

**Springettsbury Township
Parks & Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
15 April 2013
6:00 PM**

In Attendance

Board Members:

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

Staff:

John Holman, Township Manager
David Wendel, Director of Parks & Recreation

Absent:

John Kerchner
Les Jones

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: (18 March 2013)

Mr. Wolf moved to accept the 18 March 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Mears was second. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Communication from Citizens: None Reported

4. Communication from Board Members: None Reported

5. Director's Report:

Wendel

Mr. Wendel reported on the following agenda items:

- **Summer Playground:** The hiring process is nearly complete. We are looking at hiring 30 staff to operate and manage 9 playground locations.

Martin

Mr. Martin inquired about the number of staff returning.

Wendel

Mr. Wendel reported that nearly three-quarters of the staff plan to return this year. When we have a high number of staff return we have greater stability and more experienced staff providing services.

- **Stonewood Park:** We should know where we stand on permits for this project next week. If all goes well with the Conservation District, we hope to get authorization to advertise in May from the Board of Supervisors and proceed with the project in August.
- **Creative Playground:** The playground reopened on April 12. The playground was power washed and stained rather than using a clear coat. This should provide greater and longer lasting protection than the product we used in the past. Furthermore, we used a different contractor this year which should lead to better results. Wood fiber that meets industry standards for impact attenuation and ADA was added to enhance safety and accessibility.
- **Partnership Development (Sounds of Summer):** Updated the Board on our partnership development efforts. Informed them that after receiving a commitment from Penn Waste to sponsor our Independence Day fireworks, they later rescinded their offer due to an “issue with new recycling containers”: A matter unrelated to the event and to the Department. After requesting to further discuss, and an offer to reduce the value of the fireworks partnership, a return call or email was never received. We will continue our partnership development efforts through the end of the month.

6. Old Business:

- Wendel** **Prioritize Park Projects:** Mr. Wendel requested that the Board revisit our list of priority park projects. Developing a new playground at Springettsbury Park continues to be, as it has been the last three years, a priority.
- Holman** Mr. Holman advised the Board that \$30,000 is available for engineering fees, if needed, for the planning of the new playground. He recommended developing a time line for the establishment of a planning committee to assess the current playground and site conditions which will result in a recommendation on what action should be taken. He reported that the Snowberger house has been razed and that the existing garage would be turned into a pavilion.
- Nichols** Ms. Nichols recommended that the need for volunteers should be promoted/advertised in the Township newsletter.
- Martin** Mr. Martin asked what a realistic time frame is for developing the new playground and where the money would come from.
- Holman** Mr. Holman pointed to 2015 as a realistic time frame. Funding for the project would come from the borrowing effort for the new police station and other related projects.
- Wendel** Mr. Wendel proceeded with his list of park projects that need to be addressed and prioritized based on their current condition. He shared an email from a resident regarding the condition of the playground equipment at Augustus Schaefer Park. The equipment includes a combination of dated equipment, maybe 30+ years old and newer equipment installed in 1992. (Pictures of the site were provided for the Board to review). The park does not have an accessible route leading to any of the facilities nor does the playground area/equipment comply with Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines for safety. A Master Plan was completed on this park in 2009. The proposed improvements

were in excess of \$400,000. To make the park accessible and develop a new play area, the cost could be cut considerably.

Mr. Wendel emphasized that you cannot simply replace the equipment without addressing ADA first. That's the law. No new equipment can be added or any alterations made without making the site accessible. As a result, accessibility needs to be addressed first.

Mears Mr. Mears recommended removing the equipment at Augustus Schaefer Park.

Holman Mr. Holman advised notifying the residents in the neighborhood of the situation before taking any other action.

Wendel Mr. Wendel indicated that similar conditions exist at Pleasureville Park. (Pictures of the site were provided for the Board to review). A Master Plan was completed for this site in 2009 as well. Because of the topography of the park and the natural features, making it ADA compliant based on its current layout would not be cost effective. The proposed plan for this park would cost nearly \$1,000,000. Although this could be cut considerably, the cost would still be upwards of \$500,000. The big difference with this park is that the property is not owned by the Township, rather the Commonwealth Fire Company. We have a (25) twenty-five year lease agreement with the Commonwealth that can be terminated with written notice.

A decision needs to be made this year on what type of investment will be made to get these parks in compliance with ADA and industry guidelines on safety.

7. New Business: None Reported.

8. Announcements: Next meeting Monday, May 20, 2013 at 6 pm

9. Adjournment: Ms. Nichols adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.