

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

In Attendance

Board Members:

Sherry Nichols-Chair
Sid Martin-Vice Chair
Les Jones
John Kerchner
Andy 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: (21 July 2014)

Mr. Jones moved to accept the 21 July 2014 meeting minutes. Mr. Wolf was second. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Communication from Citizens:

Nickol

Ms. Valerie Nickol, a resident of Springettsbury Township attended the meeting to share her ideas on rules for our playgrounds. She provided a list to the board and discussed each in detail. She is most concerned about the activity at the Creative Playground.

Wendel

Mr. Wendel reported that rules are posted at all park locations with several signs of varying sizes posted specifically at the Creative Playground. The Park Ordinance covers many of the rules proposed by Ms. Nickol, as a result, the board did not find it necessary to amend the ordinance.

4. Communication from Board Members:

Jones

Mr. Jones provided an update on the archeological dig at Camp Security. The first stage is completed. The Friends of Camp Security hope to move to the next phase as funds become available.

Nichols

Ms. Nichols inquired about where things stand with bocce courts.

Wendel

Mr. Wendel reported that he met with a gentleman recently who coaches bocce for children who participate in the Special Olympics. They currently play at York Township Park but due to poor drainage they often have to cancel practices and matches. They are looking for a new home and believe Springettsbury Park due to its central location would be ideal. They are looking at possibly raising money to construct courts that would include some type of cover. Mr. Wendel stated we would explore such a partnership since we have talked for some time about developing facilities such as bocce courts and horse shoe pits on the southeast corner of Springettsbury Park. Mr. Wendel indicated he has not heard anything since the meeting and reiterated to the board that our focus is on replacing the Creative Playground and raising the needed funds to do so.

5. Director's Report:

Wendel

Mr. Wendel reported on the following agenda items:

- **Sounds of Summer:** The event concluded on Sunday, August 3. We had several concerts impacted by inclement weather, but attendance overall was very high for the entire season. Mr. Wendel provided the board with a list of our partners for the event. Concession commissions were up from 2013 while donations were about the same. Overall, we had our best year in terms of cost recovery. Partnerships, commissions and donations totaled \$58,205, nearly \$10,000 more than our previous high in 2013.
- **Summer Playground:** The program ended on Thursday, August 7, one week later than normal due to the extended school year. Overall, 971 youth were registered for the program. Attendance was high. Typically, you could find nearly 500 kids on our parks participating in a structured activity. Kingston Park led the way with 209 kids registered while 3 other parks had over 100 kids registered. The trips and inter-park leagues and tournaments proved to be some of the most popular activities.
- **Saturday in the Park:** We had a beautiful day for the event. Dry conditions with temperatures around 80°. Mr. Wendel thanked the board members that volunteered. Attendance was very high, particularly during the afternoon hours. Mr. Wendel provided the board with a list of our partners for the event. Concession commissions were up from 2013 while partnership development was down slightly. Ticket sales were comparable to last year. Overall, we recovered all of our costs associated with the event. The 2015 Saturday in the Park is scheduled on Saturday, September 26.
- **2015 Budget:** The Parks and Recreation Department operating budget is scheduled to be presented on Wednesday, October 29 at 7 pm. The board was encouraged to attend. Our proposed operating budget is about the same as our current year budget. Capital projects will include \$300,000 for Creative Playground replacement although this will probably be delayed until at least 2016. We have three years to expend the grant.

6. Old Business:

Creative Playground-Grant

Mr. Wendel reported that DCNR announced its grant award recipients and was happy to report that Springettsbury Township was awarded \$125,000 to replace the Creative Playground. Although we did not receive the full amount requested, \$200,000, the funds will help in our fundraising efforts for this project. Mr. Wendel also reported that the request for playground design ideas from identified playground vendors will go out shortly. Hopefully, we will receive a good response and plan presentations in the coming months.

7. New Business:

Sounds of Summer-Grant

Mr. Wendel reported that the PA Council on the Arts announced its grant award recipients and was happy to report that Springettsbury Township received \$2,100 to help sustain the Sounds of Summer.

8. Announcements:

Next meeting Monday, November 17, 2014 at 6 pm

9. Adjournment:

Ms. Nichols adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.