

**Springettsbury Township
Parks & Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
18 November 2013
6:00 PM**

In Attendance

Board Members:

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

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: (16 September 2013)

Mr. Martin moved to accept the 16 September 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Jones was second. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Communication from Citizens:

Wendel

Mr. Wendel received an email from Robert Laudeman regarding the development of bocce courts in the Township. Several years ago, Mr. Laudeman made a presentation at the 15 November 2010 Parks and Recreation Board meeting requesting that the Township consider developing bocce courts. Although he uses the York Township courts, he indicated that the drainage is poor. As a Special Olympics coach for the bocce team, he has had to cancel games due to this situation. He believes bocce courts in Springettsbury would add recreational opportunities for senior citizens and the York County Special Olympics participants.

Mr. Wendel's email response to Mr. Laudeman indicated that the Township had considered developing bocce courts at Penn Oaks Park when the improvements were being made, however, limited funding prevented the development of bocce courts as well as the expansion of the existing playground. The Parks and Recreation Board has discussed from time to time the development of more passive forms of recreation at Springettsbury Park to accommodate seniors including the development of horse shoe pits and bocce courts on the southeast corner of the park.

A preliminary sketch plan was developed to show how these facilities would fit into the existing landscape of the park. At this point, there has been no movement to add these facilities due to limited funding and higher priority projects. Mr. Wendel indicated that the development of the southeast corner of Springettsbury Park will remain on our list of priority projects for future consideration.

4. Communication from Board Members:

Jones Mr. Jones reported that the closing on Hunters Crossing is scheduled on December 9. The parcel is approximately 46 acres and located adjacent to the Walters property they purchased several years ago. The Friends of Camp Security was instrumental in raising the funds while working in conjunction with the Conservation Fund, DCNR, Springettsbury Township, York County and others to raise the necessary funds to close on the property. This will expand the overall area to approximately 160 total acres. Once purchased, Friends of Camp Security plans seek to an archeological survey/study for the site.

5. Director's Report:

Wendel Mr. Wendel reported on the following agenda items:

- **Saturday in the Park:** Since the Board did not meet in October; Mr. Wendel provided a report on the event. Overall, it was a very successful day, from the opening 5K Run/Fun Run to the closing fireworks. The event attracted thousands of visitors to Springettsbury Park. A Taste of Springettsbury, in its 4th year attracted nearly 300 people including 10 food vendors and a very successful silent auction. In terms of partnership development, we had 55 monetary partners totaling over \$32,000. Fees collected including vendor commissions, tickets sales and registrations totaled approximately \$20,000. Overall, over \$50,000 in revenue was generated from the event far exceeding our costs of approximately \$40,000. Next year's event is scheduled on Saturday, September 27, 2014.
- **Holiday Tree Lighting:** The event is scheduled on Friday, November 22 at 6 pm. The event will consist of choral and brass bands from the Central York and York Suburban School District's. The Marine Corps Reserve will participate to help support Toys for Tots and the York Catholic girls tennis team will volunteer to help hand out cookies and hot chocolate and escort Santa Claus around the amphitheater. The Board was encouraged to attend. Chairman Schenck is expected to attend to light the tree.
- **2014 Budget:** Mr. Wendel presented the preliminary Parks and Recreation Department operating budget to the Board of Supervisors on October 9. The budget is comparable to 2013 with slight reductions in some areas that should not impact services. Overall, the proposed operating budget is \$481,000 compared to \$483,500 in 2013.
- **Sounds of Summer:** Approved to receive \$2,000 for the 2014 concert season from the PA Council on the Arts. Will continue to seek other grant opportunities and start the partnership development process for Sounds of Summer in January. Will provide the Board with updated partnership packet at the January meeting.

- **Annual Report:** Will mail 2013 Annual Report in early January. A snapshot of some of our accomplishments from the past year were presented including the following:

***5,994 participated in a community-based program and or services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.**

***Over 1100 youth participated in Summer Playground.**

***Over 100 monetary partners supported our community events totaling over \$100,000 in cost recovery. Highest number of partners and funds ever raised.**

***Community events including Sounds of Summer, Saturday in the Park and Holiday Tree Lighting attracted approximately 40,000 visitors to Springettsbury Park.**

6. Old Business: Stonewood Park Project: The trail loop and storm water management improvements were completed and the park reopened for public use. Benches were also installed at various points along the path. The Public Works Department will backfill the path edges and reseed in the spring. During the project, there was minimal disturbance to the park. The Public Works Department did a great job completing this project within the short window of time they had prior to their busy season.

Fundraising Opportunities: In an effort to explore all options related to our fundraising efforts, we met with a marketing/special events firm at no cost to determine if we could do more in terms of developing a signature event to raise more funds either for future parks projects or our community events. The consultant's recommendation was for the Parks and Recreation Department not to take on a separate, new event because it would tax existing resources from department staff and volunteers to businesses and organizations that already financially support our three community events (Sounds of Summer, Saturday in the Park & Holiday Tree Lighting).

As far as our 2013 partnership development efforts, we had over 100 monetary partners totaling over \$100,000. Our best effort since we started this process in 2002.

Creative Playground: As advised by the Parks and Recreation Board, Mr. Wendel will prepare a report on the findings and recommendations for a new playground to the Township Manager and Board of Supervisors.

7. New Business Springettsbury Park & Camp Security Park: Mr. Wendel reported that the football field at Springettsbury Park and the soccer field at Camp Security Park will be closed for public use until fall 2014 for turf maintenance.

8. Announcements: Next meeting Monday, January 20, 2014 at 6 pm

9. Adjournment: Ms. Nichols adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.