting Monday, April 21, 2014 at 6 pm

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