

**Springettsbury Township  
Parks & Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
17 October 2011  
6:00 PM**

**In Attendance**

Board Members: Sherry Nichols – Chair  
Steve Wolf – Vice Chair  
David Seiler  
Robert High  
Sid Martin

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.

**New Board Member:** Mr. Wendel officially introduced and welcomed Mr. Robert High to the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. High is the assistant principal at Central York Middle School. He recently participated in Saturday in the Park as a volunteer for The Spirit of Youth Awards and carnival games.

**2. Action on Minutes: (19 September 2011)**

Mr. Seiler moved to accept the 19 September 2011 meeting minutes. Mr. Wolf was second. Motion unanimously carried.

**3. Communication from Citizens:**

**Seiler** Mr. Seiler shared comments from a lady he met while at Georges Family Restaurant who attended Saturday in the Park with her children. When the lady became aware that Mr. Seiler was a member of the Springettsbury Township Parks and Recreation Board she told him how much she and her children enjoyed all the activities especially the Vocal Trash performance.

**Wendel** Mr. Wendel reported that he received an email from a resident on Meridian Lane who was concerned that formalized soccer was being played at Kingston Park. She described the noise from the group as “very disturbing”. Mr. Wendel informed her that formalized sports were no longer permitted at Kingston Park. In fact, it has been at least two years since formalized sports, specifically soccer, was played at Kingston Park. She indicated that the girls soccer group was at the park on Tuesdays from 5:45 pm to 8 pm. Mr. Wendel indicated he would investigate the matter and report back to her with his observations. He plans on visiting the park on Tuesday, October 18.

#### 4. Communication from Board Members:

**Wolf** Mr. Wolf suggested that in addition to the tree and bench dedications we should provide a less expensive alternative for people to give. He thought bricks; pavers or plaques might be a less expensive option but still offer something permanent.

**Wendel** Mr. Wendel commented that bricks or pavers may offer a less expensive alternative to tree and bench dedications, therefore, drawing the interest of more people. For example, fence pickets with names inscribed on them were sold to help support the Getaway Playground. They were relatively inexpensive and generated thousands of dollars. In many cases however, whether using bricks or pickets, this type of fundraiser is usually associated with a new project rather than an existing facility. It's something that is incorporated into a project design plan and often promoted and sold prior to construction. When we pursue future park projects, we should examine how and where such an opportunity can be used to help not only in our cost recovery efforts but to better connect people with our parks.

#### 5. Director's Report:

**Wendel** Mr. Wendel reported on the following matters:

- **Saturday in the Park:** Although the weather was questionable, we had a summer like day that helped draw thousands of visitors to Springettsbury Park. No problems of significance were reported. We received a number of very positive comments from park visitors. The 5K race, basketball tournament, Spirit of Youth Awards and A Taste of Springettsbury all attracted more participants than last year. Overall, a great day.
- **Holiday Tree Lighting:** The event is scheduled on Friday, November 18 at 6 pm. Currently, we have two groups scheduled to perform from the Central York School District and one questionable depending on whether the football team makes the playoffs. The two groups from York Suburban that typically participate are unavailable due to a scheduling conflict and a teacher on maternity leave. As a result, we are looking at other options. The Marine Corps League will return to collect toys for Toys for Tots and we should have support from the York Catholic tennis team to help serve cookies and hot chocolate. And, as always, our own Steve Wolf will take on the role of Santa Claus.
- **Annual Report:** The Parks and Recreation Department Annual Report will be mailed before our November meeting. The Board was encouraged to review in preparation for our meeting.
- **2012 Budget:** The Departments proposed budget has been reviewed with the Township Manager and will proceed through the next stage of review with the Board of Supervisors in the coming weeks.
- **Grant:** The Department applied for and received a grant award in the amount of \$1,977 from the PA Council on the Arts. A formal ceremony will be held at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg on Monday, October 24 at 10 am. The grant will be applied to the 2012 concert series.

**6. Old Business:**

**Wendel**

**Parks Tour:** Our annual park tour was held on Wednesday, October 12 at 5 pm. The Board thought it was beneficial and particularly helpful for our new members.

**7. New Business:**

**Role of the Parks & Recreation Board:**

**Wendel**

With a number of new members, Mr Wendel spent some time reviewing the function and role of the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Wendel discussed a number of ways the Board can help strengthen the Department. He emphasized that the Board can be the most effective communication tool we have to promote our services. Mr. Wendel encouraged the Board to observe and assess our recreation programs, interact with participants, visit park facilities and evaluate how they are used and maintained and convey that information at our meetings. Providing first-hand knowledge in these areas by the Board helps validate the information communicated by the Director, and in some cases, provides a more comprehensive picture of the our services and facilities. Since the Board lives in the community they have a vast network of connections to not only solicit feedback for evaluative purposes but to help in our partnership efforts. Overall, Mr. Wendel's message was for the Board to become more involved and take pride and have fun in representing the Township on the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Wendel indicated he will help in whatever capacity necessary to further develop the Board so they have a thorough working knowledge of all aspects of the Department while having a better understanding of the field of parks and recreation. This can be accomplished through trainings, distribution of industry articles and other literature and speakers. Mr. Wendel will look at all of these teaching tools as a means to better educate the Board so they are well prepared to address the myriad of issues related to parks and recreation.

**8. Announcements:**

Next meeting Monday, November 21, 2011 at 6 pm

**9. Adjournment:**

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